



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
Select Board, Assessors and Overseers Meeting
Convened at Town Office, 6 Fowles Point Road, Westport Island, ME 04578
January 9, 2023

Present:

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

Citizens: Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner),

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News)

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

Business Conducted:

1. **Appointment of new Registrar of Voters, and reappointments of Municipal staff following new Town Clerk appointment:**
 - a. Donna motioned to appoint April Thibodeau as Registrar of Voters; Jeff 2nd; Vote: 3-0.
 - b. Donna motioned to appoint April to serve as Public Access Officer; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0
 - c. Donna motioned to appoint Gaye Wagner to serve as Archivist; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0
 - d. Donna motioned to appoint Julie Casson as a Deputy Town Clerk; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0
 - e. Donna motioned to appoint Dedee Greenleaf Hodgdon as a Deputy Town Clerk; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0
 - f. Donna motioned to appoint Martha Hayward as a Deputy Town Clerk; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0.
2. **Warrants:**
 - a. Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant No. 54 for \$1,969.98, Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0;
 - b. Donna motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No. 55 for \$31,465.50; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0.
 - c. Donna motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No. 56 for 3,066.71; Jeff 2nd, Vote 2-0 (1 abstention)
 - d. Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant No 59 for 1,740.95; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0
 - e. Donna motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No 60 for %39,407.11; Jeff 2nd, Vote 3-0
3. **Minutes:** Donna motioned to approve the minutes of January 2, 2023, Select Board Meeting, Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0 (1 abstention)
4. **Correspondence:**
 - a. Donna reported on correspondence with Mary Ellen Barnes of the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC) regarding the report they commissioned by Ransom Consulting. The report is the assessment of the property that includes the former town dump with the idea of using the property to host a fire-fighting water cistern. The assessment addressed the concern for the town's potential liability from the potentially contaminated site. The Board decided to ask Mary Ellen and a representative from the study's consulting firm to come to the Jan 23 Select Board meeting, to explain the findings. The public will be informed, especially Bob Mooney, who has advocated for the cisterns, and Stacey Hutchinson, Fire Chief.

- b. Jeff reported that he has submitted the 2022 Land for Maine's Future report for the Ferry Landing property, an annual requirement of the grant the Town received to purchase and prepare Wright Landing. The next report is scheduled for the summer of 2023.
- c. Donna mentioned the LCRPC is planning a meeting for Planning Boards next week.
- d. Donna mentioned that the town had received a communication from the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) regarding updating the annual risk assessment for the Town's insurance. The risk assessment will be done by Martha Hayward.
- e. Donna moved that the town accept and pay the invoice from the Town attorneys for \$140, for work done in December. Jeff 2nd Vote 3-0

5. Citizens Issues: None

6. Roads:

- a. Donna reported on her communications with the Maine DoT regarding removing the dead elm tree near the Rt 144 right of way on property owned by Norm Sherman. The Maine DoT is not likely to take proactive action. We decided that we will discuss the situation with the property owner. Jeff will contact him.
- b. The culvert under Anchor Way, a private road, was discussed, because a resident there complained that they were getting water into their basement because it wasn't draining well enough. Jim Cromwell will talk to the resident, but the belief was that it was not the Town's issue to fix.
- c. Ross reported that G&D Cromwell would like to have more salt ordered. He will take care of making the order, the 2nd of the 3 required shipments the town needs to take per our salt contract bid.
- d. Preparation of the proposed contract for the Phase 2 paving work will begin. Jim Cromwell will work on the specs and plans to have them ready for the February Road Committee meeting.
- e. Jim said that he plans to schedule the Road Committee meeting in the 2nd week of February

7. Administrative Items:

- a. Jeff suggested having a workshop meeting of the Select Board to start organizing and cleaning out the Select Board files. Decision to notice a meeting for Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 3 PM.
- b. Jeff suggested starting Select Board meetings at 6 PM, as working or workshop time, and then go into the regular meeting to make decisions at 7 PM. The Board will try the idea for the meeting on the 23rd, with a focus on the outstanding work of the Board of Assessors.

8. Other Legal Business

- a. Jeff distributed copies of the Temporary Restraining Order from the Baker Road court action
- b. Jeff reported that the Broadband Committee requested that the Town submit a letter of support for a Consolidated Communications application to the Maine Connectivity Authority for a Connect the Ready Grant. Consolidated's Fidium Fiber service proposes to install fiber optic cable service to their customer's premises. The Town would not have to pay anything should Consolidated win the grant, though applications where the Town provides a matching contribution score higher. Jeff moved the Select Board approve and sign the letter provided by the Broadband Committee. Donna 2nd, Vote 3-0.
- c. Jeff Reviewed the preliminary findings from a study of Housing commissioned by the LCRPC. The document is available for review. Among the noteworthy findings for Westport Island:
 - Westport's Median age is 51.7, and only 11% of residents are 18 years of age or younger.
 - Westport's Median income is \$71,979, versus a Maine state median of \$59,489
 - 33% of Westport's residences are seasonal, 57% are owner-occupied, and only 8% are rental
 - The median value of Westport Island's residences is \$239,400, the state average is \$198,000

11. Adjournment: Donna motioned to adjourn: Jeff 2nd; vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Jeff Tarbox, Select Board Member

A True Copy, Attest:

