



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
Sept. 1, 2023

Present:

Board of Assessors: Jeff Tarbox, Donna Curry, Lisa Jonassen

Board of Assessors Meeting Convened: Jeff called the meeting to order at
4:00 PM

Business Conducted: Municipal Tax Assessment Warrant for 2023

1. Jeff reviewed the work that has been done the past week to complete the commitment calculations.
 - a. Ashley Murray, the town Treasurer/Tax Collector, with assistance from Evan Goodkowsky, the town Assessor's Agent, prepared the Commitment based on the factoring upward of real property valuations by 22%, as approved by the Board of Assessors on Monday the 28th. This factoring will ensure that the town's overall valuation is at a 100% ratio with the valuation determination made by the State. Without the factoring the town's certified ratio would be closer to 80%, which would result in, among other things, taxpayers with Homestead exemptions losing some of the \$25,000 exemption and thus would likely pay more in taxes.
 - b. Adding together the County Tax, Education Appropriation, and the Municipal appropriation produced a total required to be raised of \$2,304,457.51.
 - c. With deductions from other revenue sources defraying the amount to be raised from property taxes, the Net Assessment for Commitment is \$1,879,311.15. This a reduction of \$50,354.79 from 2022, which was \$1,929,665.94
 - d. Nevertheless, Ashley found that some property owners were going to have a small increase in their taxes, even though the overall tax bill was down. It appears that increasing the value of property by 22%, without increasing exemptions, resulted in a slight increase in net property tax for a few taxpayers.
2. Complicating the Commitment process this year was the Senior Tax Stabilization Program, which froze 2023 taxes at the 2022 rate for eligible taxpayers 65 and over. It was hoped that with 2023 taxes reduced below 2022 there would be no need to do anything special for the 107 participants in this program. However, Ashley found

about 12 people whose taxes needed to be frozen at the 2022 levels and that was done.

3. Jeff moved a Net Assessment for Commitment of \$1,879,331.15. Lisa 2nd, vote was 3-0 in favor. The members of the Board of Assessors signed the Commitment book.
4. Jeff motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 PM, Donna 2nd, vote 3-0

Minutes taken and prepared by Jeff Tarbox

A True Copy, Attest: _____