

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Present: Kim Andersson, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice Chair Kathy Martin-Savage, Jeff Slack, Sarah Whitfield, and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of September 4 and 11, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of September 8 and 15, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020 as amended. Vote 3-0-2 (Dunning and Whitfield abstained)

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

a. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the appointment of Tom Kovarik to the Investment Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearing

a. Adoption of the 2020-2021 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H: **Kim Andersson moved to enter a public hearing at 5:08 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** The public hearing was closed at 5:09 p.m. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adopt the 2020-2021 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

J B's. Way resident Katie Bryant said that according to a court order, Al Cohen was required to have a separate retail license for the building on J B.'s Way where he stored fireworks with an intent to sell. She said Cohen was defying the court order and asked that the board discuss the issue before the public hearing on his Fireworks Permit. Kim Andersson said that when the board approved the license for 300 Bath Road, J B's Way was excluded. Kathy Martin-Savage said the Town has been named in the legal

proceedings and it was not proper to comment. Pam Dunning said the litigation is being handled by attorneys and the board cannot discuss it.

8. Department head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head Monthly reports: Kathy Martin-Savage said all the reports were well written and understandable. Ed Polewarczyk said he was amazed at the number of police calls (671) reported and complimented the police on their job performance.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Quitclaim Deed – Martin S. Finley, Map R07, Lot 007: Dennis Simmons said that the board had given Mr. Finley until September 15 to pay the balance of taxes due on property. The Town had acquired the property for non-payment of taxes, and in order for the Town to sell the property back to Mr. Finley, the back taxes would have to be paid. According to MMA, there is no objection to the Town selling the property back to the former owner. The owner has paid the taxes. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the quitclaim deed. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

a. Cenergy net-billing presentation – Steve Barrett: Barrett summarized the status of the application to use 40 acres on the south side of the airport for the solar project including coordinating with the FFA, DEP, IFW; obtaining state permits; and meeting with the select board and planning board. He said his company is getting ready to file for site plan review. The project will afford an economic opportunity for Wiscasset, as well as anyone in the state, to buy net energy billing credits. Barrett said power has already been allocated to Colby College, Brunswick, Scarborough, Portland, and Waterville public schools.

Ed Polewarczyk expressed his concerns with the project: The project will destroy 70 acres of mature forest (70 acres removes 175 tons of CO2 per year); the option was not reviewed by the Town's attorney; the value of the \$1,000/acre lease fee will decrease annually and the lease agreement should include an escalation factor; the Town has other locations such as the transfer station or the Maine Yankee site which could be used; and the Town should do its due diligence before proceeding with the project. After further discussion, Dennis Simmons assured those present that the board would do its due diligence. Pam Dunning thanked Steve Barrett and Ed Polewarczyk for their presentations.

b. Bid Opening – Public Works Patrol Truck: The following bids were received:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Portland North Truck Center, Falmouth	#1 \$151,525.00
Portland North Truck Center, Falmouth	#2 \$151,470.00
Freightliner of Westbrook	#1 \$151,880.92
Freightliner of Westbrook	#2 \$161,773.24
Freightliner of Westbrook	#3 \$160,992.87
Daigle and Houghton, Inc., Hermon	#1 \$155,980.00
Daigle and Houghton, Inc., Hermon	#2 \$162,035.00
HP Fairfield, Skowhegan (truck gear only)	\$ 68,980.00

Kim Andersson moved that the board authorize the Town Manager and Director of Public Works to review the bids and award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.

c. Sewer Abatement – Ed Kavanaugh: Simmons said an abatement was allowed under the new policy. **Kim Andersson moved to approve the sewer abatement for Ed Kavanaugh for \$139.10. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Schedule public hearing for Big Al’s Fireworks Permit: The hearing will take place on October 6, 2020.

e. Waterfront Pump-out Proposal: The Waterfront Committee submitted a proposal for a pump-out station at the Recreational Pier and asked the board’s approval to apply for a \$30,000 grant which would fund 90% of the cost of the purchase and installation of a marine pump-out station. The grant will not allow the town to charge a fee for the pump-out; however, the town may benefit indirectly from the sale of fuel, water, groceries, and other supplies. Pam Dunning expressed concern that without any revenue from the pump-out station, the town would be responsible for the purchase of a new pump after 10 years or whenever a new pump was needed. Further information will be sought on replacing the pump. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the Town Manager applying for the grant. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Monthly Financials: Dennis Simmons said the department accounts were mostly under budget.

g. Warrant for October 6th Special Town Meeting: **Sarah Whitfield moved to approve the warrant for the October 6 Special Town Meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager’s Report

a. 2020-2021 Tax Commitment: The board will sign the tax commitment on September 22, 2020 at the town office.

b. Sexual Harassment Training/Policy Update: Simmons said the policy had been updated and he had met with the department heads on September 1 for training and to discuss roles and responsibilities. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the Anti-Harassment and Other Prohibited Practices policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Other Board Business

There was a consensus of the board to change the meeting time from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The County Commissioners will meet on September 17 to elect a municipal officer from each district to the Lincoln County Budget Advisory Committee. Kathy Martin-Savage is currently the town’s representative and there was a consensus that she continue on the committee.

13. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.