

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
APRIL 4, 2023
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

Present: James Andretta, Terry Heller, Vice Chair Dusty Jones, Bill Maloney (via Zoom), 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. **James Andretta moved to approve the payroll warrants of March 24 and March 31, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 28 and April 4, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2023. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

The first Outstanding Citizen Award was presented to Serabella by SRO Barnes in recognition of her bravery shown during a family's medical emergency in February, taking care of her two younger siblings. Without being told she retrieved headphones and tablets and made sure she was the calming presence for them despite being scared herself. SRO Barnes had responded to the call along with Officer Willhoite.

5. Committee Appointments

- a. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Mark Light to the Wiscasset Cemetery Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Suzanne Rankin to the Cemetery Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**
- c. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Susan Robson to the Waterfront Committee. Vote 4-0-1 (Maloney abstained).**
- d. **Terry Heller moved to appoint David Gagnon to the Waterfront Committee. Vote 4-0-1 (Maloney abstained and commented although he had no complaints about the two Waterfront Committee members, he thought it was time the committee needed new people.)**
- e. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Jackie Lowell to the Ordinance Review Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Zachari Dalton to the Shellfish Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair – none

9. Unfinished Business

a. Budget Discussion

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$67,920 on the Town Meeting Warrant for Retiree Health Insurance. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to recommend the amount as stated. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$146,456 on the Town Meeting Warrant for Planning and Economic Development. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to recommend the amount as stated. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$155,701.48 on the Town Meeting Warrant for Capital Improvement Bond Payment. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to recommend the amount as stated. Vote 5-0-0.

Maine Art Gallery Reserve Request: Sarah Whitfield said there were two requests: \$28,800 and \$40,000. She said she was in favor of putting the \$28,800 request on the warrant for the voters to decide because there are potential matching funds; however, she did not favor the \$40,000 as that was for maintenance which was not in the spirit or the letter of the lease. Dennis Simmons said the maintenance was the onus of the art gallery, not capital improvement, and had it been done all along, some of the capital improvements would not be necessary. He opposed both requests. Jim Kochan said the lease said the town would assist in grant writing, but not fund capital improvement. Richard Reese, President of Maine Art Gallery, said the lease was a facilitator not an obstacle and the lease should reflect the long-standing relationship and precedent established by the dealings between the town and the museum. He said the request is an extension of that relationship. Kim Dolce said the terms of the lease should be followed.

Terry Heller moved to place \$28,800 on the Town Meeting Warrant for the Maine Art Gallery. Vote 3-2-0 (Andretta and Maloney opposed.)

Terry Heller moved to approve the amount as stated. Vote 2-3-0 (Andretta, Jones and Maloney opposed).

Fire Department Rescue Engine: Dennis Simmons said the decision on the purchase of the \$800,000 rescue engine if not made this year, would have to be made next year when it would be more expensive. He added that it also made sense to replace two vehicles with one. He said if the board voted to move forward, they would have to decide whether to borrow the necessary funds, lease the rescue engine or take funds from capital reserve. He said that if the town has a large capital reserve fund, funding sources for the wastewater treatment plant work would expect that the town contribute from its capital reserve

fund before awarding grant funds. Simmons added that if the town did not spend the funds for the rescue engine now, they may not have the funds in the future. He recommended taking the cost of the rescue engine from capital reserves. **Terry Heller moved to place \$800,000 out of capital reserves on the town warrant for the Wiscasset Fire Department new rescue engine. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to recommend the amount as stated. Vote 5-0-0.**

Parks and Recreation Membership Fees: Duane Goud was not present to respond to questions on the fees. **Sarah Whitfield moved to table the Parks and Recreation Membership Fees to our next meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**

Waterfront fees: Dennis Simmons said the Waterfront Committee had not changed its recommendation for the \$1,000 and \$1,500 vendor fees but had changed the recommendation for launch fees based on Budget Committee comments. Dick Forrest said the Waterfront Committee had submitted to the selectboard its recommendation for fees in January and had had no response. As a result of Budget Committee comments, the Waterfront Committee had increased the launching fees to \$75, non-resident \$175. The Waterfront Committee had not changed the vendor fees. There was extensive discussion on the basis for the vendor fees and the description of the two rates. Forrest said the committee saw no reason to increase the fee for the public space which will not accommodate a building but is used for picnic tables. Fees will be discussed at the next meeting on April 11.

10. New Business

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Business License Application for Herenya Wilkey, LLC at 15 Acorn Road, Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Discussion on increasing the Selectmen terms from 2 to 3 years: Dusty Jones said it takes a year to understand the job, and increasing the term to three years would professionalize the position and give members more time to spend on the job once they have become familiar with it. The matter will not be on the June ballot and discussions will continue. James Andretta said he was leaning toward a two-year term.

11. Assessors Business – none

12. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons said the cost for the Old Ferry Road project had increased and was \$500,000 shy of the \$1.3 million already raised; however, the Department of Marine Resources has awarded the town a grant of \$500,000 which will cover the increase. If the costs do not increase, there should be sufficient funds without asking the town for additional money. Acceptance of the grant will be on the next agenda.

In response to a question on the senior housing status, Simmons said the building is completely gutted and the developer is waiting for the Fire Marshal permit. The amount the developer will pay for sewer has not yet been determined.

The work on the Wawenock building is expected to be complete by May 1.

13. Other Board Business

a. James Andretta moved to enter executive session for discussion of confidential records pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(F). Vote 5-0-0. Dusty Jones moved to close the executive session at 7:23 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Dusty Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.