

Town of Casco

Minutes of the August 28, 2018 Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Members Present:

Holly Hancock, Grant Plummer, Calvin Nutting and Tom Peaslee

Staff Present:

Town Manager David Morton and Administrative Secretary Bob Tooker

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the agenda for the August 28, 2018 Selectboard meeting: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Approval of Warrants:

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve bills and sign open warrants: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Approval of Minutes: (August 7, 2018)

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2018 Selectboard meeting: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Town Manager's Update: (David Morton)

- Final coats of paving and shoulder restoration have been completed on Edwards Road and Johnson Hill Road.
- New warning signs are being installed at dangerous corners on Point Sebago Road.
- Please contact the Town Office if you witness any recurring vandalism of stop signs and warning signs on Leach Hill Road.
- A majority of road construction work has been completed on Tenney Hill Road. The final coat of paving will be completed at a later date.
- Road construction has begun on Cooks Mills Road.

- Construction of a pavilion at the Memorial Field project is underway.
- Bid requests for winter sand have been posted and sent to past bidders.
- Based on the Assessor's new tax commitment, the tax rate has increased to .01540, an increase of thirty cents.
- The Town Manager has received calls of concern about convicted sex offenders moving into neighborhoods.
- The November 13, 2018 Selectboard meeting will be held at the Fire Station at 637 Meadow Road.

Committee and Staff Reports:

The Selectboard requested that the Planning Board add to its agenda a review and possible clarification of town ordinances related to 1) the definition of kennels; 2) where kennels can be located; 3) numbers of pets allowed; and 4) how the ordinances affect pet related businesses. Stan Buchanan, on behalf of the Planning Board, requested that as much information as possible from the Code Enforcement Officer be delivered to the Planning Board. The Selectboard discussed code violations related to six dogs at 988 Meadow Road and a consent agreement offered as a remedy.

Public Participation:

David Kimball distributed a handout to the Selectboard and commented on his dispute regarding the tax map and assessments of a parcel of land at Casco Tax Map 39, Lot 1.

New Business:

1. Review of bids for improvements at the Memorial Field project.

It was moved, seconded and voted to award the bid for the Memorial Field Phase II project to Drew Excavation: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

2. Review EMS (Emergency Medical Services) charges and write offs.

It was moved, seconded and voted to send the audit log dated August 28, 2018 to collections: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

3. Request to redeem property at 43 Pine Hill Road.

The Selectboard reviewed a request from a bank to redeem a tax acquired property at 43 Pine Hill Road that had been foreclosed on as a result of confusion over which bank was handling the

property and paying the taxes.

It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the redemption of 43 Pine Hill Road for the amount due of \$7,344.65 plus interest and costs within forty-five days: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The Selectboard signed a “Tax Payment Agreement Between the Town of Casco and JP Morgan Chase Bank, NA.” The Selectboard agreed that it would be helpful to obtain more information from banks that own abandoned, deteriorating or potentially dangerous properties about their plans for those properties.

Old Business:

4. Review and discussion of standards for plowing private roads with the acknowledgement of a public easement.

David Morton stated that 1) he distributed an updated list of private roads to the Selectboard; 2) properly completed easements have been somewhat difficult to obtain; and 3) groups may be approaching the Selectboard to request waivers or deadline extensions related to having to meet 1972 minimum road standards based on issues such as utilities, culverts and tree removal costs.

Grant Plummer commented on 1) the need for the Town to act aggressively in an effort to assure residents that the Town is doing as much as possible to help; 2) the need to proactively help property owners who live on non-compliant roads understand what must be done to bring their roads into compliance well before the deadline; 3) the possibility of developing a checklist of needed improvements for each non-compliant road; and 4) the possibility of a workshop to focus on particular roads. Tom Peaslee commended David Morton for his efforts and noted that property owners need to do their part. David suggested sending a letter in the fall to property owners who live on non-compliant roads stating that they could lose plowing services if their roads are not in compliance by October 31, 2019.

5. Discussion of modification of policy for EMS (Emergency Medical Services) billings to include consideration for municipal employees.

The Selectboard reviewed a memorandum from David Morton to the Casco Selectboard dated August, 2018 regarding Modification of Rescue Service Charges. The Selectboard agreed to take no action.

6. Discussion regarding the Town Manager search process.

The Selectboard agreed to compile a list of Town Manager responsibilities and ideas for how they might be changed. Preliminary ideas included separate Road Commissioner and public works functions, including the possibility of sharing those functions with the Towns of Raymond

and Naples. The Selectboard noted that the public works function might include services such as plowing, mowing and the maintenance of beaches, trees, cemeteries, parks, gardens and building grounds.

In response to comments from Calvin Nutting, the Selectboard agreed that the search process should begin much sooner to allow time for budgetary considerations and to avoid having to make a hiring decision too close to David Morton's retirement. Holly Hancock agreed to invite David Barrett from the MMA (Maine Municipal Association) to speak about the search process at a Selectboard meeting in October or November.

7. Selectboard comments.

- Tom Peaslee, a member of the Open Space Commission, commented on the Commission's interest in a workshop with the Selectboard to discuss how it might re-identify itself.
- Grant Plummer commented on the first day of school, the upcoming vote on the Crooked River School as it relates to overcrowding at Songo Locks School, and the need for the Selectboard to take a position on these issues. Grant noted that the school district is growing and that as a thirty-million dollar a year business, a failure to keep up and reinvest could be costly.
- Holly Hancock referred to a note and background materials recently distributed to the Selectboard regarding the sex offender issue and stated that there may be some effort to draft an ordinance if the community gets behind it.
- Holly Hancock commented on David Kimball's Public Participation appearances before the Selectboard and noted that he is not taking the previously communicated steps necessary to bring his concerns to the Selectboard as a formal agenda item. Selectboard members commented on circumstances related to David Kimball's dispute.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

ATTEST:

Robert Tooker
Administrative Secretary