

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021  
VIA ZOOM

Present: Kim Andersson, Pam Dunning, Terry Heller, Vice Chair Dusty Jones, Chair Sarah Whitfield and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

Chair Sarah Whitfield called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance (omitted)

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kim Andersson moved to approve the payroll warrant of September 3, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrant of September 7, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Dusty Jones moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations and Awards – None

5. Committee Appointments

**Kim Andersson moved to appoint Evan Goodkowsky, Marty Fox and Carla Dickstein to the Broadband Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

a. General Assistance Ordinance/Adoption of January 2021-2022 Appendices A-H: The public hearing was delayed until corrected information is received from the State.

7. Public Comment

Peter Wells, co-chair of the Schoonerfest Committee, said the first Schoonerfest was a success, and he thanked the committee, volunteers, Wiscasset Parks Department, Public Works Department, Town Manager, Chief Hesselstine, National Guard and others who had helped. He said the organization had raised sufficient funds that none will be requested from the Town. Dennis Simmons congratulated Wells on a successful event.

8. Department head or committee chair - none

## 9. Unfinished Business

a. 467 Lowelltown Road cleanup funding: Dennis Simmons said that although the cleanup was a Code Enforcement issue, there were insufficient funds in that account, and he asked the board to approve taking the \$8,800 from contingency as the cost was an unanticipated expense. **Terry Heller moved to take \$8,800 from the Contingency Fund. Vote 5-0-0.**

## 10. New Business

a. Bid Opening – Winter Sand: One bid was received from Nathan Northrup for \$14.75 per cubic yard delivered or \$6.50 per cubic yard picked up. **Terry Heller moved to authorize the Town Manager and the Public Works Director to review the bid and award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. FY'22 Tax Commitment: Dennis Simmons said that there would be no increase in taxes this year partly because of the Central Maine Power \$11 million added taxable value plus funds from the State Revenue Sharing. In response to Dusty Jones' question, Simmons said he would ask the assessor about the difference between the maximum and minimum tax rate on the tax rate calculation form. Simmons said the mill rate of \$20.12 would remain the same as last year with an overlay of \$44,316. The mill rate could be reduced to \$20.08, carrying over \$18,000 from last year together with the \$25,000 already budgeted for the overlay. The board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the two possible tax rates. Dennis Simmons said that with the inflation rate and projected increase in salaries, it is possible the mill rate will have to be raised next year. A motion to keep the mill rate at \$20.12 as recommended by the assessor failed. **Kim Andersson moved to set the mill rate at \$20.08. Vote 4-1-0 (Dunning opposed).**

c. New Business License: Kevin D. Ballard, DBA KDB Drywall & Home Improvements, 167 Bath Road. **Dusty Jones moved to approve the new business license for Kevin D. Ballard DBA KDB Drywall and Home Improvements, 167 Bath Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

## 11. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons reported that the Maine DEP has notified the Town of several wells that are above the drinking water standards for safe levels of PFAS, the source likely being the old landfill. Two wells are on Town property and the Town is already supplying bottled water to those sites. The DEP informed the Town that it is obligated to install filter systems on the two private wells and to provide bottled water until the filter systems are installed. The State will reimburse the Town for 90% of the costs.

The State has ordered all healthcare workers to be vaccinated. Nearly all of the Wiscasset EMS providers have been vaccinated so a disruption in service is unlikely.

Simmons has received a draft lease from Cynergy which is being reviewed by legal counsel.

There has been no progress on the Wawenock Block building. The owner anticipates movement by the insurance company soon but is unable to give a timetable as yet for repair of the building.

The State has opened the portal for non-entitlement municipalities to apply for their first allotment of ARPA funds. Wiscasset will receive a total of \$397,432.26, half soon and the other half in 2022.

Debra Vigue has been hired as a temp for Molly while she is out on leave. Debra has recently retired from doing payables for the Town of Winthrop and is familiar with the TRIO system. She will work Monday and Tuesday each week for three months.

Simmons has been updating the Town's personnel policy and after review by Kathy and the Town's attorney, it will be forwarded to the board for discussion and approval.

### 12. Other Board Business

Sarah Whitfield asked the board's opinion on continuing to meet via zoom or finding an alternative meeting place until the numbers of new Covid cases decrease. Pam Dunning, Kim Andersson and Terry Heller indicated they would prefer to meet via zoom. Dusty Jones said the board's policy calls for the board to meet in person except in case of emergency, and he suggested that the board find a place to shift the meeting when necessary. Asked whether declaring an emergency would cover the board meeting other than in person, Simmons said the board has the right to declare an emergency under the current pandemic although there is no case law on the subject. **Pam Dunning moved that the board of selectmen declare this an emergency situation due to the rise of covid in the state of Maine and that we continue meeting via zoom until the covid situation is under control. Vote 5-0-0.**

Dusty Jones outlined the procedure for discussion of agenda items as given in Chapter 25 of the Rules of Order and Procedure: Before any motion is made, the sponsor of the agenda item or the Town Manager will have an opportunity to speak and questions and answers are allowed to clarify, if necessary, but there is no debate. Following a motion and second, the board may debate the item before a vote is taken. Jones referred the board to Chapter 27 and the list of motions that may be made while a motion is on the floor.

At 7:02 p.m. **Dusty Jones moved to enter executive session pursuant to a 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A). Vote 5-0-0. Kim Andersson moved to exit executive session at 7:31 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

### 13. Adjournment

**Terry Heller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**