



**TOWN OF WESTPORT ISLAND**  
**6 Fowles Point Road**  
**Westport Island, ME 04578**

**Office of the Select Board, Board of Assessors, & Board of Overseers**

**Town of Westport Island**  
**Selectboard, Assessors and Overseers Meeting**  
**Convened at Town Office, 6 Fowles Point Road, Westport Island, ME 04578**  
**January 22, 2024**

**Present:**

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

**Citizens:**

Jim Cromwell (Road Commissioner), April Thibodeau (Town Clerk), Ted Christie (Harbor Master), Bob Mooney, Dennis Dunbar (Conservation Commission), Gary Webber, Adam Webber, Mary Coventry (RSU Board of Directors Representative, via Zoom), Richard Devries (RSU 12 Board of Directors Representative)

**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 #66 for \$1,885.96; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote: 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #67 for \$91,723.24; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote: 3-0. Donna explained that this includes a scheduled RSU 12 payment of around \$79,000.
- Donna motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant # 68 for \$1,885.96; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- Donna motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant #69 for \$15,358.07; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0

**2. Minutes:** Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 01/08/24 Select Board Meeting; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote: 3-0

**3. Citizen's Issues:** Donna reported that some residents are having issues getting cable internet from Spectrum. If anyone has trouble getting Spectrum to provide service, let the Broadband and Technology Committee know, or the Select Board.

**4. Committee/Official Reports**

- a. Harbor Master Ted Christie:

- i. Ted reported on the damage from the 1/10 & 1/13 storms: 8 piers destroyed; 4 piers partially damaged; 4 float haul outs destroyed; 1 float destroyed; erosion damage on east side of island.
  - ii. 2023 was the first year using a new mooring renewal system. There are 207 moorings and they received 130 mooring applications. They will continue to try to reach more mooring owners this year.
  - iii. There is an effort underway to find funding for a rescue craft, in cooperation with the WVFD. Donna motioned to encourage Ted and others to pursue grant opportunities for a rescue craft; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0.
- b. Wright Landing Committee Chair Richard Devries:
  - i. Richard reported that they decided to leave the floats in this winter, but the very high tides during the last two storms have made them reconsider. They will pull them out every fall from now on. They will also investigate replacing the chains that hold the floats to the pilings, which are getting rusty.
  - ii. Richard shared that the Committee has a new volunteer: Steve Rowley who is a year-round resident. A current member, Jeff Wheeler, knows how to pull the floats. Steve will help with this in the fall.
  - iii. There was no damage to the Wright House from the water that seeped in under the door during the most recent storm. The town will purchase the sandbags provided by Mike Cromwell.
  - iv. Richard is seeking quotes to replace the Wright House roof.
- c. RSU 12 Board of Directors Members Mary Coventry & Richard Devries:
  - i. Richard reported that there are now cameras on the school buses. April will let people know that in her next newsletter, and also that there are substantial penalties for passing a school bus.
  - ii. Mary reported that there are 56 students on island who attend 16 different schools; 13 go to Wiscasset schools; 26 are bussed including to Edgecomb Eddy; other students have to be transported; Richard shared that 21 students are in high school and 4 will graduate this year; 16 are pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.
  - iii. Richard shared that the budget is always difficult because there are some costs that the RSU has no control over, especially with many of our students going to non-RSU 12 schools. Richard and Mary are both on the Finance Committee, which has a lot of influence over the budget process. The RSU 12 annual budget presentation to the Select Board will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Conservation Committee member Dennis Dunbar reported on a Stakeholders Meeting scheduled for this Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. Jamie Wallace of Wright Pierce and Ruth Indrick from the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust will be present. The purpose of the meeting is to communicate to stakeholders the risks involved with sea level rise on town infrastructure, the study that will be looking into this, and get their feedback. The first portion of the study will focus on 3 vulnerable causeways and the second portion will look at all waterfront parcels. The risks to private property will be

communicated confidentially to property owners. The only grant large enough to address the work needed for the vulnerable causeways is through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and will require the town to include wetland restoration in the project.

- e. Ordinance Review Committee Chair, Lisa Jonassen, reported that the Ordinance Review Committee will meet on 1/30. They are making progress on the junkyard ordinance which has now become a nuisance reference in Building Code Ordinance. The name of the Building Code Ordinance will be changed to Land Use Ordinance. CEO Gary Richardson is working on updating that ordinance to reflect changes to the building permit application regarding a new requirement for CEO sign off before pouring footings. Lisa is researching animal control ordinances that might allow the town to recoup some costs associated with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department responding to animal complaints.

**5. Roads:**

- a. Jim Cromwell reported on watching the Heal Cove causeway get inundated during the recent storm. The water came up high enough to cover the boulders on either side of the road, and a lot of debris was deposited. Both the Heal Cove and the Squam Creek & West Shore Rd. Causeways sustained minor damage.
- b. The roads have been well maintained during recent storms by Dale Reno. We will need to purchase more salt.

- 6. Correspondence:** Jeff reported that the Regional Planning Commission has done a housing study and is now helping towns plan for affordable housing opportunities. They reported that there are 7 lots on Westport Island that might be appropriate for affordable housing. Jeff has asked for clarification on what lots and what kind of affordable housing.

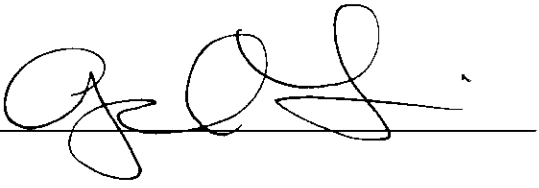
**7. Administrative Items:**

- a. Tax Collector & Treasurer Ashley Murray has researched a needed update to our Town Office budgeting and management software, TRIO. There is an update available to move to their web-based platform for a one-time set up fee of approximately \$5,000, and an ongoing increase in annual costs of \$3,000. This will also require an update to our GIS mapping site for a one-time fee of \$1,800. The total up-front cost for this transition will be \$6,795. Donna motioned to approve Ashley spending \$6,795 to upgrade TRIO; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- b. Donna shared that the Select Board received a resignation letter from Rich Lorenson, resigning as Chair and member of the Planning Board effective 2/29/24. Donna moved to regretfully accept the resignation; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- c. Jeff reported that Ashley is working on ordering equipment to restore internet to the Town Hall and guest internet at the Town Office.

- 8. Adjournment:** Donna motioned to adjourn; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote: 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by April Thibodeau, Town Clerk

A True Copy, Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a solid horizontal line.