



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
April 17, 2023

Present:

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

Citizens: Becki Dikitanen, Julie Casson, Bailey Bartlett, Sandy Besecker, David Besecker, Janet Thompson, Art Webber, Ralph Jacobs, Joanna Jacobs, Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), April Thibodeau (Town Clerk),

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News), Susan Johns (Wiscasset News)

Meeting Convened: Donna called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Business Conducted:

1. Warrant:

- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant #89 for \$1,749.01; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #90 for \$13,946.97; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-1 (Ross opposed)
- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant #83 for \$3,087.37: Jeff 2nd: Vote 2-1 (Ross opposed)
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #84 for \$972.73, Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-1 (Ross opposed)
- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant #85 for \$1,737.79; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-1 (Ross opposed)

2. Minutes: Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 4/10/23 Select Board Meeting; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-1 (Ross opposed)

3. Citizen's Issues: Donna shared that the person who first reported the paint chips in the river from the bridge is now reporting that there are paint chips in the suds floating on the river surface. They are concerned about waterfowl and fish since the paint contains lead. Jeff reported that the DOT will be back tomorrow to resume the cleanup effort. The Select Board clarified that there is no cost to the town.

4. **RSU #12 Budget Update:** Donna reported that the RSU #12 budget has been adjusted due to an error at the state level. Our share will be reduced from \$962,651.76 to \$946,567.35, for a savings of \$16,084.41. This is still a large increase over last year.
5. **Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Planning: Roads:** The Select Board plans to address budget planning at each Select Board meeting leading up to the signing of the warrant. At this meeting they will address the Roads portion of the budget. Jeff reviewed the 2023 road budget in detail. We are expected to come in well under budget for 2023. Jim Cromwell offered estimates of expected expenses for 2024 and what should be requested at town meeting. Most line items will remain the same or will require no additional funds due to carryovers, except for snow removal which is expected to be a significant expense. Next week the Board will address capital reserve accounts, then administrative budgets the following meeting, then odds and ends.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Shellfish Committee:** Member Julie Casson reported that they have drafted a new Shellfish Ordinance to go on the Town Warrant with the assistance of DMR and input from the Select Board. The new ordinance is more robust, with more enforcement, and covers more species. In 2024, licensing will begin in July instead of May to line up with the fiscal year. Several 3-day licenses have been added to allow people to try out shellfish harvesting without taking up a yearlong license. There will be a public hearing at an upcoming Select Board meeting to allow public questions and input. April will reach out to current license holders.
 - **Cemetery Committee:** Chair Julie Casson reported that Bailey Bartlett is now co-chair. The Committee will be putting markers and flags on veterans' graves on 5/19/23 with a rain date of 5/22/23. It appears that money from a bequest intended for the Veteran's Flag account ended up in the generic Cemetery Trust Account. The Select Board will work with the Treasurer to straighten this out.
7. **Correspondence:**
 - Donna shared a scope of work proposal from Steve Dyer of Ransom on PFAS mitigation for the former town dump site. This will be discussed more at the next Select Board meeting and the Ransom Report is available at the Town Office for any interested parties.
 - The Board noted a Maine DOT Bridge Inspection Report regarding the East Shore Rd. Bridge. This is something that the DOT does on a regular basis. The bridge does not currently need any repairs.
8. **Administrative Items:**
 - Donna motioned to approve of Becky Cromwell's application to rent the Town Hall; Jeff 2nd; Vote 3-0
 - Spirit of America award nominations due June 30. April will share past recipients with the Select Board. The public is encouraged to make suggestions.
 - Town Website .gov domain: The Secretary of State is pushing towns to get .gov domains for town websites for security reasons. Gaye Wagner has been working on this and would like to send the official letter requesting a .gov domain. The Select Board agreed she should do that.

- Town Zoom Account: The Select Board is currently using Jeff’s Zoom account for Select Board meetings. The Board is interested in purchasing a town Zoom account. This would be a “Pro” level plan at \$149.99 annually. We may also need to purchase an additional account for sharing with Committees. The Select Board will discuss further before voting on this at a later meeting.
 - Update on electronic sign: Ross and Gaye looked at the site and Ross measured the distance to the nearest pole. Donna and Gaye met with Northern Signs and received an estimate for \$16,000. That does not include any expenses associated with CMP adding poles or running a line, or for an electrician. The Board is looking for someone who can do the drilling of both the holes for installing the sign, and the ditch to run the power line. The next step will be to contact CMP about their requirements.
9. **Other Legal Business:**
- Jeff motioned to make a policy that the WCA can store materials at the Town Hall: Donna 2nd; Vote 3-0
 - License for DaSilva pier: There was a pier permit hearing on 4/13/23 on site for 13 Lois Lane. The Select Board found no issues with the application and voted to approve the license.
10. **Adjournment:** Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Town Clerk April Thibodeau.

A True Copy, Attest: _____