



TOWN OF CASCO

635 MEADOW ROAD
CASCO, MAINE 04015

10-03MEMO

To: Selectboard

From: Tony Ward, Town Manager

Date: 09-29-2023

Re: Selectboard meeting 10-03-2023

Below are notes for agenda items for the September 19th meeting.

5. Managers Update

- A. I anticipate presenting to the Selectboard a draft policy on Town meetings within the next couple of meetings. This policy shall include the priorities previously identified by the Selectboard.
- B. I anticipate posting for 30 days the changes in zoning ordinance associated to the proposed solar energy systems once approved by the Planning Board. After the 30 days are completed, the Selectboard would conduct a public hearing on the proposed changes and approved as presented or amended.
- C. Hello Doggie Daycare did not submit a petition for modifying the Town's zoning related to kennels. Per the settlement agreement, she must now close the business by October 18, 2023, and reimburse the Town for attorney fees.
- D. Also included in your packet is a recent newsletter received from the Murch Cemetery Association.
- E. The Town will be releasing its first newsletter on or around October 15th. The newsletter will be available in both a digital and hardcopy format. The digital newsletter will be available via e-mail or on our web site. Hard Copies will be available at the Town Office, Community Center and possibly some non-Town properties.
- F. The Fire Department received a \$5,000 donation from the Selavy Foundation.
- G. Included in your packet is a request from GPCOG for the Town to attend Lake Region Convening. This is similar to the meeting they conducted this spring in Naples. They are requesting who would represent the Town at this convening. I do not believe formal action is required, but just guidance for RSVPing to the event.
- H. I am inquiring if the Selectboard would be willing to modify the personnel policy in the future to require direct deposit for all payroll checks. We currently issue only 4 traditional checks. If the Town required direct deposit,

we could eliminate the printing of all paper checks and deliver them via e-mail. Trio (our accounting and payroll software) does not allow for the non-printing of direct deposits. It is an all or nothing endeavor on the printing of payroll checks.

- I. CEO Wiesemann is working with Jensen Baird to deal with the junkyard at 480 Roosevelt Trail (Mike's Auto Repair). The owner of the business has not been as responsive as needed with the cleanup.

Public Hearing

6. The Selectboard will conduct a public hearing on State of Maine General Assistance Minimums and consider adopting into ordinance.

Included in your packet are the State guidelines for GA maximums. The Town traditionally accepted these maximums levels for each level outlined. The Town could increase the maximum levels, but not lower these levels. The Town would still get reimbursed at 70% of the State maximum levels.

While this is an amendment to the Town's General Assistance Ordinance, State law authorizes this ordinance be approved by the Selectboard and not through the legislative body (Town Meeting) as most ordinances.

Workshop

7. The Selectboard Will conduct a workshop with GPCOG and Sebago Fiber reference the COLAB work on high-speed internet.

The Town of Casco participated in the COLAB starting in 2021. The original COLAB included Towns from Bridgton, Casco, Denmark, Harrison, Naples, Raymond, Sebago and Standish. The COLAB ultimately ended up with 5 towns (Casco, Naples, Raymond, Sebago and Standish committing to proceeding with the research of methods to expand broadband opportunities within our communities. With great assistance from GPCOG and Mission Broadband, this committee developed RFP's for exploration of broadband opportunities ranging from municipal owned broadband(Public), partnering with utility (quasi municipal organizations), private public model and privately owned (Spectrum, Consolidated etc.). After a lengthy review of all respondents to the RFP, the committee is recommending a project proposed by Sebago Fiber as a private public model. This model provides some local controls, sharing of infrastructure costs with and increased efficiency.

Sebago Fiber and GPCOG will be present to present the proposal and additional request the Selectboard supporting Sebago's application with for the Maine Connectivity Grant and for expense of grants funds received by GPCOG (on behalf of the five Town for conducting surveys associated with broadband services in Casco.

Old Business

8. The Selectboard Will discuss the Town's Application for the State of Maine Community Resilience Grant.

Included in your packets is a notification of award from the Governors Office of Innovation for Community Resilience. The Towns application focused on developing a Complete Street's plan with the assistance of the Center for Ecology Based Economy and Principal Group.

I am in communication with both CEBE and Principal Group to develop reporting periods on the plans progress for the Selectboard and general public.

For more information on Complete Streets, please visit
<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/what-are-complete-streets/>

New Business

9. The Selectboard Will Consider awarding the Winter Sand Bids.

Included in your packet is the sole bid the Town received from our Request for Proposal for Winter Sand (the RFP is in your packet). The RFP was mailed to area companies and posted on a public notice portion of our web site. The sole bid is from Shaw Brothers with a price of \$20.75 per yard.

10. The Selectboard Will Discuss a Town Property at 7 Leach Hill Road..

At the last meeting, the Selectboard authorized me to sign a rescinding of the lease agreement with All the Ravan. During the meeting I voiced my opinion on the potential use of this property. Staff and I are seeking guidance from the Selectboard on a preferred process for identifying potential usages of the property or doe the Selectboard has preferred usage of the building.

Page 3 of Manager's Memorandum