



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
March 6, 2023

Present:

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

Citizens: Richard Devries, Dennis Dunbar, Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), Dick Tucker, Neil Stanton, April Thibodeau (Town Clerk)

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News), Doug Fowler (All States Rep), Vaughn Stevens (Hagar Rep)

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

Business Conducted:

1. Paving Bids

- All States: Option A: \$260,897.95; Option B: \$278,787.25; Hot mix price/ton: \$115/\$119
- Crooker: Option A: \$259,807.95; Option B 286,275.75; Hot mix price/ton: \$110
- Hagar: Option A: \$208,857.50; Option B \$282,167.50; Hot mix price/ton: \$128
- Jeff moved to table this matter until the next Select Board meeting and discuss at the upcoming Select Board Workshops; Donna 2nd; Vote 2-0, Ross abstaining. Ross will recuse himself from voting on this matter due to employment with Hagar. The Select Board will announce their decision at the 3/13/23 meeting.

2. Warrants:

- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant No. 75 for \$2,242.30; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0, Ross abstaining.
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant No. 76 for \$18,663.59; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0; Ross abstaining.
- Donna motioned to approve the Warrant 77 for bank for loan for Segerstrom Preserve; \$7,868.47; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-0; Ross abstaining.

3. Minutes: Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 2/27/23 Select Board Meeting; Jeff 2nd on condition that wording be adjusted to reflect that the obstructions

in the Baker Rd. matter have been moved more into the road, as opposed to closer to the road; Vote 2-1, Ross opposed.

4. **Committee Reports:**

• **Conservation Commission:**

- Dick Tucker reported that the 3/4/23 informational meeting on the groundwater study had to be cancelled due to weather. They will hold another informational meeting on 3/7/23. The well questionnaire has gone out to residents, and the Conservation Commission is happy to help residents fill it out. It can be filled out online, returned to them in the enclosed envelope, or dropped off at the Town Office.
- Dennis Dunbar reported that he contacted Wright Pierce about the possibility of coming up with an estimate for work on the Post Office Rd./Squam Creek crossing in time to qualify for federal funding. It was agreed that there was not enough time to qualify this year, and instead they would continue with the Community Resiliency grant process and consider applying for a federal grant next year. It will need to be brought up at Town Meeting.

- **Westport Island Community Association:** Donna reported that the Recreation Survey has been posted online to gather information about what kinds of things residents would like to see included in a possible playground.

- **Shellfish Committee:** Neil Stanton reported that the Shellfish Committee is interested in applying for a mini-grant of up to \$5,000.00 to capture green crabs in McCarty Cove. A portion of the grant would be used to hire someone to put in a few hours a week for 8 months to bait and capture the crabs. The deadline for the grant application is 3/10/23. The Select Board agreed to work with Neil to complete the application in time. Jeff motioned to approve the grant application subject to final review; Donna 2nd; Vote 3-0

5. **Correspondence:**

- Donna received a notice from the DOT stating that they will be repainting the Westport Island bridge for 12 weeks sometime between May and November, resulting in one lane traffic over the bridge. They will also be continuing their cleanup of the paint chips that fell off the bridge due to the extreme temperature changes of a few weeks ago. Jeff prepared a press release for the newspapers.
- Donna reported that she received correspondence from RSU #12 indicating there will be a 9.5% increase in tuition.

6. **Citizen's Issues:** None

7. **Roads:** The Select Board commended G&D Cromwell for doing an excellent job keeping the roads clear during the last storm; Jim Cromwell reported that the Road Committee is working on finalizing the snow removal contract. Jeff mentioned that the town needs to take at least one more load of salt per our contract before April. Jim will make sure there's room in the sand/salt shed and do that. Jim will attend the Select Board Workshop on Wednesday to help them review paving bids, weather permitting.

8. **Administrative Items:**

- Report on Election & Town Meeting Prep: April reported that nomination forms are available as of today and due Friday 4/14/23, and absentee ballot applications will be available in mid-March. The Select Board agreed that April should go ahead and ask Chris Cooper of Alna if he is available to moderate the Town Meeting.
 - Town Hall Rental Application: April presented a Town Hall Rental application and proof of insurance from Samantha Hodgdon for the 3/18/23 celebration of the life of Robbie Greenleaf. The Select Board approved the application.
 - Locks update: Jeff reported that the locksmith came in last Friday to change the locks and install deadbolts on the exterior doors. April will oversee inventorying and passing out keys. The invoice for the service came to \$725.55. Donna motioned to approve the invoice; Jeff 2nd; Vote 3-0
 - Donna shared an email from Gaye Wagner requesting permission to contact the Maine State Archive about storing records on 35 mm security film; Donna motioned to approve the request; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-0, Ross opposed. Jeff noted that we will need to have a warrant article for archiving on the Town Warrant for next year.
 - Jeff gave an update on his research into investing the town's excess cash. The bank doesn't want to sell us T-bills. They want us to invest in securities which are collateralized. The interest rate is higher than a T-bill but the bank also charges a fee. It would end up being about a ½ % point higher than T-bills. Ross would like to hear a report from the bank. Donna motioned that the Select Board approve Jeff getting a formal proposal from the bank. Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-0, Ross abstaining.
9. **Other Legal Business:** None
10. **Adjournment:** Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Town Clerk April Thibodeau.

A True Copy, Attest: _____