

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MINUTES, DECEMBER 17, 2024

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

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of December 6, 2024, and December 13, 2024. Voted 5-0-0.**

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

3. Approval of Minutes

**Terry Heller moved to table the minutes of December 3, 2024. Vote 4-0-1.**

4. Special Presentations or awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

a. Planning Board: **Terry Heller moved to appoint Peter McRae, H. Karl Olson and Allen Cohen to the Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Ordinance Review Committee: **Terry Heller moved to appoint H. Karl Olson to the Ordinance Review Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Climate Action Team: **Terry Heller moved to appoint Heather Jones to the Climate Action Team. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Airport Committee: **Terry Heller moved to appoint Pamela Brackett to the Airport Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Steve Christiansen asked about the progress in finding someone to whom the Boston Post Cane could be given and was informed that a 99-year-old woman would like to be acknowledged but

does not want the cane. The search for possible recipients will be publicized again in the newspaper.

Steve Christiansen suggested that old photos of the town be displayed in the meeting room and scattered throughout the Town Report. Pam Dunning advised the board of the photographic resources available in the library.

#### 8. Department Head or Committee Chair

The chair passed on Aaron Chrostowski's message to the public regarding Wiscasset's pairing with an economic development consulting group—[HR&A Advisors](#)—to develop action plans and identify funding opportunities for key development projects. The group will be focusing on two important town-owned sites—Birch Point "Mason Station" and Old Ferry Road—and the town needs the public's input to ensure these projects reflect the community's needs and aspirations.

#### 9. Unfinished Business

a. Wawenock Block Update – none

#### 10. New Business

a. 2025 Animal Control Contract: Dennis Simmons asked that this matter be tabled until questions regarding the indemnity clause were cleared up. **Pam Dunning moved to table. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Sale of Consumer Fireworks Annual License – Big Al's Outlet, Inc., located at 300 Bath Road. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Sale of Consumer Fireworks Annual License for Big Al's Outlet, Inc., located at 300 Bath Road.**

1) STATEMENT BY TOM BRYANT AT SELECT BOARD MEETING ON AGENDA ITEM BIG AL'S ANNUAL LICENSE TO SELL CONSUMER FIREWORKS

2) *We know how you're going to vote, but we want the record to show that we are still in opposition to this license.*

3) *The problem is this: The license covers activities out on Route One. Only. The Town of Wiscasset has consistently ignored the 2nd location: JB's Way. The State issued a Cease-and-Desist order, but then dropped the order, after being sued by Big Al. The State was hoping for a legislative solution, which was introduced but failed to go anywhere. The Town & State both are keeping heads in the sand while they rely on each other's license for blessing. Meanwhile, activity deemed "retail" by prior court ruling is still going on at JB's Way, including the use of propane-fired forklifts to move pallet-loads of Division 1.4 G explosives in and out of an un-sprinklered building. The annual inspections done by the State DON'T cover JB's Way. (Have Big Al submit a copy of the last inspection report done by the State, and you'll see no mention of JB's Way.) Does the Town intend to continue letting this activity persist with ZERO OVERSIGHT?*

4) *Town government is supposed to consider the needs and rights of all its residents, not just those of the well-to-do and well-connected. It is time for the Town to put a stop to the unlicensed (and therefore illegal) activity being conducted in a residential use area.*

5) *Not only is this activity unlicensed but the warehouse cannot meet the requirements for licensing, either by the State or by the Town.*

**Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Maine Bureau of Highway Safety 2025 Traffic Grants: **Terry Heller moved to approve the four Maine Bureau of Highway Safety Grants for 2025. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Business License Applications

(1) **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Business License Application for TABALLI, DBA Market Place Café located at 681 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

(2) **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Business License Application for The Peaceful Pagan Village located at 6 Railroad Avenue. Vote 5-0-0.**

(3) **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Business License Application for Grounded, located at 147 Gardiner Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Monthly Financials

Department year to date expense/revenue reports

H.M.Payson Statement of Accounts

f. Huntoon Hill Grange annual request for Letter of Blanket Approval to operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance, consisting of sealed tickets for 2025: **Terry Heller moved to execute a Blanket Letter of Approval for the Huntoon Hill Grange to Operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance, consisting of Sealed Tickets for 2025. Vote 5-0-0.**

g. FY '25 Budget Schedule: Dennis Simmons said the draft budget will be delivered to the selectboard members by February 6, 2025. There currently is no Budget Committee. Pam Dunning said the selectboard is the de facto Budget Committee overseeing the Town Manager's budget. Budget meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at 6 p.m.; Tuesday, February 25 at 6 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 5 at 6 p.m.

## 12. Town Manager's Report

In his report, Dennis Simmons recommended approval of the committee appointments, the business licenses, and the Highway Safety grants and explained the delay in approving the Animal Control contract. Simmons said the new website should be online by the end of February. The transfer station will close at noon and the office will close at 1:00 p.m. on December 24.

## 13. Other Board Business - none

## 14. Adjournment

**Pam Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**