



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 22, 2023

Present:

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

Citizens: Becki Dikitanan, Demi Martinez, Ivan Wiles, James Wiles, Julie Casson, Richard Devries, Dale Reno (DAR Construction), Evan Holbrook (Holbrook Excavating, Inc.), Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), April Thibodeau (Town Clerk)

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News)

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

Business Conducted:

1. Snow Removal Contract approval: Donna thanked the 4 bidders for their bids, and Jim Cromwell for his work on reviewing the bids. Donna clarified that the Chesterfield bid was only for 1 year and was meant as a contingency plan in case there weren't other bids and was therefore ruled out, and also that the company Jim works for did not submit a bid. Ross asked if all the equipment was dedicated to Westport. Dale reported that some would be, and others cycled in. Evan said the same. Donna motioned that the Select Board award the contract to Dale Reno because of the lower price/mile; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-1 (Ross opposed). Donna noted that this decision will need to be ratified by the voters at the Town Meeting.
2. **Warrant:**
 - Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant #101 for \$1,737.79; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0 (Ross abstaining)
 - Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #100 for \$8,630.21; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0 (Ross abstaining)
3. **Minutes:**
 - Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 5/15/22 Select Board Meeting, Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0 (Ross abstaining)
4. **Committee Reports:** Julie Casson Reported that the Cemetery Committee had a successful Memorial Day flag placing. They also did an inventory of markers and found that some markers had the wrong campaigns. The Cemetery Committee will replace those and also buy markers for more recent campaigns.

5. Correspondence: None
6. Citizen's Issues
 - Wolf sighting: Donna reported that a resident has recorded what appears to be a wolf on their game camera. Julie reported that a dog at a nearby household was attacked badly.
 - Demi Martinez and Richard Devries reported on their attempts to organize a candidate forum, and asked if the town would be interested in hosting. Donna responded that the municipal government would not be the right entity to host, but recommended they seek out a community organization to host, and to talk to the other candidates to make sure they are interested. The town may be willing to help promote the event if all the candidates are willing to attend.
7. Roads
 - Jim Cromwell asked the Select Board for clarification on their policy regarding street signs for private roads. Ross reported that previously the town paid for some private road signs as part of the E-911 program. Jeff will reach out to the MMA for advice and get back to Jim.
 - Jim reported a complaint about a tree leaning over Willis Point Rd.
 - Richard Devries asked if there were plans to have the state grade sand off the edge of Main Rd. Jim will follow up with the DOT.
8. Administrative Items
 - Donna motioned to form a Westport Woodchucks Volunteer Firewood Brigade to harvest and cut and split wood for needy neighbors. Jeff 2nd; Vote 3-0. Donna will put out the call for volunteers.
 - Donna asked Ross if he got denial letters out on the Senior Property Tax Abatement program. Ross responded that he has not, and is waiting on more information from town assessor Evan Goodkowsky.
 - April reported that she received an application for a liquor license from a catering company that would be hosting an event at the Tarbox Inn. Julie reported that the Inn usually covers caterers with their liquor license and recommended April reach out to the Inn.
 - The town's accounting software company, Harris, has flagged the need to back up files and that they provide a service to do that. Burgess usually handles this for the town, but it's not clear if Burgess backups are capturing those software files. The Select Board will investigate to make sure files are being backed up.
 - Leash law: Donna reported that dog waste in public areas is becoming a problem, especially at the Town Office and Ferry Landing. Donna motioned that on public property dogs need to be leashed and people must clean up after their animals; Jeff 2nd; Vote 2-0 (Ross abstain).
9. Other Legal Business
 - Jeff reported that he reached out to the DA about bringing a criminal charge for the further encroachments on Main Rd. by Albert Greenleaf. The DA recommended using the trespassing statute. The town attorney did not foresee any impact on the civil case; Jeff motioned to seek enforcement from the Sheriff; Ross 2nd; vote 3-0

10. Discussion of FY24 budget and Town Meeting warrant: Jeff led an overview of the budget.

11. Adjournment: Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Minutes taken and prepared by Town Clerk April Thibodeau.

A True Copy, Attest: _____