

**MINUTES**  
**Casco Town Meeting**  
**January 14, 2012**

Members Present:

Barbara York, Paul Edes, Mary Fernandes, Tracey Kimball, and Ray Grant

Staff Present:

David Morton and Janet Ver Planck

Town Members Present:

See attached list

Town Clerk and Town Manager David Morton opened the special town meeting at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed everyone and then shared that Article 5 was left off the warrant. It originally was on the draft work on the back side of the first page. Article 5 will not be dealt with today.

David Morton read the warrant for the special town meeting.

**Article 1:** To vote to choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Town Clerk David Morton called for nominations for moderator. It was moved and seconded to nominate Holly Hancock. Motion to cease nominations. Since there was only one nomination for moderator, three registered voters were asked to cast ballots for moderator. Three ballots were cast for Holly Hancock. Town Clerk David Morton swore in Holly Hancock as moderator.

Holly Hancock shared that on each article she will ask for a motion and a second to open discussion.

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt an ordinance entitled:  
**“Town of Casco Ordinance to provide exemption from excise tax for residents on active duty either permanently stationed or deployed for military service outside of the State of Maine”.**

The Casco Selectboard recommends this article.

It was moved and seconded to accept the ordinance for the active duty service people.

Hancock asked for question or discussion on the article.

Morton-Explained that this is a new opportunity that the state legislature made available to local communities. The state normally 100% controls all issues of taxation including excise tax. This was a new law that became effective in September. The Selectboard learned of this and thought it would be something that the community should consider.

Eric Dibner-Was interested in what the impact on the revenue would be.

Morton shared that it is difficult to calculate as at any given time we don't have a large number of service people deployed. We based it on ten people. We believe that ten are many more than what we have. Look at a moderately new vehicle registration excise tax for 2011-2012 those excise taxes will probably be in the range of \$500 to \$600. \$600 x 10 so the greatest impact might be about \$6,000. This is all conjecture and Morton would not want to be held to any of those numbers because we really don't know the number of people that are deployed outside the state at any given time. It will take a year or two of experience to really know that number for certain.

Motion passed.

**Article 3** To see if the Town will vote to adopt an ordinance entitled:  
**“Town of Casco Dog Control Ordinance”.**

Casco Selectboard recommends this article.

It was moved and seconded to open the article.

Hancock asked for question or discussion on the article

Morton shared the history. The Selectboard appointed a committee to look at animal control issues. In the course of the discussions, the committee came back saying that there were gaps in state laws and felt we should adopt a local ordinance to help deal with some of the issues. The committee worked on the ordinance and provided the Selectboard with an excellent draft which was then reviewed and revised by our legal counsel.

Barbara York asked that the members of the committee be introduced.

Morton introduced Susan Fielder, ACO for the town, Margaret Dilley, and Selectman Ray Grant. Alice Darlington asked about the note in Section 5 (I recommend deletion of this section since it is covered by State law.) Is it deleted or why is it a part of the ordinance? Also asked if the only other difference is the barking ordinance. Wanted to know if the running at large was deleted.

Morton shared that it should be deleted in order to adopt the ordinance today; the ordinance needs to be adopted as it was posted. That was a recommendation from legal counsel because it was duplicative of state law.

Susan Fielder-The dog at large is not going to make any difference. It is exactly the same in the state law. The main thing that we have is the licensing and the disturbing the peace. There is nothing in the state mandate book that would give us anything to deal with disturbing the peace.

Morton-Did not want there to be any confusion with his earlier remarks. There is a severability clause in the ordinance which doesn't complicate item #5 for us. It can still be adopted as printed. If there is editing or changes that need to occur, we can do those at a later town meeting. It is acceptable to adopt the ordinance as printed.

Motion passed.

**Article 4** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$4,700.00 from the undesignated fund balance to the Public Safety Stipend Account to offset unexpected expenses encountered as a result of Hurricane Irene.

Casco Selectboard recommends this article.  
Casco Finance Committee recommends this article.

It was moved and seconded to approve this article.

Hancock asked for question or discussion on the article.

Morton-Shared that the Fire Department serves in a variety of capacities. We don't have a Public Works Dept. so when we have events like Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene our Fire Dept. responds to things like trees down and power lines down. They contact the power company, put up barricades, remove debris, etc. They perform much like a Public Works Dept. in other communities. We do provide stipends to our public safety people when they perform this function. FEMA money is usually available to reimburse the costs. There was not enough damage in Cumberland County to qualify for emergency aid. In order for the stipend account not to be over drafted toward the end of the year we need this money returned to that account.

Motion passed.

Hancock shared that the Selectboard has requested your attendance in a discussion about the Casco Memorial School. It is not a part of this warrant so we need to adjourn out of the Town Meeting you are invited to stay for the discussion.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:22 a.m.

Motion passed.

Attest:

David P. Morton  
Town Clerk