

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 3, 2023
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

Present: James Andretta, Pam Dunning, Terry Heller, Bill Maloney and via zoom Chair Sarah Whitfield and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

The chair 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 September 22 FY 24 and September 29 FY 24. Vote 5-0-0.**
 - b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of September 26 FY 24 and October 3 FY 24. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2023, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none
5. Committee Appointments/Resignations – none
6. Public Hearings – none
7. Public Comment – none
8. Department Head or Committee Chair – none
9. Unfinished Business – none
10. New Business

- a. **Budget Carry Forward:** Dennis Simmons explained that funds carried forward does not necessarily mean the funds requested would be expended, but cited the Veterans' Memorial which needs repairs. Further information on the carry forward is in the Town Manager's Report. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the budget carry forward as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Danforth St. Closure:** A one-day closure of Danforth Street will be necessary to allow a bucket truck to park on the Street in order to paint a residence close to the street. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the closure of Danforth Street for one day. Vote 5-0-0**

- c. Larabee Music Fund Request \$5,102.52: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the request of \$5,102.52 from the Larabee Music Fund. Vote 5-0-0.**
- d. Town Manager vacation request, 1/16/24 – 1/30/24: **Terry Heller moved to approve the Town Manager’s request for vacation from 1/16/24 to 1/30/24. Vote 4-0-1 (Whitfield abstained).**

11. Assessors Business:

- a. Abatement: **Terry Heller moved to approve the tax abatement of Emilie Spas and Marc Faul, Map R02, Lot 1-A Re Acct #167 for \$9,865.10. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. Supplement: **Terry Heller moved to approve the Supplement for Emilie Spas and Marc Faul, Map R02 Lot 1-A-1 RE acct #2789 for \$4,416.88. Vote 5-0-0.**
- c. Supplement: **Terry Heller moved to approve the Supplement for Edward N. & Betty Jane Simpson, Map R02, Lot 1-A RE acct. #167 for \$6,348.30. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Town Manager’s Report

Dennis Simmons reported that he had attended the Brownfield meeting with representatives of the DEP and EPA. He will be working with Elise Simon on the final version of the RFP for qualified engineers to provide services for the North Point Fill Area cleanup. Submissions are due November 1, and he will be asking for a member of the board to be part of the committee reviewing the submissions.

On September 20 Simmons provided space for residents of Whippoorwill Trailer Park to meet with representatives of Pine Tree Legal regarding the legal responsibilities of the owners of the park and the residents’ rights as tenants.

Of the four candidates interviewed for the Economic Development Director position, three will be invited for a second interview tentatively scheduled for October 18.

Simmons listed the carryovers he was requesting:

- \$137,896.20 for projects committed to last year which have not been completed or outstanding invoices not yet received for contracted work.
- An increase in the employer contribution to MEPERS from 8.5% to 8.9%.
- The Veterans Memorial repairs to the brick walkway. Names are being added to the back side of the memorial so the walkway should be extended around to the back.
- EMS continues to be under pressure as medical supply costs continue to rise and recruitment has become an issue partly because of the current retirement plan. If the board agrees to a change to the plan which the Police Department has, it will be on a future agenda.
- Tipping fees are on budget and any increase will stress the transfer station budget. In addition, a full-time employee who did not have the town’s health insurance program has left and the town will have to offer health insurance to his replacement (a family health plan would cost \$25,665).
- Simmons asked to carry over all the remaining Waterfront budget for repairs such as those needed for the erosion in the parking lot.

- Simmons asked that the remaining contingency be carried forward to cover the costs of the expected legal challenge of the Maine Yankee tax assessment. He had warned the board that last year's contingency would be needed for expense related to Maine Yankee. No invoice was received before last year's books were closed, so it was paid from this year's budget. This carryover will replenish this year's budget which is also likely to be needed.
- If approved, as presented, this will transfer \$363,113.09 into the town's undesignated fund balance.
- Simmon reported that he will be attending the October 3rd ICMA conference and will be attending the select board's meeting via zoom.

13. Other Board Business

In response to Susan Blagden's question, Simmons reported that roof work at 63 Main Street is completed, insulation is scheduled for October 3 and 4, and the masonry contractor will begin work next week. Simmons also reported that he had asked the Code Enforcement Office to check on the Rundlett Block and would follow up on October 5.

14. Adjournment

Bill Maloney moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.