

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MAY 16, 2023
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

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

Absent: James Andretta

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 May 5 and May 12, 2023. Vote 4-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of May 9 and May 16, 2023. Vote 4-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee appointments

- a. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Susan Blagden and Alissa Eason to the Wiscasset Board of Appeals. Vote 4-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Allen Cohen and Thomas Joyce to the Wiscasset Planning Board. Vote 4-0-0.**
- c. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Lisa Tichy to the Budget Committee. Vote 4-0-0.**
- d. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Cassandra Rose, Susan Van Alsenoy, Colleen Hendricks, Lisa Tichy, Dusty Jones, Janet Hobbs-Bailey, Leslie Roberts, Marty Fox, and Evan Goodkowsky to the Wiscasset Climate Action Team. Vote 4-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

- a. **New Liquor License: River Shack, 1 Water Street: Terry Heller moved to open the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Vote 4-0-0. There was no discussion. Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:05**

p.m. Vote 4-0-0. Terry Heller moved to approve the liquor license for River Shack, 1 Water Street. Vote 4-0-0.

b. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: **Terry Heller moved to open the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.**

Susan Murray spoke in support of broadband. Nicholas Rioux questioned the cost to taxpayers. Carla Dickstein, chair of the Broadband Committee, said instead of a municipally owned system, Wiscasset would have a private provider. She added that a \$5,000 match would be necessary to leverage funds from the state but that would have no effect on taxes as it would come from capital reserves. Simon Thorne, Senior Manager - Government Affairs, Consolidated Communications explained the funding, the grant applications, and said installation would be free except for long driveways where there may be a cost depending on conditions. He said the entire town would be covered; the timeline is still to be determined. Kendra Grindle, Community Capacity Manager, Maine Connectivity Authority spoke on the grant process.

Richard Reese spoke in favor of Article 52 and asked for support of the art gallery lease.

Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:41 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

Simmons said the Parks and Recreation report was delayed.

9. Unfinished Business

Terry Heller moved to appoint Callie Fairservice as Deputy Harbormaster. Vote 4-0-0.

10. New Business

a. **Terry Heller moved to write off uncollectable debt totaling \$51,459.35 and send the accounts to the collection agency. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve a business license for TWIYO Inc., 291 Federal Street DBA The World is Your Oyster. Vote 4-0-0.**

c. Monthly Financials

- H.M. Payson Statement of Accounts
- Year to date expense/revenue reports

d. Pier Vendor Permit Application Approval for Optionz ATM: **Terry Heller moved to approve the Pier Vendor Permit for Optionz ATM as recommended by the Waterfront Committee. Vote 4-0-0.**

e. Review of Planning and Engineering Services RFQ: Simmons said Stantec, the current provider, was the sole respondent. **Dusty Jones moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Stantec. Vote 4-0-0.**

11. Assessors Business

Abatement

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Property Tax Abatement for Edward and Ruth Mewa, Acct# 1885, Map U23, Lot 1 in the amount of \$720.87. Vote 4-0-0.**

Assessors Supplements

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the supplemental for Michael Lachance for Map R01, Lot 37A in the amount of \$1,374.38 (first of five annual) as recommended by assessing agent Ellery Banes. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the supplemental for Central Maine Power Company c/o Avangrid Management Co. Local Tax Personal Property Acct. #405, staging yard at 518 Gardiner Road in the amount of \$38,770.46 as recommended by the assessing agent Ellery Banes. Vote 4-0-0.**

12. Town Manager's Report

Medical Reimbursement Services has provided EMS Chief Bean with a list of accounts they have been unable to collect through their normal process. They request that the town write off these accounts as bad debt so that they may be sent to a collection agency.

The airport terminal building is starting to show its age. There is grant funding available for renovations, however, this project was not included in the current agreement with Stantec, so the town needs to go through the consultant selection process to include this project. An RFQ has been issued for consultants which are due May 11 and will be reviewed by Rick Tetrov, a member of the airport committee, Dusty Jones and Dennis Simmons so that a recommendation can be made at the next meeting.

On May 9th a pre-application inspection of the boat ramps at the waterfront was made to see if the town qualified for a grant through the Bureau of Parks and Lands Boating Facilities Fund. The town does qualify although there are quite a few applications and not everyone will get funding or may not get the requested amount. It was noted that the area was in poor condition and erosion is happening up into the roadway at the top of the ramps. Ted Snowden has issued an RFP for engineering firms qualified to evaluate the erosion happening throughout the paved waterfront area. The recent heavy rainstorm opened some new areas of erosion and it is necessary to get a handle on how to mitigate it.

Ted Snowden has also issued an RFP for painting the clock tower. Simmons said the painting was long overdue and that the town owed it to the owner of the building as well as to the donors of the clock to do a better job maintaining it.

After a question arose relative to concerns about a union member being appointed to the Deputy Harbormaster position, Simmons agreed to resolve the issue by advertising the position in-house. Callie Fairservice was the only person who submitted a letter of interest in the position.

The informational hearing on the "rewilding" project on Pleasant Street extension has been rescheduled for June 6th.

13. Other Board Business

a. Executive Session for a personnel matter

Terry Heller moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) at 6:54 p.m. Vote 4-0-0. Terry Heller moved to close Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.