



**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 20, 2023**

**Present:**

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

**Citizens:** Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), Mary Coventry (School Board), Richard Devries (School Board)

**Guests:** Howard Tuttle (Superintendent, RSU 12), Russell Gates (RSU 12 Finance Committee), Michele Grant (RSU 12 Business Manager)

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

**Business Conducted:**

- 1. Budget Presentation from RSU 12:** Howard Tuttle reviewed a presentation introducing the 2023-2024 Proposed School District Budget
  - Budget priorities are consistent with past years: maintain reasonable class sizes, maintain health and wellness services, support bullying prevention programming, support educator professional development and recruit & retain quality educators, maintain technology infrastructure, continue capital improvements, universal Pre-K, and school choice.
  - Major increases in costs projected, largely outside of the district's control
    - \$589,569 in higher tuition costs, a 9.86% increase.
    - State subsidy will decrease \$165,058 – it usually increases \$300,000/year. Decrease is due to higher property valuations in District towns.
    - Regular controllable costs increasing \$642,440, for staff, energy, transportation, and capital improvements – a 2.2% increase
  - Proposed budget goes from \$25,592,116 in FY2023 to \$26,824,125 in FY2024, an increase of \$1,232,009 or 4.8%. But with state subsidy cut, the funds needing to come from the towns increases from \$13,372,488 to \$14,771,591, an increase of 10.5%
  - Westport Island's assessment will go from \$884,095.09 to \$962,651.76, an increase of 8.9%, with a local cost per student of \$15,781.18.

- The RSU 12 team is continuing to look for opportunities to reduce the increases.

Donna moved to end the regular session at 8:03, Jeff seconded, Vote 3-0

**Executive Session:** Per 1 M.R.S.A § 405(6) (A) for discussion with the town's attorneys on the Baker Road issue

- Donna opened the Executive session at 8:07 PM
- Donna moved to end the session at 8:31 PM, Jeff seconded, 3-0

Donna restarted the regular session at 8:34 PM

**2. Warrant:**

- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant No. 80 for \$1,741.73, Jeff, 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote: 3-0;
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant No. 81 for \$20,336.14; Jeff, 2<sup>nd</sup>; vote: 3-0

**3. Minutes:** Donna motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2023, Select Board Meeting, Jeff, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote: 2-1.

**4. Correspondence:** Building Permit survey from the US Dept of Commerce, referred to Gary Richardson, CEO

**5. Roads:**

- Jim Cromwell reported that he had spoken with the project manager from Crooker and the Phase 2 paving is tentatively scheduled for July. A contract needs to be drafted and signed.
- The Road Committee is meeting this Thursday at the Town Office, 6 PM. The Snow Removal contract for the next three years will be the key topic.

**6. Administrative Items**

- Question of payment for Town Meeting moderator – we pay him much less than the other towns he serves. The Board was comfortable in a moderate increase in compensation
- The Town Office staff, in discussion with the Select Board, have established a policy for Town Office keys
- April Thibodeau is crafting a replacement for the town's website, a link to the initial draft was circulated
- Discussion of the bill for Animal Control Officer expenses from the Sheriff, concern expressed about costs, with a \$3200 budget approved at last year's Town Meeting. There was a dog bite incident. April will be asked to get the particulars.
- Discussion of the Wright Landing house oil tank. Decision to have the furnace serviced by a different oil furnace technician and get their opinion on the need to replace the tank.

- The Select Board meetings on March 27 and April 3 will be workshop meetings with regular meetings resuming April 10. The Wednesday 3-5 PM workshop meetings are cancelled until the week of April 10.

7. **Adjournment:** Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Select Board Member Jeff Tarbox

A True Copy, Attest: \_\_\_\_\_