

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
DECEMBER 6, 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 November 18, 2022, November 25, 2022 and December 2, 2022. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Bill Maloney moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of November 22, November 29, and December 6, 2022. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2022. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or awards - none

5. Committee appointments

a. **Dusty Jones moved to appoint Thomas Tetu to the Water District Board of Directors. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

a. **New Liquor License: Terry Heller moved to approve the liquor license for Daniel Dyer, DBA Barnhouse Grill & Pub, 690 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Marty Fox said the town would be at an economic disadvantage if it did not proceed with pursuing broadband. He urged the Board to meet with Consolidated Communications as he did not feel that a municipal service was the right way to go.

A gentlemen asked the status of the cannabis ordinance. He said his company has an opportunity to purchase a commercial property on Route 1 contingent upon the cannabis ordinance passing. The chair advised him that there will be a public hearing prior to a vote by the town in June. Results of a survey will be sent to him.

Rob Lalli said he heard that a million dollars would be spent partly by the town on bringing broadband into town and felt that there were many other things, particularly in the public works department and sewer plant infrastructure that the money could be better used for.

8. Department head or committee chair

9. Unfinished Business

a. Street Light LED conversion: The board discussed the possible use of ARPA funds for the LED conversion as well as for broadband. It was decided not to use the funds for broadband as more information was needed before a decision could be made, and the LED streetlights would provide immediate savings. Dennis Simmons said that he did not have enough information to make a decision on broadband. He added that it had already been decided to change to LED streetlights and the town should spend money on maintaining the infrastructure that it has. **Bill Maloney moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with Affinity to convert town streetlights to LED and tap ARPA funds not to exceed \$75,000. Vote 4-1-0 James Andretta opposed**

10. New Business

a. Bureau of Highway Safety Speed Enforcement: **Dusty Jones moved to authorize Police Chief Lawrence Hesselstine to execute, on behalf of the Town of Wiscasset, the 2023 Bureau of Highway Safety, Speed Enforcement Grant #PT23-023. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Bid Openings

- Map R05, Lot 056: Negotiations had begun with previous owner. **Dusty Jones moved to reject the bid. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Map R03, Lot 080: **Bill Maloney moved to accept the bid of \$3,500 and deposit of \$350. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Map R06, Lot 036A: Keith Hunter asked for a 30-day extension, said he had a financial backer who would loan him \$6,200 for the back taxes within 30 days or perhaps two weeks. The Town had received a bid of \$66,000 for the property. **Bill Maloney moved to accept the \$66,600 bid contingent upon the previous owner not coming up with the money owed within 30 days (by January 6). Vote 5-0-0.**
- Ford F 550: **Bill Maloney moved to accept the \$12,000 bid for the Ford F 550. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. EMS Donation: **Bill Maloney moved to accept the donation of \$500 from Bonnie and Rodney Stone. Vote 5-0-0.** A note from Bonnie and Rodney Stone, expressing appreciation for the care they received from the ambulance service during a recent medical emergency, was read.

d. Municipal Quitclaim Deed, Keith Hunter, Map R05-056: **Dusty Jones moved to execute the municipal quitclaim deed for Map R05-056. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Community Organization Policy: **Terry Heller moved to adopt the Community Organization Funding Policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Proposed property maintenance ordinance: There were objections to the policy as being too strict, lacking a period in which the owner could come into compliance, and unreasonably requiring minor

repairs. The policy will be returned to the Ordinance Review Committee for a public hearing followed by a vote of the town.

g. Business License for Dedshot Photography: **Dusty Jones moved to approve the business license for Bryan Polk, DBA Dedshot Photography LLC, 29 Pinewood Drive, Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.**

h. Employees Premium Pay: **Dusty Jones moved to approve the use of ARPA funds for essential employees premium pay. Vote 5-0-0.**

i. EMS Power lift ARPA funds: **Dusty Jones moved to approve the use of ARPA funds for the EMA Power lift at the Town Manager's discretion. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

In addition to items already discussed, Dennis Simmons reported that two EMS cardiac monitors have finally arrived and have been placed in service. He thanked Boothbay Regional Ambulance for loaning Wiscasset one of their spare monitors to get us through this time. This is essential life-saving equipment and we cannot do our jobs without them.

The boat septic tank pump for the waterfront has arrived. It will be installed in the spring before boating season gets underway. This is one small step in improving the services offered at the town dock and attracting boaters to come and visit our town. It is being paid for through a grant from the state.

MeDOT is planning a repair/replacement project on the bridge spanning Montsweag Brook on Old Stage Road at the Woolwich town line. In preparing they will be conducting Geotech drilling at the site on two separate occasions, 12/13-12/22. To ensure public and crew safety, that area of Old Stage Road will be closed to all traffic on those days from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be two posted detour routes. The maps are in the packet, are posted at the town office and are on the town website.

The replacement windows at the police department have arrived and are being installed. When that work is completed, the rest of the windows in the town office complex will be weatherstripped and undergo necessary repairs.

Erin, Rob, Larry and Dennis met with Vanessa from Wiscasset Speedway to discuss fire, EMS and police coverage for the upcoming season. No definitive plan has been formulated and discussions will continue.

Robin has been working on building the data base for the TextMyGov program. Final walkthough is scheduled for the 8th and then the service will go live. Undoubtedly there will be many tweaks to make but Dennis thinks it will be an excellent tool to improve communications. Robin is also working on website improvements and updating the content.

12. Other Board Business – none

13. Adjournment

Terry Heller mov ed to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.