

MINUTES
Casco Selectboard
January 6, 2015

Members Present:

Grant Plummer, Holly Hancock, Calvin Nutting and Tom Peaslee

Staff Present:

Town Manager David Morton and Administrative Secretary Bob Tooker

- **Approval of Agenda:**

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Nutting) and voted to approve the agenda for the January 6, 2015 meeting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

- **Minutes: 12-16-14**

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Plummer) and voted to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 Selectboard meeting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

- **Warrants:**

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Plummer) and voted to approve bills and signed warrants: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

- **Manager's Update:**

Town Manager David Morton stated that the Town is working on projects carried over from 2014 and developing new projects for 2015, including the Pleasant Lake dam and road projects. The Board will be looking at amendments to the Casco Zoning Ordinance and information will be posted on the Town website, available from an email distribution list, and available at the Town Office.

The kiosk for public access to winter sand is open.

The Assistant County District Attorney has informed the Town that the District Attorney's Office is considering dropping the criminal case against Ms. Sanders regarding the cat hoarding animal abuse case. The Town's attorney is reviewing this issue with the District Attorney's Office, which is in doubt of a positive conviction due to psychological reviews. The Town of Casco approached the case from the perspective of the best and most humane treatment of the abused cats at great expense to the Town. The Town chose not to pursue a civil suit because the Board felt that it would not be cost effective, unlikely to remedy the situation and result in a greater loss to taxpayers. The Town of Casco Animal Control Ordinance provides no relief. The Board has made what it determined to be the best decisions for the community.

The Board recently declined to pursue civil action regarding a barking dog problem based on cost and effectiveness, which saved the Town thousands of dollars and resulted in the District Attorney's Office agreeing to prosecute the issue as a criminal/nuisance matter.

Anyone with concerns about winter road maintenance should contact the Town Office and ask for the Town Manager.

- **Committee and Staff Reports:**

None.

Selectboard Comments:

- Holly Hancock commented that bulky waste information was difficult to find on the Town website and that Town holiday closures needed to be updated for 2015.
- Holly Hancock inquired about the response time to calls and voice mail messages left for the Town Code Enforcement Officer. David Morton expressed that there is basically no backlog due to Administrative Secretary Bob Tooker's availability to handle calls and forward messages to the Code Enforcement Officer as necessary. David further described the process of ensuring that all calls are tracked.
- Tom Peaslee commented that the new Town road signs look very nice. David Morton commented that the Town has been working on signs and updating the emergency 911 addressing system.
- Holly Hancock expressed that house numbers are very important and encouraged people to put house numbers on their homes. Tom Peaslee inquired about requirements for house numbers. Holly and David expressed that numbers should be at least four inches tall and visible from the road at night. Tom mentioned that house number standards should be posted on the Town website. Holly mentioned that information regarding an attractive reflective kit for house numbers is available at the Town Office.

Public Participation:

- Peg Dilly of Casco expressed concerns about a plan to modify a former bank building into three stories for a new Town Office when the historical 919 Meadow Road (Grange Hall) property might be more suitable.
- Calvin Nutting expressed that he had heard nothing about a three story bank being built. Grant Plummer clarified that a plan under consideration to possibly convert the former bank building into a new Town Office does not involve three stories.

Old Business:

1. Discussion regarding extending the date for a Special Town Meeting to a later date:

Grant Plummer explained that after some discussion, it makes sense to push the January 15, 2015 date forward to provide more time to draft language for potential changes to the Dog Control

Ordinance, gather more information about the Pleasant Lake dam, give the Town more time to prepare for the Town Meeting, and give the public more time to digest what the Town is thinking about doing. Calvin Nutting inquired as to why the issues couldn't wait for the June Town Meeting. David Morton provided several reasons why more time would be helpful to prepare possible changes to the Animal Control Ordinance. David explained that a Special Town Meeting was necessary to appropriate funds for further study of the dam, which is necessary to know what construction costs might be as part of a plan to present at the June Town Meeting. Calvin inquired about costs for further study of the dam. David explained that the Town's share of the approximate \$8,000 study would be about \$4,000. David explained that proposed changes to the Animal Control Ordinance could wait until June, but that the more critical issue is the dam. Holly Hancock agreed and commented that a Special Town Meeting provided a public educational opportunity and that Department of Environmental Protection involvement, including a DEP Water Level Order and potential fines for failing to act in accordance with DEP expectations, added to the time-sensitive nature of the dam project.

2. Review of Warrant for Special Town Meeting:

The Selectboard moved (Plummer), seconded (Hancock) and voted to set February 26, 2015 as a Special Town Meeting date at 6:30 p.m. in this room at the Community Center: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

3. Discussion regarding a joint workshop with the Casco Planning Board to discuss recommendations for amendments to the Casco Zoning Ordinances and discussion regarding the recent request for Contract Zone Amendments for the Point Sebago Golf Resort:

David Morton suggested that a workshop with the two Boards would be very helpful, particularly with the Contract Zone changes that involves approvals from both Boards, and that a workshop held before the public hearing process would be beneficial for both Boards. David mentioned that staff memos identified potential amendment items followed-up by more detailed recommendations from the Town Planner. Regarding zoning changes, David mentioned that it has worked out well to have both Boards working together, and that it would be helpful for the Planning Board to have the Selectboard's input. David expressed that the workshop should be held on an evening when neither Board has any other agenda items.

In response to a question from Calvin Nutting, David offered examples of the types of issues that needed to be addressed before approving an extension of the Contract Zone Agreement. Grant Plummer clarified the process of amending the Agreement and bringing a proposed extension of the Agreement before the Town for approval.

The Selectboard decided to offer February 3, February 4 or February 5, 2015 to the Planning Board as possible dates for a joint workshop.

4. Appointment of a representative to the ecomaine Board of Directors:

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Plummer) and voted to reappoint the Town Manager to serve in that position: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

5. Review of a request to write off rescue charges.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Plummer) and voted in reference to account number 07-12-0490:1 to request our billing company to pull this from the collections agency and to write this one off: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

6. Discussion regarding an offer to the Town for acquisition of property. (Requires executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(C) to discuss the potential acquisition of real estate because premature disclosure of the information could prejudice the Town's bargaining position.)

Grant Plummer stated that Mary Fernandes agreed that the Board could proceed in her absence and come-up with a proper response. David Morton described the circumstance, the provision of an executive session under the law to discuss the offer, that the Selectboard cannot authorize or encumber the Town with a purchase without a Town Meeting vote, and that the Board would need to return to a public session to make any decisions.

Grant Plummer stated that the Selectboard is going into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(C) to discuss the potential acquisition of real estate because premature disclosure of the information could prejudice the Town's bargaining position.

The Selectboard moved (Plummer), seconded (Hancock) and voted to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(C) to discuss the potential acquisition of real estate because premature disclosure of the information could prejudice the Town's bargaining position: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard went into executive session at 8:06 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Plummer) and voted to instruct the Town Manager to contact the seller and inform the seller that the Town has an interest in the property but does not have funds for the current offer: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, the Selectboard moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

ATTEST:



Robert C. Tooker, Administrative Secretary