

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MINUTES, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, 7 P.M.
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

Present: James Andretta, Pam Dunning, Terry Heller, Bill Maloney, Chair Sarah Whitfield, and
Town Manager Dennis Simmons

The chair called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the payroll warrants for October 20, FY 24, October 27, FY 24, and November 3, FY 24. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants for October 14, FY 24, October 31, FY 24, and November 7, FY 24. Vote 5-0-0**

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2023, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments/Resignations

a. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Deborah Morgan to the Wiscasset Climate Action Team. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Susan Blagden asked why the agenda was not posted on the website. Dennis Simmons said was unaware it hadn't been posted and would speak to the person responsible for the omission.

8. Department head or committee chair – None

9. Unfinished Business – none

10. New Business

a. Chief Hesselstine requesting approval to accept Maine Highway Safety Grants in the amount of \$21,452.27. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the request to accept Maine Highway Safety Grants in the amount of \$21,452.27. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Wawenock Block Discussion: Sarah Whitfield quoted from Sandra Guay's (Archipelago law firm) letter recently received. "It is my understanding that one of these contractors is in the process of providing a timeline for start and completion which should be ready in the next week or so. A rough estimate at this time is six to eight weeks to complete the masonry once work begins, moving the timeline for completion from mid-November to sometime in the first quarter of 2024. I will update you as soon as I have a more specific timeline." In response to Susan Blagden's query, Simmons said that there was little the town could do to move up the timeline. However, he said he would draft a letter for the board's approval.

c. Sunken Garden Donation: **Terry Heller moved to accept a \$10,000 donation from the Garden Club for rebuilding the brick walkway at the Sunken Garden. Any remaining funds shall be placed in a donation fund for future needs. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Assessors Business

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the tax abatement for Clark's Point Development, Map R05, Lot 126D RE Acct # 2647 for \$1863.24. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the supplement for RHI-Clark's Point, LLC, Map R05 Lot 126-D RE Acct # 2647 for \$1863.24. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. **Terry Heller moved to approve the abatement for Village Car PP Acct #23 for \$272.50. Vote 5-0-0. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the abatement for Fowle Hill Builders, LLC,, PP acct #206 for \$255.71. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. **Terry Heller moved to approve the tax abatement for Frank G. Allen, Jr., 18 Sunset Ridge, Map R02, Lot 10-C-ON RE Acct. #2678 for \$112.51. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the supplement for Frederick H. and Linda Z. Winterberg, 25 Pleasant St. Map U01 Lot 16 RE Acct #1254 for \$3,000.00.**

12. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons introduced Aaron Chrostowsky who had been appointed to the position of Economic Development Director, a newly funded position. Chrostowsky has a Masters of Public Administration degree and over 20 years of municipal management experience in Maine and Vermont.

Simmons reported that Foye Road, Lamson and Willow Lanes were paved before the weather turned too cold. He said the paving company is working as fast as it can to get driveways heeled in and leveled off.

Painting of the crosswalks, parking lines, etc. has been delayed first by a lack of paint earlier in the season and then by the wet weather. The Public Works crew is looking for a window of opportunity to get as much done as possible. Simmons asked the community to be patient.

The Select Board will have a special meeting on November 9 to discuss the issues surrounding the present location of the wastewater treatment plant. Grant funding and other sources of funds are available, and the town needs to start making some decisions so that it can move forward with securing those funds.

One proposal, from Sevee & Maher, has been received for the cleanup of the town-owned North Point fill area of Mason Station. It will be reviewed to ensure the requirements of the RFP are met.

Pursuant to the Wiscasset Ordinances Article 1 Section 8.3.1, Simmons has sent a letter to the Wiscasset Ordinance Review Committee for a review and clarification of Article X, Section 16, Solar Energy Conversion Systems, which seems to restrict solar systems panels to the rural zone, and therefore a proposed solar project in the Route 1 Commercial District would not be allowed. He wrote that the ordinance seems overly restrictive in the siting of solar systems and asked the committee for clarification.

13. Other Board Business

a. Executive Session for the discussion of a legal matter. **Pam Dunning moved to enter executive session at 6:26 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Bill Maloney moved to exit executive session at 6:47 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Bill Maloney moved to approve the filing of an appeal to Lincoln County Superior Court of the October 19, 2023, Board of Environmental Protection decision. Vote 5-0-0.**

Sarah Whitfield said the comp plan committee is meeting on November 15, not November 8.

14. Adjournment

Pam Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.