



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
October 30, 2023

Present:

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

Citizens: Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), April Thibodeau (Town Clerk), Brian Mackie, John Henderson

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News)

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

Business Conducted:

1. Warrants:

- Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #43 for \$1,907.06; Lisa 2nd;
Vote: 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #44 for \$19,205.98;
Jeff 2nd; Vote: 3-0

2. Minutes:

- Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 10/23/23 Select Board Meeting;
Lisa 2nd; Vote: 3-0

3. Citizen's Issues: None

4. Roads: Jim Cromwell reported that he replaced 3 culverts on Bayshore Rd. And ditched a few areas. He has been in touch with the DOT about problematic trees near Main Rd. They said they would have a tree crew in the area this fall. Jim trimmed some trees on North End and Sortwell roads to ensure there was space for snowplows. He also drove the snow removal contractor, Dale Reno, around the island to show him the roads. The Bayshore Road sign is missing, and the post is bent. Jim will replace it and put it across the road where it is less likely to be hit by snowplows. There is now sand in the public sand shed. Donna noted that the Select Board and staff would need to come up with a process for how to allow residents to access the sand.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Administrative Items:

- Donna received an email from Shellfish Committee Chair Lincoln Richardson reporting that Julie Casson has resigned from the Shellfish Committee and requesting that the Select Board appoint Kevin McMahon to the Committee. Donna motioned to approve the appointment of Kevin McMahon to the Shellfish Committee; Jeff 2nd; Vote 3-0.
- The Shellfish Committee is seeking approval to seed McCarty Cove. Donna motioned to approve; Lisa 2nd; Vote 3-0.
- April reported that Carolyn Shafer is traveling and will be unable to be Warden for the November 7, 2023 Referendum Election as she has been for the last few elections. April would like to appoint Joan Mason-Bradford as Warden, since Joan served as Deputy Warden at the last election, and requests the Select Board's approval of that selection as required by state law. Donna motioned to approve April's choice of Joan Mason-Bradford as Warden; Jeff 2nd; Vote 3-0.
- Lisa would like to attend an upcoming MMA webinar on assessing and asked about how to sign up. April told her she can sign up herself through the MMA website and indicate that the town will cover the cost.
- Jeff reported that he spoke to Woolwich Select Board member Dave King regarding property revaluations. He learned that assessing firms usually offer a range of options for revaluations ranging from very thorough physical site visits to desk revaluations using online records, and many variations in between. He also learned that Woolwich's assessor regularly performed property sales analyses that guided how their town factored valuations – they didn't use the same increase across-the-board approach we did this year to get property valuations to be 100% with the state. Jeff also spoke with Justin Poirier, Town Manager of Monmouth, who is an expert in property valuations (and suggested as a resource by the Maine Municipal Association). His opinion is that it is probably too late for Westport Island to find an assessing firm to do a revaluation for 2025 and advised we plan for 2026. He also advised that the Select Board interview the finalist firms to make sure we find a good fit. The Select Board will work on a Request for Proposals. Jim Cromwell asked how much this revaluation is expected to cost. Jeff responded that it could cost about \$100/property and Westport has around 900 properties, so we can expect in the \$90,000 - \$100,000 range. The town has been setting aside funds for this and the Select Board will continue to request funds be set aside over the next couple of years.

7. Other Legal Business: None

- 8. Adjournment:** Donna motioned to adjourn; Jeff 2nd; Vote: 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by April Thibodeau, Town Clerk

A True Copy, Attest: _____