

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 17, 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 September 6 and September 13, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of September 10 and September 17, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2024, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards

Erin Bean, EMS Chief and Director of Wiscasset Ambulance Service, commended the EMS crews and those that responded to a recent collision in Dresden for outstanding performance. She commended Officer Jonathan Barnes for being willing to step outside his normal role as a police officer and assist in Incident Command for the call. Woolwich Fire and EMS along with Wiscasset Fire were given an Award of Appreciation for recognition of their response to the incident.

5. Committee Appointments

6. Public Hearings

a. JAR Cannabis: The public hearing was cancelled because it was discovered the proposed site of the business was too close to a church and because the applicants now plan to purchase a property for the business. **Pam Dunning moved to remove item 6A from the agenda and table the JAR Cannabis application until it is ready to be presented to the board. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H. **Pam Dunning moved to open the public hearing on General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H at 6:08 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:09 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to adopt the 2024-2025 General Assistance Ordinance A-H. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Roger Jones shared with the board his views on selling the Maine Yankee property, traffic, his preference for a full-time code enforcement officer rather than a planner, the unwise practice of putting wood chips and sawdust with garbage and recycling and his disagreement with the restriction on the occupation of year-round mobile homes with power, sewer and septic.

8. Department Head or Committee reports

a. Department Head Monthly Reports

9. Unfinished Business

The chair read a memo from Sandra Guay which indicated all issues in the town's memo were being addressed; the new custom windows have arrived and will be installed next week, and craftsmen will be working on the storefront elevation in the coming weeks.

10. New Business

a. EMS Uncollectible Debt: **Terry Heller moved to write off the EMS uncollectible debt in the amount of \$42,429 and send the accounts to the collection agency. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Approval of Vehicle Leases: **Terry Heller moved to accept Option A of Androscoggin Bank's Municipal Lease Purchase Proposals for the Ford F150 Truck, Chevrolet Tahoe and Dodge Durango. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. FY '24 Carryforward Requests: **Pam Dunning moved that the board approve \$423,109.44 in carry forward requests. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Tax Commitment: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Assessors Certificate of Assessment, Municipal Tax Assessment and Warrant and Certificate of Commitment and set the mill rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025 at \$17.77. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Maine Municipal Association Voting Delegate Credentials: **Terry Heller moved to designate Town Manager Dennis Simmons as the official Voting Delegate and Economic Developer Aaron Chrostowsky as the alternate Voting Delegate for the Town of Wiscasset to the Maine Municipal Association Annual Business Meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Lincoln County Budget Advisory Committee Caucus

g. Monthly Financials

H.M.Payson Statement of Accounts

Year to date department expense/revenue reports

11. Assessor's Business

12. Town Manager's Report

In his report, Dennis Simmons listed the carry-forward requests, reported on the Forum on Strengthening Local and State Government Collaboration in Maine and said work is underway on the FY'24 audit. RJD is finishing up its assessing work for the audit and Simmons and Ellery will figure out the tax commitment. It will be forwarded to the members.

The RFQ for the needs assessment of the town office complex and community center has been issued and is due September 19. The submissions will be reviewed, and a recommendation will be made for the October 1st meeting.

Simmons invited all to swing by the pet campaign headquarters on Water Street.

The Superintendent of Schools Andersson has reported that the Wiscasset School Department accepts funding through the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965. She said they seek ongoing public comment on their ESEA application's goals and priorities.

13. Other Board Business

Sarah Whitfield left the meeting at 6:37 p.m. **Pam Dunning moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 6:39 p.m. Vote 4-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to exit executive session at 6:57 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.**

14. Adjournment

Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.