

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JULY 2, 2024
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

Present: James Andretta, Vice Chair Pam Dunning, Terry Heller, Bill Maloney, 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. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of June 21 and June 28, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of June 25, 2024, and July 2, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2024, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2024. Vote 4-0-1 (Andretta abstained).**

4. Special Presentations or Awards

a. The EMS Phoenix Award was presented to Kirsten Emerson, Meriel Longly, and Amber Stout.

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. Liquor License Application on-premises: Jolie Rogers, 8 Railroad Avenue: **Pam Dunning moved to open the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve a liquor license for Jolie Rogers, 8 Railroad Avenue. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Marty Fox, member of the Budget Committee and the Wiscasset Climate Action Team, said he believed Wiscasset could save about a million dollars on the solar energy project. He compared the Johnson Control energy project with Revision Energy's plan. He said that Revision Energy's solar array cost estimates together equal \$800,000 which would give the town a cost savings of \$710,000. He said that amount could be paid off in a much shorter time and would save a significant amount in interest costs. He added that the Town of Wiscasset could potentially save a million dollars. He offered to have a Revision Energy representative attend a selectboard meeting.

Heather Jones thanked the board on behalf of the James Weldon Johnson Foundation for the support of the recent photography and poetry contests. She said approximately \$2,000 in prizes were awarded. She reported on the gathering on the common to celebrate James Weldon Johnson's birthday and presented a check for \$1,000 to the Wiscasset Public Library on behalf of the foundation.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

9. Unfinished Business

a. Wawenock Block Update. Brick work continues, the crew continues to work daily and there have been no extraordinary events or surprises since the last report. Another report will be coming in two weeks.

10. New Business

a. Annual Contract for services Midcoast Humane: There were no changes to last year's contract. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Annual Contract for Services of Midcoast Humane. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Approve ballot selections for the UMA Legislative Policy Committee: **Terry Heller moved to approve the ballot recommended for the MMA Legislative Policy Committee. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to vote for Pamela Dunning, selectboard member, Town of Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Draft Purchasing Policy: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Purchasing Policy as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Reauthorization of the Policy Regarding Check Disbursement Prior to Expenditure Warrant Approval. **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Policy Regarding Check Disbursement Prior to Expenditure Warrant approval for FY 25 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Amendments to the Committee Handbook. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the amendments to the Committee Handbook as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Resignation of Sharon Jacques from Future of the Schools Committee. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the resignation of Sharon Jacques from the Future of the Schools Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

g. Discussion and authorization for the Town Manager to expend funds from the ARPA account for the purpose of engaging a firm that specializes in the development of municipal websites to develop a new website for the Town. **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to expend up to \$25,000 from the ARPA account for the purpose of designing a new website. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Assessors Business

12, Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons asked the board to approve a new policy for purchases of goods and services to allow for price increases, to approve a new policy for check disbursement changing the day of disbursement, to approve revising the committee handbook to facilitate the appointment of new committee members, and to approve using ARPA funds for the designing of a new website.

Simmons said the Old Ferry Road project is progressing slowly: the permanent sewer pipe is expected to be installed on July 8 and the water line shortly thereafter. When those are completed, it is expected that traffic will be rerouted onto the new roadway and the temporary bypass will be removed so that riprap can be installed in that area. After that, the roadway will be raised another two feet and paving will begin. He thanked everyone for their patience.

Emily Rabbe has submitted a draft firearms discharge ordinance which will be on the next agenda.

The CAI tech has finished digitizing the town tax maps for the GIS site. They will need Ellery to provide them with changes from March 1, and then they will begin to build the website. The website will also contain a zoning map and sewer infrastructure overlay. It will be approximately 30 days before the system goes online.

The Airport Committee has requested a change in the ordinance to provide voting rights to non-resident members and the matter will be the subject of a public hearing on the July 16th agenda.

Simmons reminded the public that the ordinance dealing with short-term rentals was amended in March to require short-term rental establishments to obtain a business license from the town clerk. The same ordinance requires obtaining a highway or entrance permit from the road commissioner before the commencement of any excavation in the public right-of-way.

The current book of ordinances is available online under Resources and the CEO's page. Bound printed copies will be available soon.

Simmons thanked the employees of the transfer station who worked over the weekend to repair the hopper so that the transfer station could open on Tuesday.

Simmons announced that the town offices and facilities will be closed Thursday, July 4, and gave instructions to those wishing to participate in the parade. He said that Deadly Desire featuring Wiscasset's Loretta Leighton will be playing on the Common at 6 p.m. Food and concessions by PIE will be available at 5:30 p.m. Fireworks will take place in the evening.

13. Other Board Business

James Andretta mentioned that there is an Efficiency Maine grant available for EV charging stations and suggested looking into it. Discussion was postponed to a future time.

There was a brief discussion on recent tree removals and the use of sand/salt treatment of streets and sidewalks. Simmons said trees were removed on the advice of the arborist.

14. Adjournment

Pam Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.