

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,  
TAX COLLECTORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MAY 2, 2023  
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

Present: James Andretta, Terry Heller, Vice Chair Dusty Jones, Bill Maloney, Chair Sarah Whitfield and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

Chair Sarah Whitfield called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The chair amended the agenda to take up item 10-f as County Planner Emily Rabbe, who would be addressing the Ordinance Review Committee's questions, was unable to stay for the whole meeting. Rabbe asked the board whether the town should regulate short-term rentals, if the ORC should draft a maximum floor size for an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), and if the adequate parking requirement be made less ambiguous. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

- a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the payroll warrants of April 21 and 28, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of April 25 and May 2, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2023, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings -none

7. Public Comment

Sean Barnes inquired about the posting of town property near the landfill with access by permission only. He said the property had been open for hunting in the past and he asked why now only one person was allowed access. Town Manager Dennis Simmons said a policy doesn't exist, but that he will draft a policy on access to the landfill for hunting.

Susan Blagden asked about the status of the Wawenock Building on Main Street now that the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for completion had passed. Dennis Simmons said that the damage to the east wall was far worse than anticipated and was in danger of collapsing; however, the work on the east wall was almost complete and then the work on the Main Street side will be completed.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair – none

9. Unfinished Business – none

20. New Business

a. Sewer Abatement 92 Bradford Road for \$175.17. **Terry Heller moved to approve the sewer abatement at 92 Bradford Road for \$175.17. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Pleasant Street Extension “rewilding” project – Leslie Roberts. Roberts described the proposed project on the Pleasant Street extension to beautify the waterfront without costing the town anything except for some help from the Public Works Department. The plan calls for planting along the roadway to White’s Island to prevent further erosion and to provide habitat for birds. Midcoast Conservancy will be a partner in the project. The group will apply for a grant that will not require matching funds from the town. Sarah Whitfield asked whether there were shoreland issues to be addressed. The Town Manager will solicit input from the town department heads and a public hearing on the project will be on the next agenda.

c. Use of volunteers on Waterfront during summer boating season: Don Davis outlined a volunteer program for retirees, students, or others to work at the waterfront from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, keeping an eye on things and taking a load off the harbormaster and his assistant by monitoring moorings, collecting fees, providing information on the rules and regulations, and monitoring the bathrooms. Davis said the duties might include putting together and distributing ditty bags containing samples, information on the town and marketing materials. Dennis Simmons said he had checked with MMA and there were no issues with the program. However, he said that volunteers would not be allowed to handle cash so a credit card or other system could be used. Students could also take advantage of the program for their community service project. Bill Maloney moved to accept the plan for volunteers. Vote 5-0-0.

d. Request to appoint Deputy Harbormaster – Chief Lawrence Hesselstine: Dennis Simmons said the chief had requested that a Deputy Harbormaster be appointed. He asked the board to table the request as there may be a union issue. **Bill Maloney moved to table this request. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Bid Opening – sale of sailboat. There were no bids. Simmons asked permission to advertise and sell the boat. **Dusty Jones moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute a bill of sale for the highest offer on the boat. Vote 5-0-0**

11. Assessors Business – none

12. Town Manager’s Report

Simmons reported that Kathy Onorato had been approved as a Certified Treasurer by the Maine Municipal Tax Collectors and Treasurers’ Association.

Tax Payments have been coming in briskly and Simmons thanked Sue, Linda and Molly who have been handling the increased traffic with smiles on their faces.

Johnson Controls has begun the process of evaluating the town's buildings and other infrastructure for upgrades to make the town more energy efficient. The initial site evaluation included HVAC, windows, doors, insulation, and lighting. The company will evaluate the information and make recommendations for improvements to improve efficiency and to save money.

Public Works is repairing the damage from a higher-than-normal amount of plowing this year and in addition is opening the cemeteries as well as their other duties.

The LED streetlights were delivered on Thursday. Conversion will begin when CMP has provided the town with the Purchase and Sales Agreement for the streetlights. This will deal with all the streetlights that have been reported not working and will save the Town a considerable amount of money on electricity.

### 13. Other Board Business

Simmons said the School Board will be voting to approve the school budget warrant on May 8 and asked the selectboard to set a date for its approval of the warrant. The Selectboard will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday May 9 to approve the school town meeting warrant.

James Andretta moved to appoint Sarah Whitfield as temporary liaison to the Ordinance Review Committee and the Planning Board until the June 26th meeting. Vote 5-0-0.

### 14. Adjournment

**Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**