

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
DECEMBER 15, 2020  
VIA ZOOM

Present: Kim Andersson, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice Chair Kathy Martin-Savage, Jeff Slack, Sarah Whitfield, and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

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

1. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of December 4 and 11, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of December 8 and 15, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

2. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Special Presentations or Awards – none

4. Committee Appointments

a. Terry Heller, Appearance of the Town Committee (Reappointment): **Kim Andersson moved to reappoint Terry Heller to the Appearance of the Town Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Public Hearings – none

6. Public Comment - none

7. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head Monthly Reports: Kathy Martin-Savage thanked Linda Perry and staff for the commendable work on the election citing the 1400 absentee ballots that were submitted.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Wastewater Treatment Plant generator bids: The bids received exceeded the budget. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to reject the Wastewater Treatment Plant generator bids. Vote 5-0-0.**

9. New Business

a. Renewal of License for Sale of Consumer Fireworks-Allen Cohen, Big Al's Outlet, Inc. DBA Big Al's Fireworks Outlet, 300 Bath Road: Pam Dunning said according to the town's attorney, the Fire Marshal, and the Attorney General, the renewal application for the building at 300 Bath Road was separate from the building on JB's Way. In response to a request to speak from the Bryants' attorney, she said that there would be no public input, as this was not a public hearing, and since the matter was on the agenda, no input under public comment was allowed. In response to Kim Andersson's question about recourse the Bryant's (owners of property adjacent to Cohen's building on JB's Way) might have, Dunning said the board could not provide legal advice to the Bryants and said it was up to the Code Enforcement Officer to follow up. Simmons said a solution would be to repeal the license ordinance and allow Cohen to operate under the State Fire Marshal's license. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the renewal of license for Sale of Consumer Fireworks of Allen Cohen, DBA Big Al's Fireworks Outlet. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Resignation – Steve Christiansen: Dennis Simmons said the staff held a luncheon for Steve Christiansen and Ellin Jasmin, both of whom had retired. Jeff Slack thanked Steve for his work on the Downtown project. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to accept the resignation with deep regret with best wishes on future endeavors. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Sewer Abatement – Donald and Cynthia Davis: **Jeff Slack moved to approve the sewer abatement request of Donald and Cynthia Davis. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Monthly Financials: Dennis Simmons said the Town had recouped what had been taken out this year, and the fund was currently over \$16 million. He added that the General Assistance total was higher due to Covid-19 pandemic.

e. Correspondence: A letter of appreciation had been received from the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

f. Holiday Closures – December 24 and December 31: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to declare December 24 and December 31 as paid holidays for Town Employees for 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

g. Joint meeting with School Board – January 26, 2021: The meeting has been scheduled with Terry Wood. Simmons asked the board to think about agenda items.

h. Falvey, LLC Settlement Agreement: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to authorize, direct, and delegate authority to the Town Manager to enter into and perform the Settlement Agreement with Falvey, LLC in substantially the form presented here tonight. The delegation of authority is intended to permit the Town Manager to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Town and bind the Town to the terms set forth therein, including disbursement of the settlement payment called for in the Agreement. Vote 5-0-0.**

i. Earned time policy: Simmons said the revised policy incorporates 40 hours of sick time and 40 hours of earned paid leave time. The change does not affect union employees. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the earned time policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

## 10. Town Manager's Report

- a. Personnel Matters: Steve Christiansen has retired from Public Works Department effective December 18. Aurel Marks has joined the EMS Department as full-time Deputy Director. Scott Getchell has joined the Police Department as full-time officer. Molly Bonang has moved to the position of Finance Clerk and her position as Tax Collector will be advertised as well as the position of Treasurer.
- b. Revised policy to include 40 hours of paid leave – see above.
- c. Simmons met with Bob McDonald to review bids for Parks and Recreation Center engineering study and the bid was awarded to Wright-Pierce.
- d. Simmons met via Zoom with Ted Snowden and Wright Pierce project engineers and managers on the Old Ferry Road culvert repair. A mid-2021 start with completion in late 2021 or early 2022 is anticipated.
- e. A staff meeting with department heads was held to discuss the need to improve worker safety within the town's workforce. Worker's comp rating was unacceptably high. Staff will be working with Maine Municipal Association on instituting safety programs. Budget process and schedule were also discussed.
- f. Simmons recently attended MMA Elected Officials workshop and the Mid-Coast Municipal Association meeting.
- g. Rob Lalli and Simmons have reviewed the bids for the pump station generators, will be reworking the specs and will send them out for rebidding.

#### 11. Other Board Business

The executive session on the agenda was not needed.

Kim Anderson thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for a great job reducing expenses with the pandemic and providing a place for remote learning.

Duane Goud reported that the tree-lighting went well, basketball practice has begun, and the pool has been rented by four high school teams providing income from the pool at times when it is not being used by members.

Sarah Whitfield asked why the downtown DOT lights were not flashing. Simmons said that was not part of the agreement, but he will again contact the DOT to see if the lights could be set to flash.

#### 12. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**