

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MINUTES, 7/20/2021

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

Chair Sarah Whitfield called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the payroll warrants of July 9 and July 16, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of July 13 and July 20, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

a. Waterfront Committee: **Kim Andersson moved to appoint Ronald Leeman to the Waterfront Committee.** Dennis Simmons noted that Leeman was a vendor on the pier. Pam Dunning reminded the board that Leeman would be making decisions on his place of business. Kim Dolce commented the position was not advertised. Dunning asked that committee openings be advertised and not just listed on the website. **Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Cemetery Committee: **Terry Heller moved to appoint Mark Light and Terrell Wells to the Cemetery Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Budget Committee: **Terry Heller moved to appoint Kim Dolce, Thomas Joyce, Anna Ridle, and Katharine Martin-Savage to the Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Future of Wiscasset Schools Ad-hoc Committee: **Pam Dunning moved to appoint Michelle Blagden and Jason Putnam to the Future of Wiscasset Schools Ad-hoc Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

James Cochan questioned the advisability of having two vendors on the Waterfront Committee which could constitute a conflict of interest. He said the position was not widely advertised. He recommended establishing a code of ethics incorporated into the town ordinances. Sarah Whitfield said the matter and his memo to the board would be addressed at the next workshop and added

that the Waterfront Committee acts only as an advisory committee; the select board makes the decisions.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head monthly reports: Kim Andersson commented on the good job the department heads had done coming in under budget and complimented the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments on working together. Ed Polewarczyk commented on the number of calls the police had made and complimented them on the manner in which they had handled them. He said he was surprised at the number of adverse things that went on in the town.

b. Cemetery Committee: Peter Wells said the Cemetery Committee had voted 3-1 for the dark aluminum fence with open spindle (\$32,000 to \$40,000) and 3-1 for an archway without a gate, granite steps, granite pillars, granite benches and ground cover (\$26,400 - \$30,000). The ADA entrance will be adjacent to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout building. Construction is slated to begin next spring. Funds from the Perpetual Care fund will be used for the fence, and approval to use the funds from the sale of lots for the gate could be on the next town warrant. Kim Andersson asked that a vote to put the issue on the warrant be delayed until the next meeting, as information had not been available to the public before the meeting. Pam Dunning said she was in favor of the design, but the public should be able to see the designs and cost; she recommended that the Town have someone work on publicity. David Sutter, a long-time member of the Cemetery Committee, also recommended a public hearing to allow those with family in the cemetery and others to see and comment on the design.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Schoonerfest/Wiscasset Creative Alliance request for funds: Peter Wells said the request for funds from the Celebrations account had been reduced from \$8,000 to \$5,000. He said he appreciated the support from the Town with police, ambulance, public works, Parks & Recreation, etc. in the public/private partnership and asked the board for its support. Kim Andersson said she did not believe there was a conflict of interest (on the part of Terry Heller and Sarah Whitfield who abstained on the vote taken at the previous meeting) as they would not be gaining financially. She **moved that \$5,000 be placed on the warrant for the special town meeting in August for Schoonerfest.** Terry Heller said after reading the Bridgeton Code of Ethics she did not believe she would have a conflict of interest voting for the motion which she then seconded. Dusty Jones referred to a previous statement by the Schoonerfest committee that there would be no cost to the town; the committee should have followed the correct procedure. Pam Dunning said she opposed the motion although she thought the idea of Schoonerfest was terrific and hoped it was successful. She likened the celebration to other events at the Wiscasset Speedway where town services were used and paid for without using taxpayer dollars. She said with the cost of town services, the town's contribution might be an estimated \$20,000, not \$5,000. Steve Christiansen reminded the board that at the February 2020 meeting, the Schoonerfest Committee had said there would be no cost to the town. He asked the Schoonerfest Committee to abide by its word and the select board to abide by the vote taken at the previous meeting. **Vote 3-1-1** (Dunning opposed, Whitfield abstained).

b. Schoonerfest/Wiscasset Creative Alliance request for use of Town property/Use Agreement: Sarah Whitfield questioned the 12-month term of the agreement. Dennis Simmons said it was boilerplate wording for what may be an annual event. Pam Dunning said Wicked Good Yoga has

already rented space on the recreational pier for the week of Schoonerfest for yoga classes. Schedules will be worked out with the Schoonerfest Committee. **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the use Agreement with the Wiscasset Creative Alliance. Vote 4-0-1** (Whitfield abstained).

10. New Business

a. Bid Openings – Bobcat 5600-Public Works

- Jordan Equipment - \$89,549.40

Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Director to accept the lowest qualified bid. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Animal Control Services Contract- Lincoln County: **Kim Andersson moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Animal Control Services contract with Lincoln County for FY'22. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Correspondence: Wreaths Across America: A letter of appreciation was sent to Wiscasset from Wreaths Across America thanking Police Officer Sgt. Perry Hatch, Fire Chief Robert Bickford and Police Chief Hesseltine for help on their trip through town on July 3rd.

d. Monthly Financials: Dennis Simmons said everyone had done a great job under the circumstances this year.

e. Request for liquor license re-location- Chandler Sowden, DBA In a Silent Way, LLC: Simmons said Sowden was forced to close her business on Main Street when the wall collapsed and had found new space on Water Street. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the liquor license re-location for Chandler Sowden, DBA In a Silent Way. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Discussion on School Resource Officer and Police Cruiser: Simmons said the funding for a School Resource Officer was not approved at the annual town meeting. He said the requested amount could be reduced because Sergeant Hatch, the current School Resource Officer, did not require town health insurance. The School Department has \$10,000 that could reduce the request to \$48,000. Chief Hesseltine briefly described the duties and benefits of the SRO. **Pam Dunning moved to put the SRO on the special election warrant. Vote 5-0-0.** Chief Hesseltine described the condition of the 2015 and 2016 cruisers and said he would like to establish a replacement schedule so that requests for new vehicles were not made every year. **Pam Dunning moved to place a police cruiser on the special town meeting warrant. Vote 5-0-0.** Hesseltine asked that it be made clear that this would be a replacement cruiser.

g. Recommended Ordinance Revisions: Simmons said revisions in the ordinances were necessary because the town was no longer responsible for timber harvesting, and related terms were being removed from the ordinance. Other changes are necessitated by the potential adoption of a solar ordinance. The proposed solar ordinance will be placed on the website.

h. Employee vacation time carry-over discussion: Simmons said that several employees had not been able to take their vacation time and he asked for a one-time exception to allow the carry-over. The board supported his request.

i. Request to use Town Property – Wiscasset Creative Alliance: postponed

j. New Business License: Robert Stevens, DBA Sheepscot Fine Arts and Antiques, 11 Summer Street: Pam Dunning moved to approve the Business License for Robert Stevens, DBA Sheepscot Fine Arts and Antiques, 11 Summer Street. Vote 5-0-0. Dennis Simmons referred Kim Dolce and her question on the business license approval to the Planning Board.

k. Energy Committee: The Climate Club of the WMHS recommended that the Town form an Energy Committee. Simmons said he has been working on converting the streetlights, seeking grant funds for car chargers, and looking into facility upgrades. **Kim Andersson moved to form an Energy Commission. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

Simmons reported that the cleanup of the ash ponds adjacent to Mason Station was ready to go out to bid with a bid opening July 26. Project is slated to begin August 9 with a targeted completion date of November 12.

The Cenergy lease has had a legal review and will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Simmons described the problems being experienced by pedestrians and vehicles because of the long wait time at the intersections of Main Street with Middle and Water streets. The DOT may place a countdown timer on the poles so people will know how much longer it will take for the light to change.

12. Other Board Business

a. Executive Session for the purpose of labor negotiations: At 7:20, **Pam Dunning moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D) . Vote 5-0-0. At 7:35 Pam Dunning moved to come out of Executive Session. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Police Contract from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter: At 7:36 p.m. **Terry Heller moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6) (A). Vote 5-0-0. At 7:59 p.m. Pam Dunning moved to exit executive session. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

At 8 p.m., **Pam Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**

