

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JULY 26, 2022
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

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

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Terry Heller commented on the great send-off Bryan Gagnon and David Winchenbach received from family, community members and fire trucks who escorted the boys to the town line on their way to compete in the 2022 Track & Field Junior Olympics in Sacramento, CA July 26 - 31.

2. Committee Appointments

a. **Dusty Jones moved to appoint John Merry a Water District Trustee. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Unfinished Business

a. Fire Truck purchase: Dennis Simmons reported that after negotiations, Allegiance had agreed to a \$10,000 cap; the price is \$392,592 and cannot be increased to more than \$402,592.

b. Cemetery Entrance: There were no questions or comments on the design with the added railing.

4. New Business

a. Quit Claim Deed-Megan Hodgdon, 47 Old Ferry Road: **Dusty Jones moved to execute the Quitclaim Deed for Megan Hodgdon at 47 Old Ferry Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Marijuana Ordinance discussion: Attorney comments on the marijuana ordinances had been received. Dennis Simmons pointed out that several other ordinances will need amendments if the marijuana ordinances are adopted. Dusty Jones said he found the ordinances unnecessarily restrictive and recommended deleting the limitation on number of licenses, deleting the fixed location requirement to allow deliveries, removing the Route 1 and Rural districts as the only approved locations, deleting restriction on living quarters in buildings housing marijuana businesses, removing restriction on signage, deleting the requirement that marijuana cultivation and storage not be outdoors, deleting sign limitations, removing setbacks from schools, questioned security requirements, inquired about odor mitigation requirement when it is not required for coffee roasters, removing requirement for IDs at the door, questioned requirement for expensive surveillance equipment, deleting requirement for owners to restrict

loitering or smoking outside marijuana stores, and requiring same protective gear for inspectors as employees have. Terry Heller expressed concern about possible light pollution by the required bright lights from dusk to dawn. Dennis Simmons said security tapes must legally be kept for 45 days rather than 30 days as specified in the ordinance. James Andretta suggested that the sections be highlighted where the town requirements are stricter than the state requirements.

Questions and recommendations will be researched to determine if above list of items is required by law or is the recommendation of the Ordinance Review Committee.

c. Communications Plan: Sarah Whitfield reported that she is working on a new design for the website which should be completed in a week or two. A new communication system is being investigated that would allow emails and texts about road closures, agendas, etc. to be sent out. Dennis Simmons said ARPA funds could be used for a communication system and he will have a demonstration of the system at the next meeting.

d. ARPA funds: Dennis Simmons said the first tranche of the ARPA funds was to be used for losses the town had suffered. There is no such restriction on the second tranche. He mentioned streetlights as a possible use for the funds, which would save the town money. The method of changing to LED lights and maintenance responsibilities will be discussed in the future with the Budget Committee, as well as the purchase of a new ambulance. Terry Heller asked if funds could be used for repair of the footbridge to White's Island, but Planner Emily Rabbe was not sure that would be allowed. Dennis Simmons said there were serious maintenance issues at the waterfront which should be discussed with the Waterfront Committee before a master plan is made for that area. Road repair and air-conditioning for the Town Office, were also mentioned as possible uses for the ARPA funds. The funds must be spent before 2026.

e. Community Resilience Partnership: Emily Rabbe described the program from the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, which will help Maine Communities reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. The Partnership provides both grant funding and direct support to municipal and tribal governments for climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Shri Verrell, owner of Sunrise Ecologic, explained her role as a service provider as well as enlisting other local communities into the program. There will be an informational webinar on August 3. Simmons said the Conservation Committee could be reactivated to deal with the program and mentioned that the school had worked on climate change in the past. The matter will be on the next agenda which will give the public an opportunity to comment.

f. New Business License – David Hasenfus, DBA The Rock Shop, located at 731 Bath Road. **Dusty Jones moved to approve the Business License Application for David Hasenfus, DBA The Rock Shop, located at 731 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

g. Subdivision Ordinance updates: The Ordinance Review Committee has asked to update the subdivision ordinance and there was no objection.

h. Suggestions for Ordinance Review Committee work: The ORC will be asked to look into a policy for the placing of memorials or statues on town property. It was also suggested that there be a requirement that businesses have sufficient insurance to cover cleanup of the property when the business is no longer operating and that increasing side and rear setbacks be considered.

i. Board goals: Sarah Whitfield recommended formalizing training and creating a structure for committee meetings. Dennis Simmons has prepared a handbook for committees. Terry Heller recommended showing appreciation to the committee members for their work for the town. Bill Maloney recommended developing a job description and hiring someone for an economic development position in order to increase the tax base. Simmons said there is TIF money for economic development. In response to his request for suggestions, Simmons said he will be giving up the Treasurer position and he discussed possible staff changes. Whitfield said she is planning to spend several hours a week in the office handling citizens' complaints or recommendations.

5. Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons said he had received word from Slade Moore on the Old Ferry Road claim that \$1 million will be available which, together with the \$625,000 from NOAA, should pay for the project.

6. Adjournment

Bill Maloney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.