

TOWN OF CASTINE
SELECTBOARD, ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MEETING MINUTES

GBM
RIB
Daniel Leach
(Zoom)

DATE: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

TIME: 4PM

PLACE: Emerson Hall

PRESENT: Gordon MacArthur, Chair, Roberta Boczkiewicz, Dan Leader, Selectboard members; Derik Goodine, Town Manager, Karen Motycka, Finance Officer and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

PUBLIC: Brooke Tenney, Gus Basile, Marc Pelletier, Scott Vogell, Bobby & Ruth Ann Vagt, Jeff Ackermann, Ann & Michelle Robinson, Gunilla Kettis and Jenna Lookner of the Castine Patriot.

Zoom: Penny Carlhian, Mary Kneisel and Bruce Boczkiewicz.

Gordon MacArthur opened the meeting at 4:05 PM and verified there was a quorum.

Gordon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda: Gordon said he would like to discuss and schedule Public Hearings needed for a November 5th Town referendum ballot. Gordon said a Public Hearing is needed for:

- Food Sovereignty
- Comprehensive Plan
- Economic Development Director – still deciding

Roberta said she would like to consider calling Economic Development Director a Community & Economic Development Director so someone could be hired to work on events, grants, and then work with the Comp Plan Implementation Committee on Economic Development when that time comes. We need to get started now then move into the Economic Development side later. The position can be revamped as needed.

Dan said if the item gets passed at the November 5th Election, we can factor that it will take a few months to hire the position. Let us prepare now so that when the person is hired, they can dive right into what Castine needs.

Gordon asked the other two Selectboard members if they had any suggestions on funds.

Dan said he sees \$60,000 salary for the position and \$40,000 for any operating costs that arise. Discussion.

Karen Motycka reminded everyone that if the item passes and the position is filled it will be during portion of our current fiscal year (FY). The ballot can ask for \$20,000-30,000 (i.e., est. \$5,000 X 4 months; 25 hr. week position) for the remaining of this FY but make it clear on the ballot that next FY it would be the full amount of \$60,000 for salary as well as any operating expenses.

Also, the position can be hired, and the operating funds can be planned for the FY25. The position will have no benefits other than social security and part-time positions get some vacation/sick time.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to schedule Public Hearings. Second by Dan Leader.

Public Hearings were scheduled for:

- Monday, 9/16 for discussions regarding Food Sovereignty and Draft Comp Plan
- Monday, 10/7 for discussions regarding Town Referendum Ballot to include Food Sovereignty, Comp Plan and Community & Economic Development Director to fulfill referendum ballot requirements

With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Public Hearings scheduled approved 2-1 (Gordon MacArthur abstained).

Gordon MacArthur asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections. Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$44,105.07. Second by Dan Leader. Roberta said this warrant covers about fifty-five vendors, paying CMP, Maine Municipal Association courses & materials, and the largest to Olver Associates for sewer operations. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

General Fund Warrant approved 3-0.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve a Water Warrant in the amount of \$17,195.12. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes:

Water Warrant approved 3-0.

Minutes: Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the August 19, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 8/19/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 2-0 (Roberta Boczkiewicz absent).

Gordon MacArthur made motion to approve the August 26, 2024, Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: 8/26/24 Selectboard Mtg minutes approved 3-0.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item 1. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving to apply for the NBRC Grant for Court Street. Derik Goodine updated. Pre-application process is due by this Friday, 9/6. The estimate for the project has increased to \$4,000,000. NBRC has changed the match and rather than it being 50%, the maximum grant amount is \$1,000,000. The Town's portion, around \$3,000,000 would be contributions from Town, Water & Sewer. The Town needs to be prepared if we were to move forward.

Dan said he would be inclined to move forward. He is concerned with the old infrastructure and if we were to experience a break, we would have to fix it and be faced with paying the whole cost. At least this way, if awarded we could get funds to help with the project.

Gordon said he is not pleased with the split (max grant amount = \$1,000,000). He said he would like to search to see if there are any other grant opportunities with better terms. Derik said he is not aware of anything else. This grant knocks \$1,000,000 off the price tag and the Town can also consider doing in phases.

Roberta said we can look at low interest loans as well. Derik pointed that this application is for the pre-application process of this grant. If the pre-application is selected, we will still need to submit an application.

Discussion. All agreed to submit, since this is a pre-application process.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve to submit a NBRC pre-application. Second by Dan Leader. With no other discussion, Gordon asked for votes: Submit NBRC Pre-application – approved 3-0.

Item 2. Gordon MacArthur introduced approving to call for a Referendum Ballot at the November 5th Election.

Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to have a Town Referendum Ballot at the November 5th Election. Second by Dan Leader.

The required Public Hearing for having a Referendum Ballot will be held on Monday, 10/7 at 4PM. With no discussion, Gordon asked for votes: November 5th Referendum Ballot – approved 3-0.

Item 3. Gordon MacArthur introduced the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Derik Goodine reviewed (see attached).

Additional items:

Dan Leader said he might have a lead on composting at our Transfer Station. He said he will likely have more information by the next mtg.

Gordon MacArthur said we need to take it easy on posting too many signs around Town.

Roberta Boczkiewicz has been appointed as liaison on the Legislative Plan Committee (LPC);

Dan Leader has been appointed as liaison on the Hancock County Budget Committee.

Item 4. Other Business as Required: NONE.

Communications: a) email received from Scarlett passengers saying thanks to a Castine community member related to the Scarlett driver for a recent dinghy rescue. They want to acknowledge that person and send a thank you note.

Gordon acknowledged the public present: -Marc Pelletier asked if the Court Street project could be developed into phases and inflation issues. Based on the brand-new estimate from Olver Associates on 8/22/24, 10% inflation is included. Gordon said they would have to ask about the project in phases but suspects it could be if we needed to.

-Michelle Robinson said she would like an apology from Dan Leader but suspects she will not get one. She said Dan was overheard saying that the Robinsons do not pay their contractors which is why they cannot keep contractors employed. She said that about a year and a half ago she met with Dan to discuss economic development and took Dan and his wife on a tour of the Bakehouse property (26 Water St). Michelle said it not the Town's business on how they pay their contractors. Gordon interjected that this topic was not relevant to this mtg. Michelle asked why Marc Pelletier can often mention anything he wishes at Selectboard Mtgs? Ann Robinson then interrupted asking the Selectboard if they supervise the CEO. Gordon answered that the Town Manager is the CEO's supervisor. She went on to say ultimately the Selectboard are the supervisors as Shawn when he was Town Manager/CEO could not supervise himself. She accused the Selectboard of not making public the results of the formal complaint issued on the Town Manager/CEO. She also accused the Selectboard of having secret mtgs. Gordon said the Town hired a private investigator which found no substantial evidence to any of the complainants' allegations except for one small issue by the Town Manager with inappropriate language. It was dealt with. Ann Robinson continued to make accusations and spelled out her timeline of events, saying that Shawn Blodgett resigned from being Town Manager due to the results of the complaints against him then proceeded to create a CEO job for himself. Gordon said these accusations need to be discussed in Executive Session and ended the discussion by saying the Selectboard would address Ann Robinson's accusations if deemed appropriate.

PAST ACTIONS: NONE.

Selectboard Comments: - NONE.

Next Mtgs:

Friday, 9/6/24 – T/G Mtg at 9AM in MMA Spruce Room.

Monday, 9/9/24 - Work Session at 9AM.

Monday, 9/16/24 – Public Hearing at 4PM (Food Sovereignty Ordinance & Comp Plan).

Monday, 9/16/24 – Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtg immediately following the Public Hearing.

Gunilla Kettis asked if mtgs are recorded. Currently they are via Zoom but it is not required. Written minutes are the official method of record. With no other business, Dan Leader made motion to adjourn. Second by Roberta Boczkiewicz. Approved 3-0.
Mtg adjourned at 4:55 PM. Minutes Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

Town Manager's Report

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 4:00 PM

-NBRC Letter of Interest **Submitted**

NBRC Meeting Tuesday the 27th at 11am and now deadline for Pre-Application Learned of \$1 million cap on grants, so Court Street is an issue because it will mean coming up with an extra Million between Town, Sewer, and Water. **Preapplication due September 6, 2024.**

-FOIA Webinar was done Friday the 23rd

-Project Canopy Grant Planning Meeting on September 11 9-12pm.

-T-Mobile Grant for Interpretive Garden on Water St has issues of State Historical Department and wanting archeological mapping or something. LIDAR? See letter related to this. This could cost \$20,000. The grant is for \$50,000.

-Perkins Street Residents on Parking Letter **Done 82223**

-RFP For Infrastructure Adaptation Fund Grant (Town Dock Study) - Need to do

-Resumes and Interviews for Highway FT Position Made contact and will interview next week

-Perkins Street No Parking Signs - Henry has been informed about permanent signs and corrugated plastic signs are in stock and just need wires and placement.

-Question HCPC about hazard waste day and towns contributing \$500 or more towards fixed costs for future collection events 2025/ 2026 Budget

-Warrant Article Lead times for Special Town Meeting and timing - **Sue has this**

-Need Update on Sevee and Maher Fire Land - Need contact name from Shawn

-Solar Study Update - waiting for this info, maybe have it for meeting

-Talk to Shawn about FEMA work projects that are submitted. **Done**

-Pesticide Policy find Redundancies in Policy and in Zoning Ordinance, Planning Board?, and Utility Board? Need to do this is my "spare time"

-Parking on Perkins - Temp Signs are in need to be placed around town and also informed Henry of need to place permanent signs on Perkins Street

-ADA Parking Spots are complete on Town Dock

-Gravel for Town Hall Driveway and near sidewalk needed - mentioned to Corey

-Spent about an hour and half at Transfer Station on 8-30-24

-Food Sovereignty Ordinance Draft will be reviewed Tuesday at Meeting 09-03-24

-Need to get Henry to put up one hour parking signs at Town Dock on railings where missing

-Zoom and Streaming on Youtube - waiting for Joe Spinazola to setup town Youtube account

-I also need to work on policy and customizing it for the purpose of explaining only guests and department heads can zoom in, and public will have a right to speak only if a Board or committee member joins a meeting remotely also.

-FEMA Reviews on hold as we await insurance coverage information.

-Need to authorize more EDU/Training funds at the \$1,500 has been exhausted by yours truly. I will say that I plan for this budget line to be much higher in next year's budget.

-Streaming of Meetings, working on this and hopefully have revised policy for remote participation and have YouTube streaming in place for next meeting. If there is no Board or Committee member joining a meeting Via Zoom, then there will be no participation from public. We can have guests and employees joining meetings via zoom however from time to time.

Derik Upcoming Training and other known meetings

-Training for MMA University part of Maine Municipal University Website 09-05-24 at 10-12PM

-Planning Board 09-05-24

Town and Gown 09-06-24 9am?

-Adams School Playground Ceremony 09-06-24 at 1:30PM

-Project Canopy Grant Planning Meeting on September 11 9-12pm.

-Meet with Castine Patriot for Interview on first 45 days 09-11-24 1pm

-Maine Munic Assn Serve Strong Program Seminar 09-12-24 at 12:30 to 130

-Planning Board 09-12-24

- Derik Vacation Day September 13, 2024, but be available by phone, will be in NH until 14th late. may take morning of 15th off.
- Elected Officials Workshop 09-17-24 4:30 to 830PM at MMA Augusta
- Harbor Committee 091824 at 430pm
- General Assistance 09-20-24-430pm at MMA Augusta
- Maine Municipal Association Convention in Augusta October 2 and 3, 2024
- Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day October 14, 2024 Office Closed
- Advanced General Assistance 10-18-24 at MMA Augusta 9-4:30pm
- Derik's Birthday 10-26-24 Bring Cake and Ice Cream, no don't it is a Saturday