



TOWN OF WESTPORT ISLAND
6 Fowles Point Road
Westport Island, ME 04578

Office of the Select Board, Board of Assessors, & Overseers of the Poor

Town of Westport Island
Selectboard, Assessors and Overseers Meeting
Convened at Town Office, 6 Fowles Point Road, Westport Island, ME 04578
January 2, 2023

Present:

Select Board: Jeff Tarbox, Donna Curry, and Ross Norton

Citizens: April Thibodeau (Town Clerk), Julie Casson, Jason Kates (EMA Director), Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), Stacey Hutchinson (Fire Chief), E. Davies Allen, Rebeca Dikitanan, and John Henderson

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News)

Meeting Convened: Donna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Business Conducted:

- Appointment and swearing in of new Town Clerk:** Donna motioned to accept April as Town Clerk; Jeff 2nd; Vote: 3-0. Julie Casson, outgoing Town Clerk, swore April in as the new town clerk.
- Municipal Appointments:** Donna welcomed April to the position as clerk and thanked Julie for her service. It was determined that April as Clerk can make the appointments for deputies.
- Warrant:** Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant No. 57 for \$1,740.95, Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0; Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant No. 58 for \$28,246.92; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0.
- Minutes:** Donna motioned to approve the minutes of December 19, 2022, Select Board Meeting, Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0. Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2022, Executive Session, Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0.
- Correspondence:** Jeff shared emails that came in over the holiday:
 - Notice from Land for Maine's Future: The Ferry Landing property report is due. Jeff will take the lead on this.
 - Email from the town attorney, James Katsiafikas:
 - The judge in the Baker Road matter has issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting placing obstructions in Baker Road. There was a response from the Greenleafs on 12/28/22 that we have not received yet. This restraining order establishes our right to keep the road clear which is key for snow

plowing season. We will continue to go forward with the court case and establish the property lines for the roadway public easement for the future.

- Atty. Katsiafikas also weighed in on the Longobardi request for a letter of no action for the variance violation. His recommendation is to let the Board of Appeals process go forward and only after the Board of Appeals process is done can the Select Board weigh in on the no action. Jeff will share with the Longobardis that it should go back to the Board of Appeals. Jeff moved that the Board does not issue a letter of no action and to let the issue go back through the Board of Appeals; Donna, 2nd, vote: 3-0.
- Bill from Wiscasset Recreation Center with the charges for next year.
- Notice that the Community Resilience grant deadline has been pushed back giving us extra time to submit grant proposals. Dennis Dunbar is working on it.

7. Citizen's Issues

- Stacy Hutchinson notified the board that he has 3 new Fire Dept. members that need to be sent to the Fire Academy. The tuition is \$1000 each. The town has a warrant item from the last Town Meeting that puts \$1000 towards EMS training, but no one needs EMS training this year. Can that amount be put towards the Fire Academy instead? Donna will check with Martha.
- Davies Allen proposed providing a small amount of sand to Westport Island residents. He offered \$500 towards the construction of a sand shed next to the existing salt shed, and Jim Cromwell offered to donate his labor to build the shed. It was agreed the shed should be constructed in such a way that only buckets could be filled, not trucks, to prevent misuse. Jeff shared concerns about the logistics, such as who would fill the sand shed. Julie mentioned that the town should check with MMA regarding insurance. Donna will check with the MMA regarding insurance, and then Davies and Jim can form a Committee to discuss next steps.
- Davies Allen brought up the large Elm tree south of Randy Russell's house on Main Rd. and his concerns about the damage it could cause if it came down. CMP has not responded to inquiries. Donna mentioned that hazard trees and who bears the responsibility for removal is an open question and comes up often. Donna will check with the MMA and the DOT about this specific issue and the issue of hazard trees in general.

8. Roads

- \$450.00 invoice from Squam Creek Tree Service for removal of tree leaning over Willis Point Road: Donna motioned to pay Squam Creek Tree Service; Jeff 2nd; vote 2-0. Ross was asked by Davies for an explanation of why he did not vote for the motion. Ross said it was because he wasn't informed of the decision to remove the tree by the rest of the Select Board. Jim Cromwell said it was his decision as Road Commissioner to remove the tree, and asked Donna to make the phone calls. It was agreed that it is okay for Jim Cromwell to make the decisions regarding hazard tree removals and the Select Board does not need to be involved in those decisions. April, speaking as owner of Squam Creek Tree Service, asked for clarification on the process of submitting bills. Julie said that Jim Cromwell should inform Martha of the bill, and then it is okay to submit.
- Jason Kates mentioned a general need to keep track of tree disposal during storm clean up in case we need reimbursement from the state. In general, we need to keep good records during official state recognized storms to ask for reimbursement.

9. Administrative Items:

- Donna shared that multiple people have applied for tax abatement under the Senior Property Tax Abatement Act. There are a few who probably don't qualify. Since this is a tax matter, it was agreed that the Board of Assessors should handle looking into this and notifying applicants, giving a reason for any denials. Ross will check in with Martha and take the lead.
- Jeff mentioned that the agency requests for funding have begun to come in. He is willing to take responsibility for handling these requests.

10. Other Legal Business

- Jeff shared that the town received an email concerning the plowing of River Rd. It is a private road. The residents believe it was plowed without their permission and they have contacted the Sheriff. The homeowners are working to figure out an amicable solution. It was agreed that the town should not get further involved.
- Jeff shared that two certified letters were sent out
 - To Doug Davis. The town has not received confirmation that it was delivered or a reply from Davis. The letter was regarding a building code violation, and notification to take action to rectify.
 - To G&D Cromwell. This letter was delivered and is a notification not to use the Haskell Road turnaround anymore. There are driveways they can use as turnarounds.
 - Donna mentioned that there was an arson on the island, involving John Wallace's camper.
 - Donna reviewed the remaining meeting dates for the month of January: 9th, 23rd, 30th (not 16th)

11. Adjournment: Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Town Clerk April Thibodeau.

A True Copy, Attest: _____