

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MINUTES, MARCH 19, 2024
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Preliminary Minutes

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

The Chair 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 for March 8 and March 15, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants for March 12 and March 19, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2024, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

Dennis Simmons announced that a letter had been received from Joshua Dailey, Training Coordinator, of the Police Academy, informing Chief Hesseltine that Cadet Logan Hilton has been elected as Treasurer of the 45th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program.

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Karen Sullivan asked if the board was aware of a rotten tree on the common which she considered a liability.

8. Department Head or Committee Report – none

9. Unfinished Business

a. Waterfront Pier Policy Revision: Simmons pointed out a sentence in the policy book that gives the Waterfront Committee authority that is not authorized by the ordinance; the Waterfront Committee is advisory only. **Bill Maloney moved to return the Waterfront Pier Policy to the Waterfront Committee for revision. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Budget Discussion- none

c. Wawenock Block Update: Sarah Whitfield reported that according to the spokesperson, the work continues to progress on the Wawenock Block, the mason has been completing the prep work and bricks will start going up on Tuesday or Wednesday. Dennis Simmons noted that on the court schedule is an upcoming Wawenock vs. Patrons Insurance Company lawsuit.

10. New Business

a. Monthly Financials

b. Appointment of Election Clerks: **Terry Heller moved to appoint and confirm the Election Clerks as submitted by the Town Clerk. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Approval of letters of support for the Community Action Grant & Coastal Communities grant: **Terry Heller moved to approve the letters of support for the Community Action Grant and the Coastal Communities Grant. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Discussion of proposed ordinance changes for June Town Meeting:

- The Wiscasset Airport Advisory Committee requested a change to the ordinance to allow a nonresident to serve with voting privileges, as it was difficult at times to attain a quorum. It was pointed out that the Airport Advisory Committee makes only recommendations; decisions are made by the selectboard. After comments for and against the change, the Selectboard scheduled a public hearing on the change at the April 16 meeting.
- A proposed change to the bylaws would allow members of the Budget Committee to be appointed rather than elected because it is difficult to attract members to run for the committee, which results in an appointed committee. Another proposed change would require the Budget Committee to report specific reasons for making an opposed recommendation, providing an article dealing with borrowing, raising, transferring and/or appropriation of any sum of money at least a week prior to the selectboard taking a final vote to place the article on a warrant and that the committee's recommendation shall appear on any written ballot. The change was requested as the original wording was appropriate for a town meeting, rather than a vote by ballot. The subject of indicating on the ballot the votes of the selectboard and the Budget Committee was discussed at length, particularly whether showing the votes would influence the public's vote either for or against an article on the ballot.
- Changes to several ordinances were proposed by the Ordinance Review Committee. The changes will make the ordinances consistent regarding the definition and number of days recreational vehicles may remain on the property. Emily Rabbe (Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission) who had drafted the changes, said she will contact Sue Baker, Maine Floodplain Management Program, regarding the possibility of leaving an unoccupied RV on the owner's site for more than 120 days.

11. Assessors Business

a. **Pam Dunning moved to execute a Bill of Sale to Thomas Anderson for a 1999 Redman Model Oakcrest mobile home located at 1051 Gardiner Road, Lot #27. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons reported that the Wiscasset Wastewater Treatment plant is the recipient of \$5,000,000 toward the millions needed from multiple funding sources for relocation of the Wastewater Treatment plant.

T. Buck Construction has started work on the Old Ferry Road culvert replacement project.

Since 2021 Wiscasset has received over \$11.8 million in county, state and federal grants and other funding for assistance making improvement to the infrastructure including the airport, wastewater treatment plant, roads, waterfront, brownfields cleanup as well as small grants for public safety.

Simmons thanked the selectboard and budget committee for their work on the FY'25 budget.

13. Other Board Business

a. Executive Session for consultation with legal counsel. **Terry Heller moved to enter executive session at 7:10 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (E). Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to exit executive session at 7:43 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

14. Adjournment

Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.