



Town of Casco

Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Casco Community Center

Regular Meeting

1. Review and approval of the meeting agenda

The Selectboard moved and seconded to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion made by Plummer, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

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

The Selectboard moved and seconded to approve all bills and signing of all open warrants.

Motion made by Avery, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

3. Approval of Minutes: 12/3/24

The Selectboard moved and seconded to accept the minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting as presented.

Motion made by Avery, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, Fernandes, Plummer

Voting Abstaining: MacDonald

4. Public Participation for non-Agenda items

David Kimball- Has discrepancies with tax maps and property lines. Would like to display at a future meeting.

Sam Brown- There is an Open Space meeting on 12/19/24 and will be rescheduling the January meeting. CPIC (Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee) will be participating with Planning Board. Would like to have: Update on All the Raven building, Snowmobile Club Building, Purchase of Land, Explanation of budget.

5. Managers Update

- A. Another round of Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant is available and due by December 17th. With the assistance of Vanessa, Sarah Turner and CEBE, I anticipate applying for \$75,000 to build on the goals and strategies outlined in Casco's newly updated Comprehensive Plan, including "Protect Woods, Waters, and Open Space" and "Connect the Villages with Safe Streets and Trails." We will focus on mapping, analysis, and targeted implementation to enhance Casco's natural and recreational resources.
- B. At your next meeting, I plan on presenting the Selectboard with a draft budget schedule with the majority of the meetings occurring in March, as in previous years. I anticipate presenting my proposed budget to the Selectboard on March 4, 2025.
- C. The past few storms proved challenging for both C Pond Plowing and our Public Works crew. These consecutive storms required the same level of service as any major storm and fatigued staff for both groups. The Public Works team was even more challenged with one of the drivers being out sick for all the storms, but a Bulky Waste employee temporarily assigned to Public Works greatly assisted with the shoveling, snow blowing and maintaining of Town grounds.
- D. I am still representing the Town of the COLAB between Casco, Naples, Raymond, and Sebago. This group is additionally being assisted by GPCOG and Sebago Fiber. The ultimate goal of the group is developing a municipal/private business partnership for delivering fiber optic internet to various portions of these communities. Sebago already received a substantial grant for the installation of fiber optics because of being under served. Raymond already approved funding for the development of a fiber optic loop with Sebago Fiber. The next stages would be Casco and Naples financially committing to expansion in our communities during 2026 or 2027. If the community and Selectboard support this future expansion, we will need to include funding within our FY26 and FY27 budgets. I am seeking guidance from the Board if they would like Sebago Fiber to attend a January meeting to provide the Board and public with additional information about their recent partnerships and opportunities with Casco and Naples. The anticipated municipal commitment would be in the area of \$250,000 raised over two (2) years.
- E. As part of the FY25 budget, I will propose a formal pay scale that is based on each position's grade, experience level and wages related to their position. If accepted, this wage scale provides employees and prospective employees with clear pay expectations as they gain experience. Instead of just using a COLA which keeps an employee at a plateau for the duration of their employment, it provides continued growth. Obviously any step increase would be dependent on satisfactory appraisals/evaluations.

Approved by Selectboard on January 21, 2025

- F. During the November 5, 2024, general election, we had 121 new voters to Casco register and an additional 44 complete change of addresses.
- G. Plowing hours
- H. Vehicle problems-Town Vehicle down and white plow truck \$13,000 in recent repairs
- I. Software upgrade to Town Office. Trio web now and we also upgrading to Government windows. Will be able to charge almost any fee via the web and able to use a electronic check for a flat fee. Current charge 2.5% or a minimum of \$1 with Inform ME. Will also be switching to TimeClock plus. All interface with Trio web

Old Business

- 6. The Selectboard will consider applicants for Alternate position on Planning Board.
The Selectboard moved and seconded to appoint David Fowler for the position of Alternate Planning Board Member with term to expire June 30, 2027
Motion made by Avery, Seconded by Plummer.
Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer
- 7. The Selectboard will discuss potential contract zoning for Casco Public Library
Discussion only. No action was taken.
- 8. The Selectboard will discuss of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the proposed Complete Streets Policy.
The Selectboard moved and seconded to approve the Complete Streets Policy as presented.
Motion made by Avery, Seconded by MacDonald.
Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer
- 9. The Selectboard will discuss stormwater control system for Town Office and adjacent Town Properties.
The Selectboard moved and seconded to use funding from the Tenney Hill Wastewater fund for the stormwater control system for Town Office and adjacent Town Properties for the FY 26 budget, noting this item will still require Town Meeting approval.
Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Fernandes.
Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

10. The Selectboard will discuss the FY2026 road projects

The Selectboard moved and seconded to approve the FY 2026 Road projects for the Edwards Road and have the Town Manager facilitate the RFP for these projects. Funding for these projects still pending Town Meeting approval.

Motion made by Avery, Seconded by Plummer.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Plummer

Voting Nay: Fernandes

11. The Selectboard will discuss a proposed strategic surveys options proposed by GPCOG

The Selectboard moved and seconded to authorize the Town Manager to sign an agreement with Greater Portland Council of Government for proposed strategic surveys options proposed.

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Avery.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

12. The Selectboard will discuss a senior tax credit ordinance.

The Selectboard appointed Robert MacDonald and Scott Avery to a subcommittee with Town staff to develop the framework of a senior tax credit ordinance.

New Business

13. The Selectboard will consider re-appointing Penny Bean as Registrar of Voters for a term expiring 12/31/2026.

The Selectboard moved and seconded to re-appoint Penny Bean as Registrar of Voters for a term expiring 12/31/2026.

Motion made by Plummer, Seconded by Avery.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

14. Selectboard Comments

Scott Avery- It is time for DOT to come in with us regarding 121- "enough is enough". Would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and thank everyone for their support.

Mary Fernandes- Happy Holidays and thank you to everyone.

Bob MacDonald- Excited about the excitement and participation in this town.

Gene Connolly- Reminder of meeting dates.

Executive Session

15. It was moved and seconded at 7:24 pm to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.405(6)(F) Poverty Abatement Requests- Case 03/05/2024A

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Avery.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

16. It was moved and seconded at 7:24 pm to enter Executive Session to discuss Concealed Weapons Permits per Title 25, Part 5, Chapter 252, Section 2006 for applications 12/03/2024A & 12/03/2024B

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Avery.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

It was moved and seconded to exit Executive Session at 7:26pm

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

17. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:27pm

Motion made by MacDonald, Seconded by Fernandes.

Voting Yea: Avery, Connolly, MacDonald, Fernandes, Plummer

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)

1/7/2025 6:00pm Selectboard Regular Meeting

1/21/25 6:00 pm Selectboard Regular Meeting

1/28/25 6:30 pm Special Town Meeting