

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
JULY 16, 2024  
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Present: James Andretta, Vice Chair 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 of July 5 and July 12, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of July 9 and July 16, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of July 2, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. **At 6:02 p.m. Pam Dunning moved to open the public hearing to hear comments on allowing non-resident committee members to vote. Vote 5-0-0.** Ervin Deck, a member of the Airport Committee for 28 years, spoke in favor of the proposed change which would allow non-resident committee members to vote. He cited the example of Steve Williams, an out-of-town member of the Airport Committee, who owns two hangars which are leased at the airport and on which taxes are paid, and who owns two or three airplanes. Williams has been active as a member and chair of the airport committee, but he cannot vote. Deck said he was in favor of allowing non-resident committee members to vote. Ray Soule also spoke in favor of allowing a tax-paying non-resident to vote on the Airport committee.

Richard Lutes via zoom said that allowing non-resident committee members to vote was inappropriate. Members of the board discussed allowing the Airport Committee and Waterfront Committee, both of which currently have one out-of-town member, and the Planning Board whose ordinance allows an out-of-town member to have one non-resident tax paying voting member. Following further discussion, **Pam Dunning moved to close the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** The Town Manager will draft three ordinances for the board's approval.

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda items – None

8. Department Head or Committee Chair – None

## 9. Unfinished Business

a. Wawenock Block Update: Work is progressing and is nearing completion. The masonry contractor is working on the southeast corner and the front elevation of the building. About two-thirds of the scaffolding has been removed.

b. Firearms Discharge Ordinance: Bill Maloney reported on research of firearms regulations in nearby towns, and only Gardiner allowed some firearms discharge. He said he opposed an ordinance regulating firearms discharge and warned that the town could get sued for violating state law. Dennis Simmons said a firearms discharge ordinance would take away the right to hunt which would be illegal. James Andretta spoke against limiting hunting or discharge of firearms. **Bill Maloney moved to "drop it" (consideration of a firearms discharge ordinance). Vote 3-2-0** (Heller and Whitfield opposed).

## 10. New Business

### a. Business Licenses

- Midcoast Structures, 681 Bath Road: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Business License for Midcoast Structures located at 681 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Garage Doors & More Company, Inc.: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Business License for Garage Doors & More Company, Inc. located at 407 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

### b. Monthly Financials

- H.M. Payson Statement of Accounts
- Year-to-date expense/revenue reports: Dennis Simmons said the Fire Department was \$1500 over budget and funds will be taken from contingency to cover the deficit. He said the town had underspent its budget by \$900,000, some of which was carry-over funds.

## 11. Assessors Report

## 12. Town Manager's Report

The Harbormaster has reported a large increase in the number of campers requesting to park overnight in the waterfront parking lot. Since it seems likely that these campers are using the town's restrooms, which the town pays to keep clean, the Waterfront Committee has recommended a \$20 per night fee. Simmons will draft a policy with parameters limiting parking to five nights and only to the right of the shed.

Work is progressing on Old Ferry Road. T Buck is planning to be largely wrapped up by the end of the month, as they need to move equipment and staff to Old Stage Road where they are replacing the old bridge for the DOT. That section of Old Stage Road is now closed and is anticipated to be closed through September.

Maine Yankee has filed an appeal of its 2023 tax assessment with the Maine Board of Property Tax Review, which was anticipated. The town is actively working toward a negotiated settlement before the full Board takes up the matter, underscoring the importance of resolving this issue.

Work is progressing on the cleanup of Mason Station's North Point fill area. On July 9, Aaron Chrostowsky and Simmons met on site with Steve and Jamie of Sevee & Mayher. The plan is to begin the groundwork in the fall and complete the project by early winter. This is a tight timeframe, and everything has to fall in place for it to happen. Simmons feels that although this is a complicated situation, some progress is being made, and he is pleased with Aaron's work on this so far.

Public works is performing roadside mowing this week.

RJD has proposed a contract for the town-wide revaluation which is currently being reviewed by legal.

Simmons will be out of the office from August 14 – 16 attending the Maine Town, City, and County Management Association conference.

### 13. Other Board Business

**Pam Dunning moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D) at 7:02 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to exit Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Bill Maloney moved to approve the police union contract. Vote 5-0-0.**

### 14. Adjournment

**James Andretta moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**