

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JANUARY 17, 2023
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

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

Chair Sarah Whitfield called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

- a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the payroll warrants of January 6 and January 13, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of January 10 and January 17, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of January 3, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations and Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

- a. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Raymond Soule to the Wiscasset Airport Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Ervin Deck to the Wiscasset Airport Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**
- c. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Stephen Wallace to the Wiscasset Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Consolidated Communications Broadband Discussion: Simon Thorne displayed a map showing the 1,887 eligible locations in Wiscasset which would be eligible for a grant. Seven locations were ineligible. Consolidated Communications would be required to contribute \$700 per location, or a total of \$1,320,000 toward the cost of the project in the grant application. Wiscasset can contribute \$15 per location (\$28,305) which would equal one point on the application, or \$150 per location (\$283,050)

which would garner 10 points. The more points in the application the more favorable it will be viewed. Thorne said \$18.5 million is available and grants will be awarded points based on the planned speed of completion. To apply, the application must be approved by the voters and the town must make a financial commitment. Funds for current grants are from ARPA, and other funding is expected for future grants. In response to a question, Thorne said combining with other towns may give an advantage to the town's application. As to cost, Thorne said \$183,050 is the maximum the town would need to contribute. UCI would own the network when completed. Dusty Jones asked why the town would contribute when the UCI would own the network. Thorne said if the town built the network, there would be no obligation for everyone in town to leave their current network and join the town's network. A letter indicating that the town would like to explore the possibility of a grant application with Consolidated would give Thorne the ability to move ahead. In response to a question on pricing, Thorne said the pricing would need to be aggressive to avoid losing market share as Consolidated would be competing statewide. Thorne will send a sample letter of understanding. **James Andretta moved to move forward with a letter of support for Consolidated. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Broadband Committee: Evan Goodkowsky and Carla Dickstein, members of the Broadband Committee, joined the discussion. Goodkowsky will forward information from the committee to the selectboard.

10. New Business

a. Municipal Quitclaim Deed, Heirs of Mark Foye, Map R06, Lot 036A: **Terry Heller moved to execute the municipal quitclaim deed for Map R06, Lot 036A. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Huntoon Hill Grange #398 Blanket Approval: **Terry Heller moved to grant the blanket approval to the Huntoon Grange #398 to operate Beano and Games of Chance, consisting of sealed tickets for 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons said he had no report and would be working on the budget in the next few weeks.

12. Other Board Business

a. Executive Session for the discussion of a legal matter: At 7:13, **Terry Heller moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1. M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (E). Vote 5-0-0. Bill Maloney moved to exit executive session at 7:54 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

Bill Maloney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.