



Town of Casco

Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Casco Community Center

PRESENT

Scott Avery

Eugene Connolly

Robert MacDonald

Mary Fernandes

ABSENT

Grant Plummer

Regular Meeting

1. Approval of bills and signing and approval of all open warrants

The Selectboard moved to approve the signing and approval of all open warrants.

Motion made by Fernandes, Seconded by MacDonald.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

2. Review and approval of the meeting agenda

The Selectboard moved to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion made by Fernandes, Seconded by Connolly.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

3. Approval of Minutes: October 3, 2023 and October 17, 2023

The Selectboard moved to approve the October 3, 2023 minutes.

Motion made by Connolly, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

Voting Abstaining: Avery

The Selectboard moved to approve the October 17, 2023 minutes.

Motion made by Connolly, Seconded by MacDonald.
Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

4. Public Participation for non-Agenda items

Fire Chief Brian Cole wanted to thank everyone for their support during the Lewiston Tragedy as well as how much room he thought the Fire Department would need on the Berry Property. He also stated his frustration with the suggestion of a Capital Improvement Committee.

Sue Witonis, Rae-Ann Nguyen and Pam Hartig voiced their concerns and frustrations regarding Rabbit Run.

David Kimball spoke regarding his property at 782 Meadow Road.

5. Manager's Update

A. Simard and Sons is scheduled to begin fuel system replacement and upgrade on December 4. They anticipate installing the fuel tank on December 6th. Some Selectboard members inquired about DEF systems for the new fuel system. At this time, we will not be installing a DEF system because of the cost of these systems. A DEF addition would add an additional \$50,000 to the costs and these funds were not approved as part of the Town Meeting approval. Simard & Sons will install an underground conduit for a potential future DEF system installation.

B. Glidden Construction completed the FY24 road projects in the last week of October. Due to cost overruns, the topcoats for Sunny Hill Road, South Casco Village Road and New Road will not be completed until FY25.

C. We are bringing in consultants to conduct a complete energy audit of the Town's buildings and properties. This audit will include but not limited to the review of all lighting, heating, equipment usage and EV chargers. This review is completed at no cost to the Town and a complete list of recommendations provided for the Board to review. Included in your packet is a short on the rate we are currently paying for electricity (not delivery). I am seeking non-committed guidance on your interest in signing a new electrical agreement and/or for what duration. Once guidance is obtained, I can move forward with acquiring the required data for a future Board meeting.

D. Town staff and I are working with engineers to review and recommendations for transforming "All the Ravan" into a meeting complex for Town Boards. We are also working with engineers on determining the feasibility of a public works site near the Salt/Sand shed or on the previous sludge site. Once these reports are completed, they will be forwarded to the Selectboard to provide guidance to myself and staff.

E. Included in your packet are the updated rates for EcoMaine. The rate increase is substantial, but necessary for the continued operation of the 10 Item 5.# facility. As a part owner of EcoMaine, we understand the long term benefits of this facility and focus on minimizing land fill usage. I anticipate these rates increasing over the next few years because of continued infrastructure improvements being made for the long term.

Old Business

6. The Selectboard will discuss the status of the Comprehensive Plan

Rae-Ann Nguyen, Pam Edwards and Ryan McAllister gave an update of the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged the board to act soon in order for it to be voted on at Town Meeting.

The Selectboard moved to set a Public Hearing for December 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Connolly.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

7. The Selectboard will discuss goals for FY24 and review of FY23 Goals

Moved to next meeting when all members are present.

New Business

8. The Selectboard will discuss the role of a planner and possible opportunities for the Town.

Doug Webster presented to the Selectboard what the benefits of a planner would be for the Town and gave some suggestions.

No action taken. Discussion only.

9. The Selectboard will discuss the year-to-date financials

No action taken. Discussion only.

10. The Selectboard will consider appointments to the Open Space Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

The Selectboard moved to appointe James Arsham to the Open Space Commission, Tiffany Payton as an Alternate Member to the Planning Board, Geoff Hancock to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Elinor Withington to the Veteran's Committee. All with a term to expire June 30, 2026.

Motion made by Connolly, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

11. The Selectboard will discuss the status of the revaluation

No action. Discussion only.

12. The Selectboard will discuss allowing domestic partners on employee's health insurance

The Selectboard moved and approved to allow domestic partners on employee's health insurance.

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

13. The Selectboard will consider dedicating the concession stand at Casco Community Park to Clelie Welch.

The Selectboard moved to approve dedicating the concession stand at Casco Community Park to Clelie Welch.

Executive Session

14. Executive Session to discuss Concealed Weapons Permits per Title 25, Part 5, Chapter 252, Section 2006 for applications 11/14/2023A, 11/14/2023B, 11/14/2023C, 11/14/2023D & 11/14/2023E

The Selectboard moved to enter Executive Session at 7:22 pm to discuss Concealed Weapons Permits per Title 25, Part 5, Chapter 252, Section 2006 for applications 11/14/2023A, 11/14/2023B, 11/14/2023C, 11/14/2023D & 11/14/2023E -and- pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.405(6)(F) Poverty Abatement Requests- Case 11/14/2023A

Motion made by Connolly, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

15. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.405(6)(F) Poverty Abatement Requests- Case 11/14/2023A

16. Adjournment

Adjourned from Executive Session at 7:28 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Motion made by Connolly, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes

Reminders to the Attending Public: Selectboard meetings are open to the public, but the public may not speak unless recognized by the Board Chair or Vice Chair in their absence. Except during a public hearing, comment time is limited to 2 minutes per speaker during public participation or on agenda items. Matters related to personnel will not be heard.

Future meeting dates (subject to change)

December 5, 2023 @ 6:00 pm Selectboard Regular Meeting

December 11, 2023 @ 6:30 pm Planning Board Regular Meeting

December 18, 2023 @ 6:00 pm Open Space Commission Meeting

December 19, 2023 @ 6:00 pm Selectboard Regular Meeting