

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JUNE 15, 2021

Present: Pam Dunning, Terry Heller, Dusty Jones, Sarah Whitfield and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

Absent: Kim Andersson (arrived during the meeting)

Town Manager Dennis Simmons called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board

a. Nomination for Chair of the Wiscasset Selectboard: **Terry Heller nominated Sarah Whitfield for chair. There were no other nominations. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. Nomination for Vice Chair of the Wiscasset Selectboard: **Terry Heller nominated Dusty Jones for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Vote 4-0-0.**

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the payroll warrants of June 4 and June 11, 2021. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of June 8 and June 15, 2021. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Pam Dunning moved to postpone approval until the next meeting. Vote 4-0-0.

5. Special Presentations or Awards – none

6. Committee Appointments – none

7. Public Hearings – none

8. Public Comment – none

9. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head Monthly Reports: In response to Pam Dunning's question regarding the request of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager for a utility body for the pickup truck, Dennis Simmons said that when the new ambulance arrives, the old ambulance will be used as a utility vehicle.

10. Unfinished Business – none

11. New Business

a. Temporary Business License Fees: Dennis Simmons recommended that fees be set for temporary business licenses - \$50 for up to 15 days, \$75 for 16 to 90 days. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Town Manager’s recommendation for temporary business license fees. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. New Business Licenses: Sea Bags, LLC – Susan Robson, chair of the Waterfront Committee, reported that a suitable parking location for the Sea Bags truck had not been found at or near the creamery pier, and the truck was too heavy to park on the pier. It was suggested to the owner that she could park her truck on the grassy area at the recreational pier or rent space on the pier for a shed. A temporary business license had been approved in May on the condition that an acceptable parking place be found. There has been no response to date from the owner of Sea Bags.

c. Temporary Business License: Zachary Kuras, DBA Brother Shucker, LLC, located at 4 Railroad Avenue. Kuras has received a license from the state for the sale of beer. His business will temporarily be located in a roped off area behind 4 Railroad Avenue until he can move it into his building. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the temporary Business License for Zachary Kuras, DBA Brother Shucker, LLC located at 4 Railroad Avenue. Vote 4-0-0.**

d. MMA Workers’ Compensation Incentive Program: Dennis Simmons asked the board to sign the MMA Workers’ Compensation Safety Incentive Program Resolve. The purpose of the program is to reduce the numbers of incidents of workplace injuries and provide employees with a safe, healthy work environment. Erin Bean, EMS Director, will be heading up the Safety Committee. **Pam Dunning moved to execute the MMA Workers’ Compensation Safety Incentive Program Resolve Form. Vote 4-0-0.**

e. Midcoast Humane Agreement for Services: **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Midcoast Humane Agreement for Services Agreement. Vote 4-0-0.**

f. Maine Art Gallery long term lease proposal – Kerry Hadley: Hadley asked the board to consider offering the gallery a 20-year lease to assist the gallery in obtaining grants rather than the five-year leases that have been granted in the past. She described the repairs needed and said while members have done much of the work, grant funds would be necessary for major work. Dennis Simmons said any lease would require the approval of the voters. The current lease expires in 2024. Hadley said grant applications also call for proof of receipt of regular funds to provide for day-to-day maintenance. As far as funding is concerned, Pam Dunning explained the process whereby entities apply for funds yearly to be approved by the select board for inclusion on the town warrant. Simmons said the board cannot commit any funds without voter approval; he suggested funding for town buildings, such as the MAG, could be included in budget discussions. Simmons said a lease will be drafted for the board’s consideration and could be on the next warrant, probably in August. Discussions on funding will continue, as the board cannot commit funds without a town vote.

g. Monthly Financials: In response to Terry Heller’s question regarding unexpended balances, Simmons explained that the board would vote on department head requests for the use of money left over. Money not carried over would be unexpended funds. Voters must approve the

expenditure of those funds. The Town uses these funds for expenditures before tax payments are made. Currently, the carryover funds are about one-third of what they should be.

h. New committee liaison appointments:

- Investment Committee – Dusty Jones
- Appearance of the Town Committee – Terry Heller
- Budget Committee – Dusty Jones
- Airport Committee – Dusty Jones
- Cemetery Committee – Pam Dunning

12. Town Manager's Report

In addition to information on items already discussed above (Maine Art Gallery, Temporary Business Licenses, MMA Workers' Compensation Safety program, Midcoast Humane) Dennis Simmons reported on a successful MMA inspection of the Transfer Station and that the contract for planning services with LCRPC was working well.

His report also included information on LD 1708 an Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Non-profit utility. All assets of CMP and Versand would become the property of Pine Tree Power, a non-profit entity. He said this would be important to towns like Wiscasset because the bill would exempt non-profits from paying property taxes. CMP currently pays nearly \$865,000 annually in taxes. Sarah Whitfield recommended keeping in touch with the town's representatives.

CEO Bruce Mullins and the Town Manager met with representatives of Everbrook Senior Living regarding the development of the former primary school into independent living, assisted living and memory care units. Everbrook will be meeting with Emily Rabbe and the planning board.

Simmons said that all Covid-related health restrictions will be lifted 30 days following the June 30 deadline. The legislature is considering the possibility of allowing Zoom meetings to continue.

13. Other Board Business

Sarah Whitfield scheduled a workshop for board members on July 8 at 6 p.m. One item on the agenda will be forming the ad hoc committee, which the voters approved, to discuss the future of the schools. The chair recommended that at least one select board member and one school board member be appointed to the committee. She suggested getting in touch with Dresden that has voted to withdraw from their RSU and Richmond and invite them to a workshop.

Terry Heller asked if the Town would be interested in investing in Schoonerfest as a town-sponsored event. She said it could be anticipated that the festival would be an annual event and would make money for the town. Dennis Simmons said that left-over funds that were not spent last year for fireworks could be used; however, he cautioned the board that when the funds were approved by the town, they were approved with the understanding the funds were for fireworks. (Kim Andersson arrived.) He said the Town would already be contributing with the additional expenses for the Public Works and Police Departments. He added that no funds were budgeted this year for Schoonerfest. Heller suggested a private-public partnership and asked that the unspent funds which were designated for celebrations be donated to Schoonerfest. A decision on the use of funds carried over, such as the celebrations funds that were not used last year, will be made in

August. Sarah Whitfield recommended a decision on the carryover funds be delayed until after the end of the fiscal year on June 30. She asked that the Schoonerfest group submit an update on the event at the next meeting.

Dusty Jones asked that a temporary fence be placed around the ancient cemetery on Federal Street before the 4th of July parade.

14. Adjournment

Pan Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.