



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
September 26, 2022

Present:

Select Board: Donna Curry and Jeff Tarbox

Citizens: Julie Casson (Town Clerk), Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon (Municipal Agent), and see attached

Guests: Martha Hayward (Tax Collector/ Treasurer) and Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News)

Meeting Convened: Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Business Conducted:

1. Jeff opened the meeting with the following statement and a reading of the agenda to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to have their say: Addressing the Select Board any member of the public may speak once on any item under discussion by the Select Board after “being recognized.” Generally, the agenda item will be introduced, followed by questions and discussion among board members, parties directly involved, or their representatives. Next, interested members of the public may speak. (Public comment may, at board discretion, be limited to three minutes per person.) Additional comments by board members or directly involved parties or their representatives may follow. At the close of testimony, the matter will return to the Board for discussion and action.
2. **Warrant:** Jeff motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant No. 25 for \$2,615.61, Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0; Jeff motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No. 26 for \$83,851.42; Donna 2nd; vote: 2-0; Jeff motioned to approve Payroll Warrant No. 27 for \$1,740.95; Donna 2nd; vote: 2-0; Jeff motioned to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No. 28 for \$1,671.63, Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.
3. **Minutes:** Jeff motioned to approve the minutes of September 12, 2022, Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.
4. **Citizen’s Issues:** Jeff asked first for citizens to announce if they would like to speak and the topic that they would like to speak on, then Jeff would call on each one by one to speak for 3 minutes.
 - **Patricia Smith** – Pat spoke and shared that she liked Garry. She understood the need for a budget and a plan. She asked that we consider Jimmy Cromwell or Mark Cromwell if either of them wanted it. Pat also reiterated that we all be civil and get along.

- **Mark Cromwell** – Mark has shared that his father was Garry Cromwell, and that they admitted that the budget has gone over a few years and reminded everyone that it is a maintenance budget not a project budget. They could give a plan, but that would not account for weather or other situations. Mark stated that G&D is here before the storm, during a storm, after a storm. He shared that he felt demanding a plan that was too literal was not something that could be done based on you didn't always know as each section of road may be different. He reiterated that they love their island and love to take care of their island and care about their community.
- **Richard DeVries** – Richard read a prepared statement and shared his support of appointing Mark Cromwell as the new Road Commissioner.
- **John Henderson** – John Henderson spoke to the positivity of Westport Island and that as a community we should move forward from the negativity of the past.
- **E. Davies Allan** – Asked the Board what they expect of a Road Commissioner? He also stated he would not consider running again.
- **Jeff Tarbox** - Jeff responded that he made copies of state statute on Road Commissioner and quotes from past meetings that he shared. Jeff stated that the Board sincerely regretted Garry's decision to resign. Jeff also discussed the overage of charges allocated to the emergency account and how the Board asked Garry not to spend until there was a plan of action so there was not any overspending in the future. Jeff stated that past Board minutes would back up what he was saying.
- **Mark Cromwell** – Mark countered Garry did give Jeff a plan not a formal one, a bulleted point of maintenance items.
- **Bailey Bartlett** – Bailey spoke to the effect of difficulty of planning when different culverts are constructed differently, and you do not know until you dig down. Bailey also spoke to unregulated tree cutting and the staggering affect that the wind tunnels from this creates. Bailey also spoke of the realm of work that we do not see G&D working in from nights to make things happen, storms, etc.
- **Mario DePietro** – Mario spoke to the need for accountability for a business. “If you do a job, account for it.”
- **Donna Curry** – Donna spoke to Mark's questions and stated that she had a conversation with Dennis Cromwell and she asked him for estimates and was told it was impossible to do estimates.
- **Mark Cromwell** – Mark shared that it is impossible because you don't know what to find when you go to each culvert and the need is different – ledge, gravel, stumps, pitching, etc., hard to determine. He said the problem is Garry Cromwell is the Road Commissioner and you ask G&D Cromwell for the work and then do not want to pay them.
- **Jeff Tarbox** – Jeff responded that the point is overspending and that there is no plan. Jeff said that Ross was sent to speak to Garry and to ask not to spend until we get a plan. Jeff said the Board can give direction to the Road Commissioner and invoices were held because there was direction that no invoices would be paid until there was no plan.
- **Mark Cromwell** – Mark said work was based on this year's budget. He stated that things that G&D took care of things that had to be taken care of and it has nothing to do with Garry at this point but kept them from getting a paycheck.
- **Jeff Tarbox** – Jeff stated that the Board was responsible for making sure that the money the town approves is spent as approved. Jeff responded to Mark's inquiry that they would pay the Road Commissioner to go around and inventory and inspect what work needs to be done.
- **Demi Martinez** – Demi stated that she works in the construction industry and stated that it is increasingly difficult to stick to a bid with the increasing cost of materials and asked if that was factored into the budget considering budget has not changed in three years. Jeff responded that the budget is not determined by the Select Board but recommended by the Road Commissioner.
- **Joe Dikitanan** – Joe asked about third parties involved as in Garry's letter or is that heresay? Jeff responded there is no third party.

- **E. Davies Allan-** Admitted he was one of the bidders for recent pre-paving job. He said Jeff Tarbox has a lot of knowledge of our roads, so it was a good job by Jeff to put together bid specs with Jimmy Cromwell.
 - **Laurie Jaramillo** – Laurie gave an analogy that if you hire someone to fix your home with a specific budget but no plan, you don't know what will be fixed. She stated that the Road Commissioner also owns the company that does the road work and in the business world that would not fly. Jeff explained that is common in Maine and is legal.
 - **Warren Martel** – Warren agreed we need a budget but sounds like the problem is no matter how good of a plan the road commissioner has, there may not still be enough and maybe three-quarters of the way through the year there needs to be a reassessment for what needs to be done the last quarter and adjust.
 - **Carl Skidmore** – Who sets the budget? Jeff said the Road Commissioner gives the amount to Select Board.
 - **Mark Cromwell** - Budget needs to be raised.
 - **Pat Smith** – When was budget last raised?
 - **Joe Dikitanan** – We do not have a Road Commissioner and we are going into winter. What do we do now?
 - **John Henderson** – We are not going to be able to micromanage the Board or what G&D Cromwell did. Garry resigned and now we look forward to how we move forward.
 - **Pat Smith** – Pat stated that she hoped the budget would be larger next year. Pat also asked if either Jimmy Cromwell or Mark Cromwell felt that they could step in as Road Commissioner?
 - **Mark Cromwell** – Stated he felt qualified and has been training his whole life. He could do a plan.
 - **Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon** – Dedee asked how many more years does G&D Cromwell have left on the plow contract? Jeff responded with one more year.
 - **Drew Porter** – Drew thanked everyone for doing their job and asked how we move forward?
 - **Jeff Tarbox** – Jeff responded to Drew's question stating they are hoping to appoint a Road Commissioner to complete the remainder of the term. Jeff feels we would need to come back to Town to determine. We want to have Road Commissioner in place for interim. They will talk in Executive Session and then appoint to fill term.
 - **Julie Casson** – Julie reiterated what Jeff was saying, the position of Road Commissioner could be by law appointed in the interim by the Select Board until 2025 to complete the term or until the next Town Meeting when the town could hold an election for the remainder of the term.
 - **Mark Cromwell** – Mark offered to step up and help even if until someone gets appointed.
 - **Jeff Tarbox** – Jeff closed the topic for further discussion.
 - **Laurie Jaramillo** – Laurie Jaramillo asked if there was a noise ordinance, fireworks, live bands, DJ's, etc. As there was a DJ on the previous Saturday night at the Squire Tarbox late into the evening. Jeff responded that there is no noise ordinance. Bailey Bartlett responded stated that the funneling of the noise from all the trees cut down. It was due to a wedding at the Inn. Julie did say there is a state fireworks ordinance for 10:00 pm.
 - **Jeff Tarbox** – Jeff asked if there was anyone else who wanted to speak. When there was no one, he thanked everyone for their civility and closed the topic of citizen's issues.
5. **Correspondence:** Jeff shared Board received an email from Mary Ellen Barnes, Executive Director of the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC) with a link to the five-year strategic plan proposed by the Midcoast Counsel of Governments asking for the Select Board to weigh in on the plan.

Jeff also said we received correspondence about a library box. Becki Dikitanan who sent the email was in the audience and was asked to elaborate. Becki wanted to know if she could do a library box for children's books. Dedee Greenleaf-Hodgdon let her know that there is already a children's library box at the side door of the Town Office.

6. **Roads:** Jeff shared that we had a communication regarding the bridge on East Shore Road called the Hilton Bridge No. 6252. The State has reported that there is deterioration from the most recent inspection. This will be another topic for the new Road Commissioner.

Jeff and Donna signed the SR Griffin contract for the pre-paving project on part of East Shore Road and Greenleaf Road. Julie Casson, Town Clerk witnessed.

7. **Administrative Updates:**

Jeff shared that the Board had a contract to sign for the Transfer Station for \$100,647.68 which was approved at Town Meeting.

Jeff announced that there will be a Public Hearing at the start of next week's meeting to adopt MMA's model GA Ordinance and appendices A-H as required by law.

Jeff shared that there was a request by the Squire Tarbox to rent the parking on October 1 & 2. We charge \$100 per day. There was a question about insurance. Jeff shared that we require all renters to have insurance. Becki Dikitanan spoke about an issue they have with the Inn and the shuttle bus parked on the back of their Post Office Road property just idling. Jeff asked if they had spoken to the Inn. Becki asked if there was an idling ordinance. Jeff asked if they could discuss with the Inn. Jeff motioned to allow the rental of the parking to the Squire Tarbox Inn on October 1 & 2, 2022; Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.

Jeff announced the resignation of Roger Higgins and Gaye Wagner, EMA Director, and Deputy EMA Director, respectively. Jeff stated he is sorry that they felt that they needed to do so.

Jeff moved to appoint Jason Kates as EMA Director with a term effective September 26, 2022, through June 30, 2023; Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.

Jeff moved to appoint Julie Casson as Deputy GA Administrator with a term effective September 26, 2022, through June 20, 2023; Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.

Jeff moved to appoint Jeff Exter as a member of the Board of Appeals; Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.

Jeff announced we still are looking for volunteers and to speak to Julie. We also forward the names to the Board Chairs to keep them involved in the management of their committees.

Jeff explained the Board of Appeals. Rebeca Dikitanan volunteered. Demi Martinez also volunteered. Julie will check if family members can serve on the same statutory committee.

8. **Other Legal Business:** Jeff shared that there was a failure of the water pump at the Wright Landing House which houses the History Center and the Helping Hands Food Pantry. The pump is bad and will need to be replaced. They are also looking at the well. There is concern that the drought may have had some effect. Bailey asked if there was a concern about the number of new buildings on the island influencing this and the aquifer. Richard Tucker shared that the Conservation Commission has applied for a grant to upgrade the ground water study for the island. Discussion ensued on the wells.

Joe Dikitanan asked if anyone else received a letter from contractor regarding testing for PFOAs.

Jeff shared that we have received the requested update of the survey don for the town on Bakers Road in 2019. The Board is now ready to talk to the Town's attorney and move forward. MDOT's legal is also willing to talk to our attorney as there are obstructions in the shoulder of 144. Jeff moved to set up talking to our attorney next week with Ross involved.

Jeff shared that we budgeted \$180,000.00/ year for paving. The bid for pre-paving work for this year is only \$142,000.00. We will not have to take out a loan and we can pay out of funds appropriated by the town. We are saving interest costs.

Jeff also shared that when we have the ok from MDOT to put up speed limit signs around the island. Jeff also commended Jeff Wheeler for contacting Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and found out that 85% of drivers who were at or below speed limit.

Executive Session:

- 9. Exit Regular Session and Entrance into Executive Session at 8:35 pm:** Jeff motioned to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A) for Personnel Matters; Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.
- 10. Exit Executive session and Enter into Regular Session at 8:57 pm:** Jeff motioned to exit executive session; Donna, 2nd; vote: 2-0.
- 11. Other Legal Business –** Jeff said that they made a decision to talk to a candidate and will go forward once they are certain the person they have in mind is interested and decides to accept.

Jeff shared that they were going to start a town wood supply for needy parties. They would create a location to store donated wood to season for a year and set a plan for those in need to obtain the wood for fuel.

- 12. Meeting Adjourned:** Donna motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 pm; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 2-0.

Minutes taken and prepared by Town Clerk Julie Casson.

A True Copy, Attest: _____

Citizen's In Attendance (attachment)

1. Paul Bonyun
2. Mario DePietro
3. William Elwood
4. Laura Elwood
5. Laurayne Presby
6. Jerry Bodmer
7. Jill Cooney
8. Bill Cooney
9. Mary Ellen Barnes
10. John Henderson
11. Kathy Henderson
12. Warren Martel
13. Teri Norton
14. George D Richardson, Jr.
15. Judy Hughes
16. Davies Allan
17. James Cromwell
18. Gary Richardson
19. Tonya Richardson
20. Rhonda Cromwell
21. Alden Cromwell
22. Mark Cromwell
23. Alice Cromwell
24. Carl Skidmore
25. Meg Skidmore
26. Jeff Exter
27. Constance Ostis
28. Ron Stoodley
29. Sally Howe
30. Bob Kammann
31. Laurie Jaramillo
32. Gary Webber
33. Brian Mackie
34. Pat Smith
35. Richard Tucler
36. Adam Webber
37. Demi Martinez
38. Demi Martinez Husband
39. Louana Frois
40. Ted Frois
41. Daniel Bradford
42. Joe Dikitanan, Jr
43. Simone Dikitanan
44. Rebeca Dikitanan
45. Joe Dikitanan
46. Janet Hudson
47. Craig Hudson
48. Drew Porter
49. David Bradford
50. Kim Lynch
51. Jim Hatch
52. Ralph Jacobs
53. Joanna Jacobs
54. Richard DeVries
55. Bailey Bartlett