



Town of Casco
Selectboard Minutes
December 15, 2020

Selectboard Chair Tom Peaslee opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Selectboard Members Present: Mary-Vienessa Fernandes (Vice Chair), Holly Hancock, Tom Peaslee (Chair), Robert MacDonald, Scott Avery

Staff Present: Interim Town Manager Don Gerrish

Chair Tom asked for motion to approve the agenda.

1. Review and Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes) to approve the agenda and add to the agenda item 10 accepting the donation of \$2,700 from the Carol and David Hancock Charitable Trust for concession stand equipment at the Memorial Field; in favor 5.

2. Approval of Bills and Signing and Approval of All Open Warrants

The Selectboard moved (MacDonald), seconded (Fernandes), and voted to approve bills and sign and approve all open warrants: 5 in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes: and December 1, 2020

The Selectboard moved (Avery), seconded (MacDonald) to approve the December 1 , 2020 minutes: 5 in favor.

4. Public Participation

None.

5. Managers Update

I receive the attached email from Randy Illian, Traffic Engineer MDOT, concerning the Town's request for a speed limit sign for Fountain Hill Road. As you will see because of the width and condition of the road he is recommending a Narrow Road sign with 20mph advisory MPH on it.

On the Revenue side we continue to be in good shape. We budgeted the same amount for Excise Tax as what we got last years (\$760,000) and through November we are \$50,000 ahead of where we were last year at the same time. We budgeted \$125,000 for State Revenue Sharing and we have received \$137,726 through November. I reviewed the State of Maine's projection for what Casco will receive for this year which was \$280,000 and I think we will be close to that number which would give us an additional \$155,000 we had not planned on.

On the Expense side we are also in good shape. The one area we will need to monitor is road work. We budgeted \$100,000 in this account and have spent \$28,000 through November. We should be ok in this account but the winter and spring may have an impact on it.

Plowing in the last storm was difficult as many of the gravel roads had not frozen. They were plowed but not to the degree that is normal if they were frozen. We returned to a number of the gravel roads to clean them up the next day. Also a reminder that it is State Law not to plow across any road.

As you are all aware most of Casco was without electricity on Sunday 12/6 after the storm. I was in contact with Chief Cole on the situation and we discussed the possibility to open the Community Center for a warming area with the understanding that Covid would be an issue. We decided to wait to Monday and reassess and Chief Cole was in contact with CMP on their estimated time for frame in Casco. On Monday Beth Latsey contacted seniors and others on her contact lists in the community to see if anyone was in need. No one contacted was in need of assistance. CMP told us that they hoped to have everyone in Casco connected by late Monday night. Again, we decided to wait until Tuesday to see where things were. There were about 400 homes without electricity on Tuesday morning and CMP was able to address all but 3 on Tuesday. The issue of Covid was the main reason we didn't open the Community Center.

I have researched the lot 26 Map 31 that the Town owns (old Fire Station Lot) and which we discussed at the last Selectboard meeting. I found out it was not taken for taxes so the sale of the property will need Town Meeting approval.

6. The Selectboard moved (Avery), seconded (Fernandes) to accept the donation of \$1,700 from the Maine Community Foundation to purchase picnic tables for the pavilion at Memorial Field: in favor 5.
7. The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes) to accept the donation of \$2,700 from the Carol and David Hancock Charitable Trust for concession stand equipment at the Memorial Field: in favor 5.
8. Discussion of revised Septic System Subsidy Program Policy

The Selectboard reviewed the proposed changes to the Policy as recommended by the Town Manager. They also discussed whether Selectboard member or a Town employee would be able to receive a grant. They received an email from the Town Attorney that stated, with the proposed changes, that there were no legal issues with a Selectboard member or Town employee receiving a grant if they met the approved proposed guidelines. The Manager was asked to prepare a revised Policy with the proposed changes for approval at the next Selectboard meeting. **(Selectboard member Fernandes left her seat and did not participate in the discussion.)**

9. Discussion of Selectboard Goals

The Town Manager gave an update on the 4 goals the Selectboard selected. The Board asked that the Manager continue to work on each goal and report to the Selectboard on the progress at each meeting.

10. Discussion of Town Manager Search

The Selectboard decided to go back out to advertise in January for the new Town Manger as the candidate they offered the position to had declined the position.

11. Selectboard Comments

The Selectboard thanked the Code Enforcement Officer for his monthly report on his activities. The Selectboard thanked the community and staff for their hard work and understanding during the year and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Fernandes) to adjourn at 7:25pm; in favor
5.