

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
NOVEMBER 19, 2024  
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: Pam Dunning

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **James Andretta moved to approve the Payroll Warrants for November 8 and November 15, 2024. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants for November 12 and November 19, 2024. Vote 4-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2024. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. Liquor License – Renn Restaurant Group, LLC, DBA Back River Bistro, 65 Gardiner Road

**Terry Heller moved to open the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.**

**Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.**

**Terry Heller moved to approve the liquor license for Renn Restaurant Group, LLC, DBA Back River Bistro, located at 65 Gardiner Road. Vote 4-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Steve Christiansen gave a brief history of the Boston Post cane and listed some of Wiscasset residents who were over 100 years old. He asked that

the tradition of giving the cane be resumed. Criteria such as length of residency in Wiscasset would have to be established. Sarah Whitfield said the town would need help in identifying the oldest resident. A request for information on the oldest Wiscasset resident will be on the Town contact page.

Christiansen also asked that historic photos and artifacts currently being stored in the vault be displayed.

Ed Polewarczyk said that when the Town withdrew from the RSU, the schools became a Town department, and the School Superintendent then requested 1/12 of the school's budget each month from the Town. Polewarczyk disagreed with that policy, saying that the school's payroll and accounts payable should be sent to the town for reimbursement. Oversight of the school's expenses should be at the town level. Sarah Whitfield said the selectboard reviewed the warrant line by line.

Polewarczyk also commented on the failure of the Child Development Services for children three to five years old, pre-kindergarten. He asked that this program be given to the towns because CDS was unable to provide sufficient care.

Donna Morris asked for and received information on the billing for a meter at a property that was not used during a billing period. It is the policy of the Town that there will be year-round sewer billing for all sewer connections.

#### 8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head Monthly Reports

#### 9. Unfinished Business

a. Wawenock Block update – not received.

#### 10. New Business

a. Set date and approve warrant for Special Town Meeting

**Terry Heller moved to set the date of December 3, 2024, for a Special Town Meeting. Vote 4-0-0.**

**Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$353,750 on the December 3, 2024, Special Town Meeting Warrant for a grant match to secure \$4,000,000 in funding from the Maine Infrastructure Adaption Fund for Phase I of the relocation of the wastewater treatment plant. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. Town Manager vacation approval

**Terry Heller moved to approve the Town Manager's vacation from January 13 to January 24, 2025. Vote 3-0-1 (Whitfield abstained).**

c. Toys for Tots Donation

**Terry Heller moved to approve a \$2,000 donation to Lincoln County Toys for Tots from the Town's Christmas Gift Special Revenue Account. Vote 4-0-0.**

d. Sewer Abatement-Donna Morris, Monkey See, Monkey Do, 698 Bath Road

Rob Lallis, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, said that the meter in question appeared to have never been connected to the sewer system and should not have been billed. The Water District will be advised. **Terry Heller moved to approve the abatement for Donna Morris at 698 Bath Road. Vote 4-0-0.**

e. Donation Acceptance

**Terry Heller moved to accept the anonymous donation of \$500 for the use of holiday assistance as needed. Vote 4-0-0.**

f. Monthly Financials

- H.M.Payson Statement of Accounts
- Department year to date expense revenue reports

g. Business License-Mainly Scoops, LLC, 277 Bath Road

**Terry Heller moved to approve the Business License for Mainly Scoops, LLC, located at 277 Bath Road. Vote 4-0-0.**

h. Transfer Station Trucking Discussion

Dennis Simmons reported the difficulty the Town Transfer Station was having in hiring and retaining drivers to drive trash to the landfill. The current part-time employee who has been driving to the landfill is leaving at the end of the month. If hired by the Town, Gordon Libby would haul all trash all year for \$161,000, which is \$8100 more than the cost of one employee and benefits plus the truck insurance and fuel. Simmons said no decision would be made until the December 3 meeting after talks with the union and Gordon Libby.

11. Assessors Business

12. Town Manager's Report

Simmons reported that now that a site has been determined for relocating the treatment plant, the Town can move forward with engineering and begin securing the necessary funding and financing for the project. While trying to obtain as much external funding as possible, it is likely that the town will need to contribute some of its own funds which could include resources from capital reserves, the undesignated fund balance, loans, bonds, or a combination of these sources. As funds are secured, it will give the Town a clearer understanding of its financial obligations and the best way to structure the overall financing.

The Maine Department of Transportation announced in May that it was accepting applications for funding through the Maine Infrastructure adaptation fund which offers one-time financial support to municipalities, tribal entities and infrastructure districts to adapt critical infrastructure, reducing their vulnerability to climate change. It provides up to \$75,000 for scoping and design or up to \$4,000,000 to support matching funds for construction or direct construction costs. Olver has applied for Phase I of the plant relocation project encompassing preliminary and final design, initiating construction and construction oversight with a total cost of \$7,075,000. Funds awarded would be combined with the \$5,000,000 in congressionally directed spending from the 'FY '24 federal appropriation. The grant stipulates that the town must appropriate 5% of the cost, \$353,750, and since funds have not been previously appropriated, Simmons requested the board call a special town meeting on December 3, 2024, to appropriate \$353,750 from the undesignated fund balance to secure the \$4,000,000 grant funding.

Simmons proposed that the board authorize a \$2,000 donation to Toys for Tots, funds to come from the \$2,500 fund balance.

The Town has received a generous \$500 donation to the town's holiday gift account. Simmons asked the board to accept the donation and authorize its use for holiday assistance as needed.

The winning bidder for the old transfer station skid steer was Barry Moses of Kingston, NH for \$4,089.81.

The engineering design for needed upgrades to sewer pump stations 3 and 4 is complete. However, additional permanent and temporary easements from landowners must be secured to complete this work. The Town is working with Olver to ensure as much outside funding as possible. Cost estimates are \$1 million each.

The Town will receive \$4,000 from FEMA to reimburse the costs of building the "burrito" around the wastewater treatment plant to prevent flooding similar to that which occurred during the two severe storms last January.

The tax agreement with Maine Yankee was fully executed on November 7, 2024. This started a 14-day clock for them to settle all their outstanding tax bills and they have done so, including the impact fee of \$365,578.50.

Simmons thanked Linda, Sue and Molly for the extraordinary amount of work they did this year, especially in October (which is normally a busy month with people paying taxes) handling all the work necessary for the election and processing more than 1,000 absentee ballots.

13. Other Board Business

The Creative Alliance marketplace will be holding an event on December 6 from 3:00 to 8:00 and has requested street closures. **Sarah Whitfield moved to approve the closing of Lincoln Street and Middle Street from Scout Hall to Shinbone Alley from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on December 6, 2024. Vote 4-0-0.**

14. Adjournment

**Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.**