

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JUNE 4, 2024
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Payroll Warrants for May 24, 2024, and May 31, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants for May 28, 2024, and June 4, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **James Andretta moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024. Vote 4-0-1 (Dunning abstained).**

4. Special Presentations or Awards

a. Town Report Dedication: Sarah Whitfield read the Town Report Dedication to D. Keniston Cooper in appreciation of his 42 years of service to the Wiscasset Public Works Department. She listed his many activities working for eight different Public Works Directors. A copy of the Town Report and a plaque were presented to Cooper.

b. The chair paid tribute to Gene Stover who recently passed away. Stover, who taught in Wiscasset for 47 years, had been a member of the Budget Committee, Selectboard and School Board, and the gymnasium at the high school was named for him.

5. Committee Appointments

Whitfield asked that the appointments be delayed until the Waterfront Committee advised the Selectboard the reason for its recommendation. **Pam Dunning moved to table.** Vote 5-0-0. Whitfield suggested the board look at the procedures for appointment of committee members.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Cassie Rose, chair of the ad hoc climate action committee, recommended that the final selection of the location of the memorial bench take into account the possible flooding of the recreational pier.

8. Department Head or Committee Report

9. Unfinished Business

a. Wawenock Block update: Dave McDonald reported that the masons are up to the top of the third floor where the dental work on the roof line begins. That work is expected to take two weeks. He said the June 15 completion date was an estimate and he will keep the board updated.

b. Forest Concepts – Old Ferry Road: Coley Spenser and Kevin Allcroft (Gary Pomeroy Logging) were present to discuss the maintenance of the Old Ferry Road area. They had inventoried trees in the area and suggested that possibly 40% of the trees in the 198 acres could be harvested. No clear cutting will be done. After discussion, **Pam Dunning moved to authorize Gary Pomeroy Logging to move forward on the stumpage on Map R-08, Lot 6. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Pleasant Street Extension Naturalization Project Update: Leslie Roberts presented an update on the project for a natural use of the Pleasant Street extension with benches and perennial plants. However, considering the recent high tides, scientists have advised returning the extension to its natural state by removing gravel and replanting with native wetland plants. She asked the Town to submit a letter of intent as initial submission to the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program to support site design, engineering, etc. She said included in the Community Action Grant submitted this spring, was funding to support Knox Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District's engagement to assist in drafting the letter of intent, which is due in June for grant funding this year. A letter of intent will be drafted for consideration by the board at the next meeting.

10. New Business

a. Bid Opening – Town-wide Revaluation: The only bid received was from RJB Assessors Agent for \$300,000; the work would not begin until 2027. **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to accept the \$300,000 bid by RJB. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Scholarship expenditure approval for the 2024 General John and Mrs. Jeannette French scholarship and the 2024 Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship: **Pam Dunning moved to expend \$500 from the Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$1,000 from the**

General John and Mrs. Jeannette French Scholarship to the students who meet the scholarship's criteria selected by Wiscasset High School. Vote 5-0-0.

c. Letter of Support – Broadband Grant: **Pam Dunning moved to execute the Letter of Support of the Maine Connectivity Authority's Connect the Ready Grant application. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Sewer Abatement – St. Philips Church, 23 Hodge Street: Rob Lalli, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor recommended granting the abatement. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the sewer abatement of \$835.05 for St. Philips Church on Hodge Street. Vote 4-0-1 (Heller abstained).**

e. Personnel Policy Updates: Simmons requested two updates to the personnel policy: 1) that a time limit be set for submitting mileage reimbursement requests and 2) to amend the language requiring the Town to contribute 85% towards employee health insurance to 80%. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the Town Manager's recommendation for updates in the personnel policy to Section 4 and Section 13. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Assessors Business

12. Town Manager's Report

Simmons reported that the EMS Department had originally been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Maine Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Fund. However, Chief Bean had met with the Deputy Director of Maine EMS and voiced her concerns that the distribution amounts were unacceptable. Thanks to Bean's efforts, Wiscasset's share was then increased to \$27,600.

Consolidated Communications is preparing another shot at state funds for broadband. They need a letter of support from the Board. The voters have already approved \$183,200 as a match for the grant.

On May 29 and 30, Economic Development Director Chrostowsky and Simmons attended the Revitalizing New England: Brownfields Summit 2024 in Portland. The conferences are important to stay up to date with current trends in brownfield redevelopment ideas and concepts as well as to keep up with regulatory changes regarding brownfield grant applications, administration and reporting.

Simmons will be meeting with Bill Olver on May 31st to review possible sites for the relocation of the WWTP.

Interim CEO Chase does not have established office hours, although he does try to come in each afternoon. It is recommended that anyone wishing to meet with him call the town office before coming in. The Town is advertising for a permanent replacement.

13. Other Board Business

A public hearing on the Johnson Controls presentation will be held on June 18.

Sarah Whitfield thanked the board members whose terms were ending and the town for the opportunity to serve on and to chair the selectboard.

a. Executive Session

Pam Dunning moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6) (C) at 7:02 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to exit executive session at 7:54 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

At 7:55 p.m. Bill Maloney moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6) (D). Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to exit executive session at 8:19 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Bill Maloney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.