

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MINUTES, OCTOBER 5, 2021  
6 p.m. 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 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Terry Heller moved to approve the payroll warrants of September 24 and October 1, 2021. Vote 4-0-1 (Andersson abstained).**

b. **Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of September 28 and October 5, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of September 21, 2021, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

a. **Kim Andersson moved to appoint Debra Pooler to the Future of Wiscasset Schools Ad Hoc Committee (teacher/admin). Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Pam Dunning moved to appoint Robert Jones to the Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

a. Special Amusement Permit, Cecilio Juntura, DBA Taste of Orient, 306 Bath Road: **Pam Dunning moved to enter the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** In response to Pam Dunning's question regarding the Fire Department's concern about exceeding the occupancy for the venue, Dennis Simmons said the benefit for Matthew Bruce would be both inside and outside and he will share his concerns with Mr. Juntura. **Pam Dunning moved to close the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the special amusement permit for Cecilio Juntura, DBA Taste of Orient. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Special Amusement Permit, Vanessa and Richard Jordan, DBA Wiscasset Speedway, LLC, 247 West Alna Road: **Terry Heller moved to open the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved**

**to close the public hearing at 6:11 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Terry Heller moved to approve the special amusement permit for Vanessa and Richard Jordan, DBA Wiscasset Speedway, LLC, 247 West Alna Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair - none

9. Unfinished Business

a. Airport Solar Project Land Lease, MSD Wiscasset, LLC: Simmons said no decision by the board was expected that night because even though the terms have not changed, the document is lengthy. The lease is still \$1,400 per acre for 20 acres. Because of a change of attorneys, the document had been delayed. Terry Heller asked why the project was not on already cleared land along the energy corridor. Chad Chabazi said when they began the project, they looked at locations where they could connect to distribution lines, as they could not connect to the larger transmission lines. In addition, the town does not own the land under the transmission lines; CMP owns some and leases others. He further said they had looked at sites which were not available because of inability to connect to distribution lines. In response to Heller's comment about removing trees, Chabazi said that the airport is in favor of the tree cutting as it helps with runway management and the amount of greenhouse gas offset is the equivalent of replacing 40 acres of trees on an annual basis. In response to Dusty Jones' question, Chabazi said that the solar panels are made out of sand , glass with metal frames, much of which is recyclable. **Pam Dunning moved to table discussion of the lease until the next meeting on October 19. Vote 5-0-0.** Whitfield suggested that board members send any specific questions to her to be forwarded to Chad Chabazi.

10. New Business

a. Sewer Abatements: Stuart Wyman, 277 Gardiner Road. Rob Lalli, WWTP manager, had provided documentation for the abatement. – **Pam Dunning moved to approve the sewer abatement for Stuart Wyman. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. New Business License: Eric McIntyre, DBA Village Handcraft, LLC, 52 Water Street – **Pam Dunning moved to approve the new business license for Eric McIntyre, DBA Village Handcraft, LLC, 52 Water Street. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Town Manager's Vacation (October 8 – 19): **Terry Heller moved to approve the Town Manager's vacation from October 8 to 19. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds: Dennis Simmons said the town has received the first allotment of \$198,716.13 of \$397.432 from the American Rescue Plan. He recommended that \$123,500 be used to purchase and install automatic generators at the pump stations. He suggested that the board take action as prices will rise if the decision is postponed until the next budget season. Rob Lalli, WWTP manager, explained the need for the generators. The department currently has four, three of which are portable and used to manually start the generators in blizzards or hurricanes. The new ones would be

permanent and automatic. **Pam Dunning moved that the Town of Wiscasset expend \$123,500 of ARPA funds to complete the generator project at the Wiscasset Wastewater Treatment Plant. Vote 5-0-0.** The use of the balance of the funds will be discussed at a workshop to consider which uses are eligible for the funds. Simmons said premium pay for first responders was an eligible use.

e. Set date for Public Hearing for Special Town Meeting Referendum: **Terry Heller moved to hold a public hearing for the special town meeting referendum on October 19. Vote 5-0-0.** The meeting will be held in person at the Community Center.

f. Request of First Congregational Church for use of the Town Common for blessing of the animals. **Pam Dunning moved to approve the use of the Town Common for the blessing of the animals. Vote 5-0-0.** Sarah Whitfield will inform the church of the approval.

#### 11. Town Manager's Report

Simmons described the staffing problems at the EMS Department which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Because of the mandate that health providers be vaccinated, Wiscasset EMS has lost three providers. Other services in the area are having staffing problems as well. Erin Bean described the staffing issue, the problems with trying to respond to calls and the possible use of a fly car. Simmons described a pilot program using a fly car whereby one provider would be on call at home with a fly car to respond to calls. Maine Yankee has offered to donate \$5,000 toward a fly car which will be equipped with a light bar and siren. The County has a used cruiser which they would sell to WEMS for \$2,000. The extra funds would be used to equip the car. Simmons explained that use of one of the town's cruisers was not possible because a new cruiser has not yet been approved by the voters and it would take months to get it equipped and on the road. No taxpayer funds would be used for the fly car. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the donation from Maine Yankee for a fly car. Vote 5-0-0.**

Dusty Jones asked how much would be required to bring Wiscasset EMS salaries up to standard, Simmons said it would take \$65,000 to cover social security, medicare, raises and retirement.

A workshop was scheduled for October 28 at 6 p.m. A list of acceptable uses for the ARPA funds will be sent to board members before the meeting. Meeting at the community center was suggested if possible.

#### 12. Other Board Business

**Pam Dunning moved to go into 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. Pam Dunning moved to exit executive session at 7:19 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 13. Adjournment

**Pam Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**