

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
August 2, 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

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

- a. Terry Heller moved to approve the payroll warrants of July 22 and July 29, 2022. Vote 5-0-0.
- b. Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of July 26 and August 2, 2022. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

James Andretta moved to approve the minutes of July 19 and July 26, 2022, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

- a. Liquor License renewal for Cecilio Juntura, DBA Taste of the Orient, 306 Bath Road: **Bill Maloney moved to open the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** Cecilio Juntura, owner of the restaurant/motel since 1991, complained about the delay in issuing licenses in the past. Dennis Simmons explained the process and advised Mr. Juntura to submit his application well in advance of the expiration date. Chief Hesseltine spoke in opposition to the renewal because of the number of complaints he had received regarding the restaurant, bar and motel and the number of times his officers had responded to calls, 48 so far this year. He said the restaurant had been closed by the Health Department in the past and had been the site of drug activity. **Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Dusty Jones moved to deny the liquor license renewal application for Taste of the Orient. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Bill Maloney read a note from Judy Colby regarding LD 290, an act to stabilize property taxes for individuals 65 years of age or older who have owned a homestead for at least 10 years. The program goes into effect August 8 and applications will be available at the Town Office September 1. Applications for the following year are due December 31. She asked the selectboard to do a bulk mailing to residents about the new bill and include information on the homestead exemption, as new residents may not be aware of the legislation.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

9. Unfinished Business

a. Community Resilience Partnership: Dennis Simmons advised the board that the Lincoln County Planning Commission would be unable to assist the board with the program and had recommended that the board select a service provider. Simmons said Shri Verrill, owner of Sunrise Ecologic and a service provider, who made a presentation at the previous meeting, was unable to attend this meeting. There was a consensus to move ahead with Ms. Verrill. **Terry Heller moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a commitment with Shri Verrill, Sunrise Ecologic, for services for the Community Resilience Partnership. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Communication Plan, TextMyGov presentation: Spencer Frandsen and Jon Myers were present representing TextMyGov. Frandsen described the texting tool his company offers that will allow the Town to communicate by text with residents for notifications of meetings, cancellations, road closures, etc. and supply automatic replies to questions. He said no equipment is needed. Town personnel would be trained. Set-up will require 30 to 60 days. Annual cost for 25,000 texts is \$2700; first year cost including set-up and training fee is \$5,550. The program will not replace the website but will increase communication. Simmons said ARPA funds could be used for this purpose. There was a consensus to try the system. Simmons will draw up a contract to be signed at the next meeting.

10. New Business

a. New Business License Application: Cozy Harbor Group, 263 Bath Road. **Dusty Jones moved to approve the business license application for Cozy Harbor Group. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Approval of Central Maine Power Pole Permit application Hodge Street: **Dusty Jones moved to approve the Central Maine Power Pole Permit application for Hodge Street (work order #10300885098). Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons reported that he had appointed Earl Babcock as Deputy Public Works Director.

The town's \$30,001 bid for the China police cruiser was accepted. The purchase will save the town \$25,000; a new cruiser would cost \$55,000.

A complaint that private information had been released by the town had been filed by Craig Worsty. Simmons said no information was released without approval of the attorneys and the attorneys will be filing a motion to dismiss.

12. Other Board Business

Discussion on the proposed marijuana ordinance was postponed.

13. Adjournment

Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.