

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX COLLECTORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
APRIL 2, 2024
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

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 22 and March 29, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants for March 26 and April 2, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2024. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the minutes of March 13, 2024, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

a. Waterfront Committee – James Kochan: The application was referred to the Waterfront Committee for an applicant interview with the Waterfront Committee chair and the selectboard liaison.

b. Planning Board (reappointment) – Debra Pooler: **Terry Heller moved to reappoint Debra Pooler to the Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

a. Special Amusement Permit – Pepper Powers DBA Bath Ale Works, 681 Bath Road: **Terry Heller moved to open the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** There was no discussion. **Terry Heller moved to close the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to approve the special amusement permit for Pepper Powers DBA Bath Ale Works at 681 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Liquor License Renewal – Maine Tasting Center, 506 Old Bath Road: **Terry Heller moved to open the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** There was no discussion. **Pam Dunning moved to close the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to approve the liquor license renewal for Maine Tasting Center, 506 Old Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

9. Unfinished Business

a. Firearms Discharge Ordinance: A memo had been received from Emily Rabbe (LCRPC planner) in response to questions raised at the previous meeting on the banning of firearms discharge around Pottle Cove. Rabbe said the Ordinance Review Committee had asked if the intent was to ban discharge of any kind or to regulate hunting in certain areas. Sarah Whitfield said the intent was only to ban discharge of firearms and only in Pottle Cove, and a map such as the Town of Gardiner has was recommended. Bill Maloney suggested the area to be covered was Pottle Cove from the area of Castle Tucker to the Yacht Club within the railroad tracks. There was a consensus that only the area around Pottle Cove be covered by the ordinance, not the whole town. Regarding the possibility of an effect on wildlife management, it was suggested that a game warden be consulted. The board's comments will be sent to the Ordinance Review Committee.

b. Wawenock Block Update: Sarah Whitfield said that a vague email had been received indicating the work on the Wawenock building continues to progress; additional information had since been received indicating the majority of the work would be completed by June 1 with the scaffolding being removed sometime during June. Dennis Simmons will contact the town attorney to see what legal action against the owner is possible for the many delays.

c. Revision of Pier Policy: The last bullet point after No. 2 on the updated Town of Wiscasset Pier Policies was changed to "Event and Recurring Day permits shall be applied for minimally 15 days before an event. Approval for a series of events sponsored by an organization shall be made minimally 30 days prior to the commencement. Waterfront Committee reviews and recommends to the Town Manager who may approve based on his discretion." On the second page under Process, the fourth sentence was amended to read "New Vendors and all Event permits will be reviewed by Waterfront Committee and passed on to the Town Manager who may approve based on his discretion." **Terry Heller moved to approve the pier policy as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Budget Discussion: Police and SRO budgets have not yet been submitted or approved.

10. New Business

a. Resignations: **Pam Dunning moved to accept the resignation of Stephen Graffam from the Comprehensive Plan Committee with regret and thanks for his work. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to accept the resignation of Tom Joyce from the Planning Board and Budget Committee with regret and thanks for his service. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Sewer Abatements: Following explanations and recommendations by Robert Lalli, Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the board took the following action on two requests for a sewer abatement. **Bill Maloney moved to reject the request for abatement from Morgan Steppins, 79 Bradford Road. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the request for abatement from E & S Carwash, 288 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. 2021 and 2022 Certificates of Settlement: **Pam Dunning moved to execute the 2021 Certificate of Settlement. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to execute the 2022 Certificate of Settlement. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Pier Vendor Permits: **Terry Heller moved to approve the Pier Vendor Permits for The River Shack, Beaver Ridge Farmstead, LLC DBA Sicilian Farmer, The Potters Shed,**

Industrial Maine, LLC, and Sprague's Lobster as recommended by the Waterfront Committee. Vote 5-0-0.

e. Set date for approval of the June 11th Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Monday, April 8, 2024, was set for the approval of the June 11 Town Meeting Warrant.

f. Paving Bids: The following bids were received:

Crooker Construction (roads only) \$723,738
New England Paving (roads, rec center, and parking lot) \$1,296,919
Pike Industries (roads only) \$854,635.60
Littlefield Paving (roads only) \$689,832
Hagar Enterprises (roads only) \$593,590
P&B Paving (roads only) \$702,762.50

The Town Manager and Public Works Director will review the bids.

11. Assessors Business

a. County Taxes - \$792,818

12. Town Manager's Report

Simmons reported a parking ban will be in effect at 6 p.m. Wednesday because of the anticipated storm; the Community Center will be open 5 am to 9 pm for warming, charging phones, showers, etc.

Simmons reported that the Maine PERS audit was complete.

He announced that an act to eliminate the tax-exempt status of Maine Yankee had been approved by the legislature and signed by the governor. the storage casks at the Maine Yankee plant which previously were untaxed will no longer be exempt from property taxes, adding \$93,000,000 to the Wiscasset tax rolls. The chair read a letter from attorney Peter Murray explaining and clarifying the situation and the next steps in the process.

13. Other Board Business – none

14. Adjournment

Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.