



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
May 1, 2023

Present:

Select Board: Jeff Tarbox, Donna Curry

Citizens: Julie Casson, Richard Devries, Dennis Dunbar, Lisa Jonassen, Ted Christie, Dana Faulkingham, Bailey Bartlett, Pat Smith, Ralph 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 7:00 pm

Business Conducted:

1. Warrant:

- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant No. 94 for \$2,003.14; Jeff, 2nd, vote: 2-0
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant No. 95 for \$11,215.54; Jeff, 2nd, vote: 2-0

2. Minutes:

- Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 4/24/23 Select Board Meeting, Jeff, 2nd, vote: 2-0

3. Citizen's Issues:

- Dennis Dunbar requested that the Select Board give CAI permission to release our tax map data to State agencies. This will allow those agencies and private companies to use the data for useful applications. Donna motioned to authorize CAI to share our data with State agencies; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-0. Donna will email CAI.
- Richard Devries asked permission to get 3 bids for replacing the roof on the Wright House. Donna motioned to approve the Wright House Committee seeking 3 bids for replacing the roof on the Wright House and bringing those bids back to the Select Board for consideration; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-0.

- Donna shared that a resident had requested permission to repair the basketball hoop and court at the Old Town Hall. Donna motioned to allow this; Jeff 2nd; vote 2-0.
4. **Committee Reports: Harbor Committee & Harbor Master Report:** Harbor Committee Chair Dana Faulkingham reported that the Harbor Committee last year prepared an updated Waterways and Harbor Ordinance that was approved at the June 2022 Town Meeting. They are happy with the result and their main concern is that Harbor Master Ted Christie is being reimbursed from the mooring fees as the ordinance intends. Harbor Master Ted Christie reported that all is going well with the new mooring system. There was some discussion of an ordinance for a public mooring area off the Wright House landing. It is not clear if that ordinance was ever enacted. April will research this.
 5. **Budget Review: Administrative Budget:** Jeff gave a thorough overview of the town's administrative budget. Most items the town underspent or spent close to the amount allocated. A few items will need a larger budget. Overall, the warrant request for the administrative budget will go up slightly. The fees for the Wiscasset Transfer Station, the RSU#12 share, and County taxes are all out of our control and will go up this year. There was discussion around better compensating town staff to remain competitive with surrounding towns. This could include larger annual raises from the current 1.75% and/or offering a health benefits package.
 6. **Roads:**
 - Road Commissioner Jim Cromwell reported on the damage done by the large amount of rainfall over the last few days. A culvert on Post Office Rd. backed up and has made the road temporarily impassible. Several culverts elsewhere could not keep up with the rainfall.
 - Jeff asked if there was a way to let people know when there's a serious problem, such as the Post Office Rd. washout. Julie Casson suggested that Jim let April know so that she can share on Facebook and via the email list. Julie also mentioned that residents can sign up for the Code Red texting program to get emergency texts. April will share the sign-up link in the next newsletter
 - Jeff reported that the DOT will be back this week to continue their cleanup of paint chips in the river from the bridge.
 7. **Correspondence:** None
 8. **Administrative Items:**
 - Town Clerk April Thibodeau made a request to raise the election worker pay rate from previous state minimum wage of \$12.75 to new 2023 state minimum wage of \$13.80. Jeff motioned to approve; Donna 2nd; Vote 2-0
 - April reported that the RSU#12 budget referendum meeting has been posted and will be on 5/24 in Chelsea. Absentee voting will begin 5/16.
 9. **Other Legal Business:**
 - Ralph Jacobs brought up a concern that the town would be taking on liability by acquiring the old town dump property. Jeff shared that Ransom, Inc. has advised that the town will be liable whether we own the property or not, and it would be better for the town to own it and control how it is used. Jeff will ask for confirmation of that from our town attorney.

- Jeff will also ask the town attorney about expected legal expenses for the Baker Rd. matter.
 - Jeff will ask DOT engineer to do a traffic study of Main Rd. for speed control.
- 10. Adjournment:** Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; vote 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Town Clerk April Thibodeau.

A True Copy, Attest: _____