

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
SEPTEMBER 22, 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. FY 2020-2021 Tax Commitment

Dennis Simmons said that because of declining state revenues and a projected shortfall, state revenue sharing numbers have decreased from an estimated \$503,915 to \$445,805. The town's projected revenue sharing is \$286,000. The board has four options to consider before committing taxes.

a. The board can choose to do nothing, keep revenue sharing projection where it is, and the mil rate would increase to \$20.27 (1.83%). With the increase in the homestead exemption, homes under \$250,000 (55% of homesteaders) would see a small decrease in the tax bill; the tax bill for the remaining homeowners would stay the same or increase slightly.

b. If the board increased the revenue sharing projection by \$50,000, the mil rate would increase to \$20.18 (1.39%), homesteaders up to \$350,000 would see a small decrease or no increase in their tax bill.

c. If revenue sharing projections were increased by \$75,000, the mil rate would increase to \$20.12 (1.09%) and homesteaders up to \$450,000 would see a small decrease or no increase.

d. In order to have an across the board decrease or no increase and keep the mill rate at \$19.90, the board would need to increase the revenue sharing projection by \$75,000 and take \$100,000 from undesignated fund balance. The undesignated fund balance is currently \$650,000 which, Simmons said, was not the healthiest already.

Jeff Slack said the board should keep its commitment that there would be zero increase. Kim Andersson agreed with Slack that the board should honor its promise to keep the mil rate even. Pam Dunning said this board was not responsible for the actions of the past board and she was not comfortable with taking \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance. She added that it would always be possible to take that amount from the undesignated fund balance at a later date if needed.

Jeff Slack moved to take \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance and increase revenue sharing by \$75,000. Vote 2-3-0 (Dunning, Martin-Savage and Whitfield opposed).

Sarah Whitfield moved to increase revenue sharing estimate by \$75,000 without taking funds out of the undesignated fund balance. Vote 3-2-0 (Andersson and Slack opposed).

3. Adjournment

Kim Andersson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.