

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MINUTES, AUGUST 1, 2023  
6 P.M.  
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

Present: James Andretta, Pam Dunning, Terry Heller, 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 July 14, 21 and 28. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of July 18 and July 25 FY23 and July 18, July 25, and August 1, FY24. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Pam Dunning moved to approve additions to the agenda (Appointment of the Code Enforcement Officer and acceptance of a donation check). Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2023. Vote 4-0-1 (Andretta abstained)**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

- a. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Marty Fox to the Wiscasset Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Terry Heller moved to appoint Carla Dickstein and Steve Graffam to the Wiscasset Comprehensive Plan Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

**Pam Dunning moved to open the public hearing for the liquor license for Jodie's Café and Bakery, LLC, 45 Water Street, at 6:04 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** Dan Sortwell supported the application citing Jodie's sponsorship of Community events and support of local businesses. He said the business would be an asset to Wiscasset. **Pam Dunning moved to close the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** **Terry Heller moved to approve the liquor license for Jodie's Café and Bakery, LLC, 45 Water Street. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Jim Munson said he hoped action would continue on a problem junkyard and was informed that the matter was awaiting trial; a 60-day extension had been granted because of the appointment of a new Code Enforcement Officer. Munson also brought up the dangerous intersection on Lowelltown Road and suggested lighted signs or other methods of warning the public. Dennis Simmons said the town is working on the problem.

Heather Jones asked permission to wash, sand, varnish and add a plaque to the memorial bench on the common. **Bill Maloney moved to approve the request. Vote 5-0-0.**

Sharman Valentine commented on the minutes of the previous meeting when the Amistad proposal was discussed. She said the discussion was summarized and did not include names of those who spoke or many of the positive comments. She said the minutes did not reflect an accurate account of the meeting. Terry Heller asked if an amendment could be made to the minutes. The chair explained that she had approved summarizing the discussion as is the usual procedure. She added that the minutes reflect what was stated, not actual facts. Dennis Simmons pointed out that the entire meeting is on YouTube.

George Betke spoke on efforts to revitalize the rail traffic on the Rockland to Brunswick line. He said rather than feasibility studies to determine the need, an actual trial of the line will be held. An open house will be held at the Rockland station on August 4, and four trips per day for the Lobsterfest in Rockland will take place on August 4 -6. Fares will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Following that, Betke said the plans are for a weekend schedule. Initially the train service will be operated as an excursion with hopes to be part of the Amtrak system in the future. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> the train will stop at the Wiscasset Wastewater Treatment Plant at 11 a.m. Betke will communicate with the Town Manager about stops in the future.

Debra Morgan said she was upset by the fearmongering and vitriol expressed at the meeting on Amistad's proposal two weeks ago. She hoped for impartiality if future issues come up involving helping people who desperately need help.

In response to Susan Blagden's question as to when the entrance to the ancient cemetery would be completed, Dennis Simmons said the entrance would be completed when the committee had more money. The planned archway was not included in the original quote and the Cemetery Committee is working on a solution.

In response to Susan Blagden's inquiry about the unfinished construction on Main Street, Dennis Simmons said the former CEO had reached out to the owners with a stern letter. The new CEO will be exploring legal options.

#### 8. Department Head or Community Chair – none

#### 9. Unfinished Business

a. Sewer Rates: **Pam Dunning moved to approve rates as presented by Wastewater Director Rob Lalli. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 10. New Business

a. Policy regarding check disbursement prior to expenditure warrant approval. Dennis Simmons explained that the policy will allow checks to be sent out without approval such as credit card bills to avoid late fees. The policy is a state requirement and must be renewed each year. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the Check Disbursement policy for one year. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Resignations from the Ordinance Review Committee: **Terry Heller moved to accept the resignations of Corey Bachman and Anna Ridle from the ORC Committee with regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Municipal Quitclaim Deed, Phillip M. Harrington, Jr., Map R-05-037-B: **Pam Dunning moved to execute the municipal quitclaim deed for Map R-05-037-B to Philip M. Harrington. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Appointment of CEO: **Pam Dunning moved to appoint Bruce Engert, Sr., as temporary CEO. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Simmons read a note from Karen Vitelli thanking the EMS for the care she received and enclosing a check for \$2500. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the check. Vote 5-0-0**

11. Assessors Business - none

12. Town Manager's Report

Simmons said he has been busy taking care of code enforcement work since Bruce Mullins resigned and expects to be caught up now that the new Bruce (Engert) has been hired.

13. Other Board Business

Terry Heller urged that the board not reflect the vitriol and acrimony expressed at the last meeting but rather receive with impartiality and leadership any new businesses in the future.

14. Adjournment

**James Andretta moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**