



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

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DATE/TIME/PLACE: Monday, October 20, 2025, at 4:00 PM in Emerson Hall

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

PUBLIC: Joe Slocum, Ruth Ann Vagt, Hope McNally, Helen Miller, Debbie Bonaminio, Peggy O'Neil-Murphy, Tony Politano, Josh Adam, Bob Beske, Anne Gorman, Peter Musgrove, Brock Muir, Brooke Tenney, Liz Parish, Pat Bishop, Gus Basile, Tom Comiciotto, Jeff Ackerman, Randy Stearns (Fire Chief) and David Avery (Castine Patriot).

Summary:

The Selectboard approved financial warrants, minutes from the previous meeting, and the updated GA Ordinance/Appendices. Key decisions included approving reimbursement for the August wildfire response and a minor annual water rate increase. Major project discussions focused on the tabled approval of an OPM for new fire station project (due to legal review) and postponing a proposed solar project due to poor financial projections. The Town Manager provided updates on water quality testing (PFAS contamination), traffic calming, and various infrastructure and grant projects. Public comments raised concerns about the fire station location on Battle Ave given the PFAS contamination results.

Roberta Boczkiewicz opened the meeting at 4:02PM and verified a quorum.

Additions, Deletions and/or Corrections to the Agenda: Roberta added a few items; Old Business: 4th of July Committee & American Flags on street poles; New Business: Wildfire Reimb, Municipal Officials Proclamation & Solar Updates; Fire Station OPM will be tabled until the next mtg.

Warrants: Roberta Boczkiewicz asked for a motion to approve the warrants, abatements, budget vs. actual and trial balance reports, bank reconciliations and excise tax collections; Dan Leader made motion to approve the General Fund Warrant in the amount of \$59,067.93. Second by Amy Gutow. Roberta pointed out that the warrant covered 43 bills/33 vendors for snowplow contract, new carpet in the Library's Children's Room, Pine Tree Waste and \$2,100 to HCPC for work on the Housing Grant which the State will reimburse. With no other discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Dan Leader made motion to approve the Water Warrant in the amount of \$7,669.31. Second by Amy Gutow. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Minutes: Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the 10/6/25 Selectboard Mtg minutes. Second by Amy Gutow. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Old Business: *4th of July Committee:* Recommendation came from REC Committee members. It would be a good idea to get new people involved and help the same year-after-year volunteers. The Selectboard are working on this Committee's purpose/tasks and will solicit volunteers. *American Flags on street poles:* The REC Committee put flags up to be patriotic during the Holidays (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day and Veterans Day). Some community members do not think the long-term display is appropriate due to no maintenance. Some flags are getting tangled up, torn/tattered from the wind and weather. The Selectboard is discussing ideas to take to the REC Committee for next year. The Lyman's have offered to help and said they would hate to see the flags go. For now, Roberta made a motion to allow the flags to remain displayed until Veterans Day this year. Second by Amy Gutow. With no other discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

New Business:

Item 1. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving the 2nd annual national Municipal Officials Appreciation month Proclamation. Dan Leader read the proclamation which the Spirit of America Foundation created. Although First Responders & Firefighters are not considered Municipal Officials, this proclamation for October 2025 includes them. After Dan read the proclamation, Roberta pointed out the Town Office staff as Municipal Officials and Susan Macomber, Town Clerk, recognized the appreciation to our Selectboard for all that they do. Dan Leader made motion to approve the Municipal Officials Proclamation to include Castine First Responders & Firefighters. Second by Amy Gutow. With no other discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 2. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving & signing the 11/4/25 Election Warrant. Roberta read the Warrant and made motion to approve. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 3. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving the updated 2025 General Assistance Ordinance (Sept '25 version) & annual appendices. Amy Gutow made motion to approve. Second by Dan Leader. The last version is Sept '24. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 4. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced Wildfire Reimbursement. Randy Stearns, Fire Chief, addressed. The wildfire took place August 6, 7 & 8th which was a major event in Castine. 13 surrounding Towns, their apparatus and 92 personnel shifts were on site. Mutual Aid response

on the 1st day of the fire which Towns are not required to pay for. But we are responsible for the 2nd & 3rd days reimbursing those Towns for use of their equipment and manpower. The reimbursement amount = \$31,309.76. Dan Leader said he witnessed the fire damage. He said it is remarkable that the reimbursement amount is not larger. We were lucky and fortunate that the fire did not turn out to be worse. The response from our Fire Dept plus most every other community in Hancock County was tremendous and Castine is grateful. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve the reimbursement of \$31,309.76 and pay from Contingency. Second by Dan Leader. With no other discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 5. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving the annual 1.5% water rate increase and read memo from Karen Motykca, Finance Officer that gave background information. Several years ago, the PUC made a way for municipalities to enact small, regular increases rather than larger, infrequent ones requiring full rate cases. The 1.5% increase would be in effect for the Oct-Dec 2025 billing. Dan Leader made motion to approve. Second by Amy Gutow. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 6. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced approving the Fire Station OPM (Owner's Project Manager). Derik updated saying it needs to wait until the next mtg to allow more time for the Town's attorney to review. Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to table until the next mtg. Second by Dan Leader. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 7. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced Solar Updates and said the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) solar project idea will need to be tabled at this time due to unfavorable financial returns (12-year payback period and high upfront costs) and the need to wait for new state net-metering rules. New net-metering rules might favor a larger, community-supported project at the Transfer Station. Roberta made motion to table the project. Second by Amy Gutow. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Item 8. Roberta Boczkiewicz introduced Town Manager's Report (see attached).

Sidewalk Grinding: Liz Parish asked what this was. Derik explained any sidewalks that have a tripping hazard. Grinding those areas could make them safer.

PFAS Study: Josh Adam asked if the PFAS retest results were higher or lower than the previous test? Derik said the PFAS level in one well increased from the initial test (45 to 60.2; parts per trillion). Josh said this is not good as it is 400ft from our drinking water ponds and revisited his concerns about the Battle Ave site as the fire station location due to potential diesel contamination risks and the already PFAS contamination. He questioned the process for site selection and liability. Discussion.

12X20 shed for sidewalk machine: Roberta Boczkiewicz made motion to approve \$8,361 to purchase shed/concrete pad for storing the sidewalk machine, accessories, etc. Second by Dan

Leader. With no discussion, Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0.

Brock Muir said he is not a scientist, but the 2nd PFAS results are significantly higher and wanted to understand Derik's comments. Derik clarified that the results are higher, but we are talking parts per trillion on a scale of things it is minimal. Savee & Maher are still gathering information which includes historical data, therefore, reporting on this topic is not final.

Pete Musgrove asked if there was any speeding and/or traffic data collected on Court St? Derik answered no. He has been placing the machine on other streets first but will get to Court St.

Item 9. Other Business as Required: None.

Communications: 1) Letter received from the parishioners of Our Lady of Holy Hope Catholic Church to add the section of sidewalk on Perkins Street in front of the church to the new sidewalk machine clearing plowing route. The original agreed route is School St/Town Common over to Court St and down Main St. Derik said he is reluctant to add any others until we try the original route first. He also stated that if we agreed to one, we would have to agree to others. Amy Gutow said she is not opposed to the request but agrees that we need to figure out how this new service will work before committing to other areas around Town. Tony Politano asked that the request submitted be read in full. Roberta read the letter. Discussion.

The Selectboard agreed to address this with "reasonable effort" after seeing how Public Works handles the original agreed route during this first winter season.

2) REC Committee asking the Selectboard to judge the Halloween costume contest on Friday, 10/31 as they did last year. The Selectboard all agreed.

3) Notice from CMP of a planned power outage to take place on Tues, 10/21 with a rain date of Wed 10/22 so that work can be done on a transformer and installing a generator at the Greenbie field property on The Shore Rd.

Roberta acknowledged the public present (and reminded everyone that the Selectboard may not have answers to their inquiries):

-Gus Basile said a streetlight is needed on Perkins St by the Catholic Church. It gets very dark and there are many seniors who attend that church. He said he asked about it several years ago but found out the church would have to pay to have one installed.

-Josh Adam asked who wrote the Fire Station OPM RFP? Derik said he wrote it, including others input. Josh said he was surprised when reading through it seeing Battle Ave listed as the site. He asked when that decision was made and who made it. Roberta told Josh the decision had not been made. Derik explained that one of the first items the OPM will address is to hire a firm to design a new fire station. A potential location needs to be listed to get this process started. The Battle Ave lot is already owned by the Town, approved by the voters with the intended use for a fire station location. That is why it was listed in the RFP.

-Debbie Bonaminio asked if any consideration had been made for her request that the Transfer Station be open 1 day a week with later hours for those citizens who work during the week.

Discussion. There were concerns about having to install lighting for later hours as it gets dark early late fall into winter season. The Transfer Station is open on Saturdays from 8AM to Noon offering time to those who work during the week as well as weekly curbside/recycling pickup. It could possibly be considered to have later hours during the late spring/summer season since it stays lighter later. Debbie also asked if there is a Town code requiring property owners to maintain their yards especially when they abut up close to another property. The thought was there is nothing but will confirm with CEO.

-Brooke Tenney commented on the solar project at WWTP saying solar energy reduces carbon footprint which is important and should be considered not just the finances. Roberta reiterated what Derik said before that we really need to wait for new state net-metering rules as well. We are not giving up on the issue yet. Derik said the WWTP roof would only supply 35% and with the long 12-year return it does not make sense. And he added the WWTP does not have the \$60,000 upfront costs in their budget. Hope McNally said when they investigated solar energy, she learned there is no answer or resources for disposing solar panels when they reach expiration. Roberta thanked Hope for the good information.

-Gus Basile mentioned the streetlight needed in front of the Catholic Church again. He also brought up his suggestion that a public notice should be displayed at the Court St StoryWalk property because of possible PFAS contaminated fill from the Golf Course which he brought up at the previous Mtg.

-Liz Parish asked what was in place for residents to listen to Selectboard or other mtgs when they go south for the winter. Derik said mtgs are streamed on YouTube; link is on the Town's website. There is often text alerts sent to those who signed up with mtg reminders and announcements.

-Tom Comiciotto said he agreed with Hope McNally and is concerned regarding solar energy and the inability to disposing solar panels when they age-out, which is approximately 10-15 years.

Selectboard Comments & Past Actions: Roberta announced that a public survey is available on the Town's website as part of a wildfire grant study to assess community preparedness. A QR code is also posted at Emerson Hall. The Town encourages Castine citizens to do the survey.

Upcoming Mtgs:

Monday, 10/27/25 – Selectboard Work Session at 4PM.

Selectboard/Assessors & Overseers of the Poor Mtgs = Monday, 11/3/25 & Monday, 11/17/25 both at 4PM.

T/G Mtgs: Monday, 11/17 at 3PM and Monday, 12/15 at 3PM.

With no other business to address, Dan Leader made motion to adjourn. Second by Amy Gutow. Roberta called for votes: approved 3-0. Mtg adjourned at 4:54PM.

Minutes by Susan Macomber, Town Clerk.

Town Manager's Report

Monday, October 20, 2025 4:00 PM

Town Manager Report 10-20-25

- FOIA Request - Awaiting response to my estimated time and cost to complete the request.
- Complaint about Desecrating Burial Grounds - Apparently, the explanation was not enough given that as recently as last week another agency was contacted about this, and I explained the matter to them, and they were satisfied by what we have done given the history of Castine and potential for remains to be found anywhere in the town. They let the complainant know that they were satisfied with the Town's actions and research on the matter.
- Flags on poles - Alternative ideas have been floated such as volunteers to maintain flags and 5 flags for the nations that have settled in Castine.
- Wildfire off Rt 116A - Fire Chief should be explaining the costs for this fire at the meeting.
- Salt Sand Sheds Study Update - It is going to be estimated to \$88,000 to repair and protect the sheds.
- Salt and Sand is back in shed as of Noon today.
- Ina will be on vacation Oct 31-Nov 9.
- Parking Signs and speed sign orders - I sent them a reminder that I am awaiting word from them on estimates for signs and posts.
- Story Walk Park - Names are being solicited.
- Transfer Station, Recycling, Trash Pickup and Municipal Waste Hub - This will be an agenda item for November 17.
- Medical Director Contract - This is still with the Blue Hill Hospital to review some changes our attorney made to it.
- Historic Light Outlets on Poles. I sent a description to them, and I have not heard back as to an install date.
- PFAS Study - The results of the retest are similar to the test done previously for PFAS on the Battle Ave site MW3. I am meeting with Sevee and Maher tomorrow about the historic research phase, and who to talk to.
- Traffic Calming and parking - I continue to collect data with speed radar.
- Senior Tax Relief Program - You reviewed information about this program. I will be talking to the assessor and also others about how much this program has costs in other towns, so you can decide on its future as we move towards town meeting and budget season.
- *Personnel Policy - You are in possession of a draft, and we will review a few sections at a time over the next couple of months.
- *Granite Curbing Requirements, discussion of curbs vs berms and drainage swales - So I have now seen the warrant article that made Granite Curbing for use all over town. I think we should attempt to remove this requirement and only require it in the Historic District On-Neck. I am leaving this on here as a reminder to have an article repealing this and changing it to just in Historic District.
- Perkin Street Sewer and Storm Drainage- This NBRC Grant has been submitted for this.
- *Harbor Master Boat - I still need to get this put up on Municibid or a different online sales website
- *School Bus Sale - See the boat.
- *FEMA Work - Closed out except Gazebo and Fort Madison and Water Stret. Reimbursements to at totaled \$509,306.39.

- RFPs for Water Street and Fort Madison. I have draft language for Water Street. As for description of the project, I have language that attempts to tie the erosion repair, to the land sliding and shoulders, and also not affecting the properties to the sides. The concept is to create a design that restores and repairs, while not pushing erosion to other areas. Fort Madison won't need this same concept of design, but it will address erosion repairs, armoring and stabilization of the land above.
- Water Department Generator Grant - Haven't heard anything about this for a while.
- Lighthouse Property Lease - Has a majority of the Board signed the lease yet? Proof has been shown that the tenants did reach out to Blue Hill Town Hall.
- Wells across from Transfer Station - Awaiting contact from DEP still.
- State Street water line - Await this project to start. \$7500 is estimated price tag
- .-Catch Basin Cleaning- This was done a couple weeks back.
- Parking Marking on Pavement - This will be done now that we have the extra manpower.
- Approval to purchase a 12 X 20 shed for sidewalk machine for out back of town hall. We ended up having to order it, but it will come in a gray similar to Emerson Hall. Because it is not a shed already built or in progress, we don't get the 5% discount on it. So it will be 5% more than you originally approved. The total cost was originally \$7,988.70. New total is \$8,361.
- Wildfire Protection Grant - This project is underway as you know.
- Solar Update - We should indefinitely table this item until new net metering rules come out. It doesn't seem feasible at this time at the WWTP.
- OPM RFP and Fire Station - Got three of these as discussed at work session. I want to wait until next week on awarding this.
- Waterfront/Town Dock Study - The Harbor Committee is meeting tomorrow with GEI to discuss a few changes to the draft study and finetuning it.
- Dock CDS Grant Fund- We await the town study and the work on MMA's Dock to complete.
- CDS Grant for Sea St Pump Station- Olver continues to work on this.
- Infrastructure Plan Update Costs - Olver was working on this. I need to see how it is coming along.
- Blue Hill Peninsula Tomorrow Climate Resilience Leadership Development Project Grant-No update.
- Project Canopy Grant -Ina is working on putting the finishing touches on this.
- Flag Pole - Fall Project at this point.
- Fire Department Dry Hydrant - This will be delayed until next spring due to permitting and scheduling issues.
- Housing Opportunity Program Grant - This grant is moving in the right direction RFP are due Halloween.
- Penobscot Marine Museum - Tall Ships for 2026 , Remember the 4 Port Tour? Talked to Bucksport Eco Dev Director this past week about this. This is an extension of that kind of that was to take place in 2020 as part of Maine's 250th Birthday. Haven't heard any updates on this lately.
- Rental Ordinance - Lawyers have this.
- Fire Pond on 116A by private land owner. No update at this time.
- Sidewalk Grinding - I continue to prepare a list of places this is needed and hope to do some grinding before snow flies.
- Compost Bins Grant - We await whether we are awarded this grant or not.
- The Islands Esther and Emmanuel in Bagaduce River and naming question. - No update on what the decision was at this time.