

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 6, 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 5:07 p.m. following the Special Town Meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of September 18, September 25, and October 2, 2020. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. Accounts payable warrants will be voted on at the next meeting

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearing – none

7. Public Comment

Ed Polewarczyk noted that a second solar project had been on the Planning Board agenda recently. That project is located on 20 acres on Jones Road. He expressed concerns about the responsibilities of the owner and tenant at the solar project at the airport, and which will be responsible for the equipment and the clean-up cost after 25 or 30 years. He said 10% of the \$20 million project would be devoted to clean-up and asked if that would be sufficient. He urged the board to do its due diligence. Dennis Simmons said that the town has been approved for a grant to help the town with the application process.

Ray Soule described his experience with someone who had forged his name on a check, which was first refused by a bank but later cashed at a credit union. Soule contacted the credit union and the police, but no action was taken. He later mentioned it to the new police chief in Wiscasset. Soule was pleased to report that Chief Hesseltine took action, and the person who had forged the check was arrested. He thanked the town for hiring Chief Hesseltine.

8. Department head or committee chair:

9. Unfinished Business

- a. FY 19 audit: Dennis Simmons said the audit had been received and minor errors had been corrected. He reported that the Town has all outstanding notes except for the sewer project note with the First National Bank. Simmons contacted the bank, and it has offered to refinance those notes at 1.84%, a reduction from the 2.5% and 3.75% now being paid. The interest reduction will save the Town \$30,000 per year. Simmons will investigate refinancing the sewer project.
- b. Report on September 8 ballot errors: The cost of holding a second town meeting to vote on articles which were omitted from or incorrectly stated on the Town Meeting warrant by the printing company is \$1,947 and a bill for that amount has been sent to the printers.

10. New Business

- a. Sewer abatement request – James George, 16 Willow Lane: Simmons said the error in double billing was due to an issue with the water meter. **Kim Andersson moved to approve the sewer abatement request for James George in the amount of \$62.40. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. Renewal of Annual License for Sale of Consumer Fireworks – Big Al’s Outlet, Inc. DBA Big Al’s Fireworks Outlet, 300 Bath Road: No action was taken, and the matter will be taken up at a later date.
- c. New Business Licenses:
- Jonathan McGraw, DBA J.M. Automotive, LLC, 186 Fowle Hill Road
 - Chriscinda Park, DBA Will Go Driving School, 12 Washington Street
 - John and Christy Brandt, DBA Steamed Beans Coffee Emporium, LLC, 51B Water Street
- Kim Andersson moved to approve the new business licenses for J.M.Automotive, LLC; Will Go Driving School; and Steamed Beans Coffee Emporium. Vote 5-0-0.**
- d. Bid Openings
- Police Cruiser: Bids are due October 20, 2020.
 - Surplus Ladder Truck: One bid had been received from Asian Auto of Plaistow, NH for \$5,678.98, **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to authorize the Fire Chief and Town Manager to review the bids and award the bid to the highest qualified bidder. 5-0-0.**
- e. Check disbursement policy: Simmons said that the current check disbursement policy allows one select person to sign the payroll warrants. The policy has not been reviewed for several years. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the current check disbursement policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager’s Report

- a. Future Board Workshop: Simmons asked the board members to email him their available weekdays for a two- to three- hour workshop at 6 p.m. between October 12 and 30.
- b. Old Ferry Road Culvert repair update: An RFP for engineering design has been sent out. Mary Ellen Barnes has offered to help with the paperwork for a grant for the engineering study.
- c. Wiscasset Community Center Hours: Simmons said according to a 2019 policy, no town employee is required to work on town holidays. He said that reconsideration of the policy and allowing the

community center to be open on the 21 minor holidays would affect only employees of the community center. Parks & Recreation Director Duane Goud has recommended that the center not be closed on minor holidays when many parents would be required to work, and he cited statistics on the usage of the center on the 21 minor holidays in the past. It was the consensus of the board that the decision was the responsibility of the Town Manager.

12. Assessor's Business

a. Abatements:

- Dion West, Personal Property Account #242 for \$231.85: **Kim Andersson moved to approve the personal property abatement for Dion West in the amount of \$231.85 as recommended. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Catherine Bunin-Stevenson, 93 Churchill Street, \$6,656.55: **Kim Andersson moved to approve the abatement for real estate taxes assessed to Catherin Bunin-Stevenson at 93 Churchill Street in the amount of \$6,656.55 as recommended. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Other Board Business

a. Executive Session for Consultations with legal counsel: At 5:45 p.m. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(E). Vote 5-0-0.** At 6:31, **Kathy Martin Savage moved to exit the executive session. Vote 5-0-0.** No action was taken.

b. Executive Session to consider a Poverty Abatement Application: At 6:31 **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to enter executive session pursuant to the provisions of Title 36, §841(2) MRSA, to consider a request for abatement of taxes for reasons of poverty. Vote 5-0-0.** At 6:38 **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to exit executive session. Vote 5-0-0.** **Kim Andersson moved to deny the poverty abatement. Vote 5-0-0.**

14. Adjournment

At 6:39 p.m. **Kim Andersson moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**