

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
DECEMBER 21, 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 6:09 p.m.

1. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the payroll warrants of December 10 and December 17, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Terry Heller moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of December 14 and December 21, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

2. Approval of Minutes

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021, as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Special Presentations or Awards – none

4. Committee Appointments – none

5. Public Hearings – none

6. Public Comment – none

7. Department head or committee chair

Pam Dunning commented on the department heads' excellent jobs.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Net Energy Billing Presentation – Adam Tiff, Titan Energy: Tiff, in his explanation of net energy billing, described the four points: 1. Solar power is generated remotely, 2. Solar power is transferred to the local power grid, 3. The utility company applies credit to the customer's bill, 4. Customer signs an agreement with owner of solar array to receive credits and pay for them at a discount, typically a 20% discount. Tiff said there is no cost to participate but the best discount rate is dependent upon the length of the contract. He recommends municipalities make a long-term commitment for the best discount rate. He advises communities to make sure that the project is far along in development cycle, the parcel is ready to build on, and the developers are financially sound. He recommends the Town solicit requests for proposal and that it be done soon. He added that the only way to lose money is to sign up for more credits than one needs. Town Manager Dennis Simmons said the Town had \$2,000 from Lincoln County Planning for a consultant on the solar issue. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 9. New Business

### a. Monthly Financial Reports

- Department year to date expense/revenue summary
- H.M. Payson State of Account

b. Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan-2021 Update: **Terry Heller moved to adopt the Lincoln County Hazard Mitigation Plan -2021 Update.** Planner Emily Rabbe explained that a new plan would contain a risk assessment, an analysis of past experience and estimate of potential losses. The mitigation list is also updated. The county's adoption of the mitigation plan does not commit the town to fulfill those strategies, but funding may be available for those listed in the plan. **Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Correspondence: A letter was received from the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager thanking the Board and Dennis for the ARPA funds money as well as a letter from Robert Wolf and Robert McDonald, representing the town's two unions, thanking the board for the bonuses.

d. Bid Opening – Fire Department Overhead Door Openers: The following two bids were received:

- PDQ Door \$12,400
- Overhead Door Co. \$ 8,648

Dennis Simmons said the Town had \$10,000 to spend on the door. **Terry Heller moved to authorize the Town Manager and Fire Chief to review the bids and award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Annual Renewal of Check Disbursement Policy: **Pam Dunning moved to renew the Check Disbursement Policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Airport Rescue Grant: **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Airport Rescue Grant No. 3-23-0049-028-2022.** Simmons said the grant may be used for anything in the operation of the airport. **Vote 5-0-0.**

g. Art Gallery Lease: Terry Heller volunteered to work with the Town Manager on the lease which will be brought back for the board's approval.

g. James Weldon Johnson future discussion: Meadow Dibble, Director of Community Engaged Research with the permanent commission on the status of racial, indigenous and tribal populations was present and spoke on the act which established a James Weldon Johnson memorial and on the opportunities it presented for Wiscasset. The board discussed the status of the planned memorial plaque and future board action. Sarah Whitfield said the last vote on the matter was that Lucia Droby would work with the Town Manager to come up with a design of the plaque and a recommended location. Funds have been raised for the memorial. The chair recommended that the Town Manager and Lucia Droby present the final design and proposed location to the board at a future meeting.

## 10. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons reported that the Optimus TIF application had been submitted to the Department of Economic & Community Development and Optimus will be working with the Code Enforcement Officer to get started with the process for the Planning Board.

Filters have been installed on the two wells by the old landfill which contain PFAS. Total costs were \$20,096 and the Town has requested a 90% reimbursement from the State.

All other matters in the report were discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Other Board Business

None

12. Adjournment

**Kim Andersson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**