



Town of Casco
Selectboard Minutes
September 14, 2021

Selectboard Chair Mary Fernandes opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

Selectboard Members Present: Robert MacDonald (Vice-Chair), Holly Hancock, Scott Avery

Selectboard Members Absent None

Staff Present: Town Manager Tony Ward

Public: Jen Morton, Matt Markot (Loon Echo Land Trust), Anabee Beal, Hayden Stokes and Eric Dibner

Chair Fernandes asked for motion to approve the agenda.

1. Review and Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The Selectboard moved (Hancock), seconded (Avery) to approve the agenda: 4 in favor

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

The Selectboard moved (Avery), seconded (Hancock), and voted to approve bills and sign and approve all open warrants: 4 in favor.

3. Public Participation

Eric Dibner comment on the necessity of green space and believes that town property adjacent to Fire Department better left as open space instead of a brick and mortar.

Approved by Selectboard on September 21, 2021

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4. Managers' Report

- Conversation with Cumberland County Sheriff's Office about the costs associated with hiring a contracted deputy. I anticipate receiving a quote within the month and a defined level of commitment associated with a contract deputy.
- Hired of Mike Genest as our Public Works employee and he started on September 1st. We are already acting on our work plan for various outstanding items. These items range from removing beaver dams, ditching town roads, clearing clog culverts and digging a utility ditch for the Fire Department's generator.
- Casco Fire Department received a grant from Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$37,415.92 for an exhaust removal system for Company 2. Paul Ratigan grant writing skills were again demonstrated and appreciated. Paul's grant writing abilities have brought in over \$1.3 million in grant funding and saved these additional funds being raised by local property taxes.
- The Winter Sand RFP is our and due September 17th. The RFP was sent out to area contractors, posted on our sites and on MMA website. I anticipate the Board discussing at your September 21st meeting.
- ARPA funds are now available for reimburse for items or projects that meet the US Treasury's requirements. I anticipate future discussions by the Board relating to these ARPA funds. Staff and I continue monitoring the ever-changing environment that relates to ARPA.
- There are several ordinances that staff recommend that were not voted on at Town Meeting. I would anticipate requesting a special Town Meeting occur for these ordinances already authored.
- Town Department Heads meet with Civic Plus and obtained further information about their web site development strategies. Staff was very impressed with their model and skillset. When the web redesigned occurs, it should take approximately 3 months to complete.
- A quote for an updated sign was obtained and further discussions with the company are occurring. Their proposal includes a message board locally manufactured (New Hampshire) and increases the pixels. For comparison purposes, this sign creates a higher definition than Raymond's newest sign.

5. The Selectboard will consider a Conflict-of-Interest policy

Moved (Avery), seconded (MacDonald) to approve the Conflict-of Interest Policy as presented. 4 in favor.

6. The Selectboard will consider signing a letter of supporting Loon Echo Land Trust purchase of Rolfe Property.

Public Comments: Matt Markot presented an outline of Loon Echo Land Trust's plan with the Rolfe property.

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Moved (Hancock), seconded (Avery), to signing a letter of support for Loon Echo Land Trust for the purchase of Rolfe Property: 4 in favor.

7. Discussion on a Solar Power Options.

Discussion Only. No Action until further meetings. *Will remain on "Old Business" portion of future agendas:*

8. The Selectboard will discuss Town Owned Properties.

Public Comments: Jen Morton spoke on behalf of the Land Conservation Committee and provided their perspective. The Committee also submitted a written memorandum authored by Tuan Ngyuen outlining the committee's perspective.

Discussion Only. No Action until further meetings. *Will remain on "Old Business" portion of future agendas:*

9. The Selectboard will discuss medical/recreational marijuana ordinance.

Discussion Only. No Action until further meetings. Requested staff author draft ordinance for future vote at Town Meeting. **Will remain on "Old Business" portion of future agendas**

10. Selectboard Comments

- Selectperson Fernandes requested that Public Participation portion of the agenda be moved to just before Selectboard comments.
- Selectperson Fernandes and the board agreed to starting future Selectboard meetings at 6:00 PM instead of 6:00 PM
- Selectperson Avery commented on the increasing the Town's communication regarding future Town Meetings and understand that not all residents have access to internet or email communications.
- Selectperson Avery commented on the recent passing away of a Lake Region student on a school field trip. He urged support for the child's family and students alike.
- Selectperson Hancock inquired about John Mains' mowing the Tenney Hill Cemetery.
- Selectperson Hancock stated that she hopes that a draft ordinance will be available for June 2022 Town Meeting limiting the removal of water from Casco Waterways.
- Selectperson Fernandes stated the Board may need to discuss a policy regarding dogs at Casco Community Park. Selectperson Hancock advised the initial committee discussing this park recommended "no dogs" be allowed on the property.

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The Selectboard moved (Avery), seconded (Hancock) to adjourn at 7:31 pm. 4 in favor.

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