



**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**  
**February 5, 2024**

**Present:**

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

**Citizens:** Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter, Joan Bradford, Mario DePietro (Zoom),  
April Thibodeau (Town Clerk)

**Guests:** Charlotte Boynton (Zoom), Pedro Guimares (Zoom)

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

**Business Conducted:**

1. Warrants

- a. Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #70 for \$1,970.06; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- b. Donna motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #71 for \$1,6133.75; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- c. Donna motioned to approve Payroll Warrant #72 for \$1,885.96; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
- d. Donna motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #73 for \$5,879.41; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0

2. Donna motioned to approve the minutes of the 1/22/24 Select Board Meeting; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0

3. Citizen's Issues:

- a. Pedro Guimares brought up his work on the town's website for no compensation. He claimed he was harassed by Mark Cromwell who was working for the town as a contractor, and the town would not do anything. He claimed that Code Enforcement Officer Gary Richardson has never returned his calls. He claimed that the town admitted in previous Select Board minutes that they had no right to turn around on his property, but they did, and also paved it. He told the Select Board to expect a letter from Attorney Peter Drum seeking a settlement. Donna will speak to Gary and keep an eye out for that letter. Pedro reminded the Select Board that since he had no contract for his work on the website, he could delete the website.

4. Committee Reports: History Committee: Jean Wilhelmsen-Exter & Joan Mason-Bradford, History Committee Co-Chairs:
  - a. Jean reviewed the difference between the History Committee and the Friends of Westport Island History (FOWIH). The History Committee is a town committee that collects and preserves historic documents and artifacts. FOWIH is a non-profit that helps with collection and preservation, but also is able to fundraise, making education, promotion, and research possible. Together, the History Committee and FOWIH manage the History Center.
  - b. Joan went over the History Committee's activities
    - i. The assessment of historic artifact donations and cataloguing of donations by volunteers and an intern. This information will eventually be publicly available when the FOWIH website is up. If people have Westport Island photos or artifacts they'd like included, but don't want to part with them, they can be scanned or photographed to add them to add to electronic collection.
    - ii. Articles in the monthly WCA newsletter on historic topics
    - iii. Assisting with Ken Swanton's book "The Maritime Age on a Maine Island"
    - iv. Assisting FOWIH with public history lectures on Custom Houses and Tide Mills
    - v. Ongoing research on subjects such as the ice farming industry, genealogical inquiries, and the historical layout of Westport Island roads
  - c. Joan reported on the History Committee spending including a Catalogit subscription as the catalog system, Drop Box digital storage, Maine Archives and Museums membership, archival supplies, and a Simply Safe security system for the Wright Landing House. Donna suggested that the History Committee ask for a larger amount than previously at the next Town Meeting to make sure they cover costs.
  - d. Donna asked about Native American history. Jean explained that there aren't records of Native American permanent settlements on Westport Island, and it was probably more of a summer place. There are a dozen shell middens in undisclosed locations. Squam Creek was popular due to sweetgrass.
5. Consideration of Special Town Meeting Warrant: Donna reviewed a Special Town Meeting warrant for a Special Town Meeting on Sat., 2/24/24, at 10:00 AM. The purpose of the meeting is to consider moving from a Board of Assessors to a single Assessor. Jeff added that the town will face a challenge bringing the town's valuation in line with the state's valuation in a way that is fair to everyone, and having a professional assessor responsible will help with that process. This particular town decision requires a quorum of 10% of the voters from the last gubernatorial election, which will be 51 voters. Donna motioned to accept the Warrant as written; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0.
6. Correspondence: Donna shared that we received a bill for our annual Maine Municipal Association (MMA) dues. Donna made a motion to renew our MMA membership; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0.
7. Administrative Items
  - a. April gave a report on the installation of new computers for the Town Office.

- They are a big improvement over the old computers.
- b. April reported that there is a Presidential Primary Election on March 5, 2024. Absentee voting is now underway. For the first time in Maine, independents will be able to vote in primaries by choosing which party's ballot they would like to vote on.
  - c. Donna motioned to appoint Ashley Murray as Deputy General Assistance Administrator; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0
  - d. Donna motioned to accept the WCA's BYOB permit application for the upcoming Valentine's Dance; Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0.
  - e. The Select Board confirmed March's meeting schedule of 3/4 & 3/18
8. Other Legal Business:
- a. Jeff noted that we have been receiving the annual social service agency requests for donations.
  - b. Lisa reported on the activities of the Ordinance Review Committee. The proposed nuisance ordinance will be a stand-alone ordinance rather than part of the Building Code Ordinance. There will be a 4/16/24 public meeting to discuss all proposed ordinance changes.
9. Donna motioned to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:05 PM; Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vote 3-0

Minutes taken and prepared by April Thibodeau, Town Clerk

A True Copy, Attest:

