



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
August 21, 2023

Present:

Select Board: Jeff Tarbox, Donna Curry, and Lisa Jonassen

Citizens: Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), Adam Webber, Gary Webber

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

Business Conducted:

1. Warrants:

- Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #20 for \$1,887.54; 2nd Lisa; Vote: 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #21 for \$134,309.28; 2nd Jeff; Vote: 3-0

2. Minutes:

- Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 8/14/23 Select Board Meeting; 2nd Lisa; Vote: 3-0

3. Citizen's Issues:

- There have been several complaints and inquiries regarding dogs running loose on the island. When there is a concern, residents should call Lincoln County Animal Control 207-882-7332. The information is on the town's website under Government- Appointed Officials.

4. Roads:

- Jim is finalizing the specs for the bid to go out for Bayshore Road. There are four culverts that need replacing as well as other work to address long-time issues. He also explained that he was out on Sunday (8/20) making sure the roads were safe for the road race event. The Heal Cove causeway is especially bad and continues to cause problems, with sections of the road caving in and Jim filling in the holes as best he can. A stop gap plan may have to be put in place next year to stabilize

the area while the town is waiting for grant money to completely rebuild the causeway.

5. Status of Assessing and Preparation for 2023 Commitment

- The town assessing agent, Evan Goodkowsky, has finalized assessments and personal property tax and is recommending a 25% factoring to bring the town assessments to 100% per the state's valuation of the town. This ensures the town will be reimbursed fully by the state for programs such as Homestead and Veterans' exemptions. The state, in the last few years, has increased the assessed property values of Westport Island by as much as 20,000,000 a year.
- The town will be conducting a full revaluation in 2025 to bring all home assessments to current market value. Tax bills are expected to go out in early September.
- The town received a letter from the State explaining that last year the Town's commitment reflected an incorrect certified ratio (town versus state valuation) of 100%. The Select Board will be working closely with Evan to ameliorate this situation and better understand what went wrong.

6. Correspondence:

- The finalizing of the acquisition of the town dump property is moving along.
- Donna was in touch with DEP regarding safety measures to be taken on the dump property (e.g. fencing). The DEP does not feel any such measures are necessary. Ransom Engineering (the consulting firm used to assess the dump property) has been bought out by another company, Sevee & Maher. The staff that worked on the dump property has moved along to the new company and we will be contacting them regarding the testing of the wells of properties abutting the dump. This will be reimbursable by the state for 75% of cost.

7. Administrative Items:

- Donna made a motion to appoint Barbara Cray to the Board of Appeals; 2nd Jeff; Vote: 3-0. Discussion on possible candidates for the second opening ensued. Carl Skidmore and came up as a possibility. Donna will contact Carl to see if he is willing.
- A policy for security and key disbursement has been initiated by April. Jeff had some amendments he wanted so the policy was tabled for next meeting.
- The town needs a formal procurement policy in order to receive FEMA reimbursement. April has begun work on this.

8. Other:

- Jeff shared that he and Ashley attended a two day class on Government Accounting. They both found the seminar to be very informative and helpful.
- Gary Webber asked if the Select Board had made any progress on finding out why the stipend for the town constable has gone down since 20+ years ago. The board said they had not and welcomed Gary to come to the office and do some research on the subject.

9. Adjournment:

- Donna motioned to adjourn; 2nd Lisa; Vote: 3-0 Meeting adjourned 7:52 pm.

Jeff had forgotten an item for board approval and Donna reopened the meeting at 7:55. Donna motioned to approve the rental of the Town Hall by the Westport Island Democrats for their Labor Day Picnic. 2nd Lisa; Vote: 2-0 (Jeff abstained)

- Donna motioned to adjourn; 2nd Jeff; Vote: 3-0. Meeting adjourned 7:56 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Lisa Jonassen,

A True Copy, Attest: _____