



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

Office of the Select Board

Town of Westport Island
Meeting of the Select Board
October 4, 2021

Present:

Select Board: George Richardson, Ross Norton and Jeff Tarbox

Citizens: Julie Casson (Town Clerk), Ralph Jacobs, and Jason Kates

Guests: Charlotte Boynton (Lincoln County News) and Robert Fairfield

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

Select Board Business Conducted:

- 1. Warrant:** George motioned to approve Payroll Warrant No. 28 for \$4,966.50; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0; and then made a motion to approve Accounts Payable Warrant No. 29 for \$21,200.28; Ross, 2nd; vote: 3-0.
- 2. Minutes:** George motioned to approve the minutes of September 27, 2021; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0.
- 3. Correspondence:** George read letter from Maine Department of Health and Human Services to the General Assistance Administrator informing about the benefits of the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Nutrition Program. George asked Julie to post the materials in the vestibule for those interested.
- 4. Citizen's Issues:** Jeff spoke on behalf of Joanna Jacobs, who was unable to be in attendance. Joanna is the citizen's representative to the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC). Joanna wanted the Select Board to know that there is new software to track work on roads that the LCRPC could invest in and wanted to know if Westport Island would be interested. George motioned to table this until more research could be done; Ross, 2nd; vote: 3-0.
- 5. Broadband Infrastructure Agreement:** Ralph Jacobs reported that the latest report from Spectrum/Charter is that they plan to lay fiber optic to the same 205 homes as outlined in the original grant. Per the email from MMA, the next step would be to have the agreement reviewed by the town attorney and to hold another Special Town Meeting as the previous warrant was specific to the ConnectMaine grant.

Key components of the agreement would be that we would get the same build out plan as the original grant proposal to the bring to the same 205 houses, the town would still contribute the same \$62,651 and Charter would fund the remainder. We want the contract to make sure they are obligated to provide what they say and when they will provide it.

George motioned have town attorney review the contract along with a member of the Broadband Committee, Ralph Jacobs, and Gaye Wagner; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0.

George motioned for James Katsiaficas as the town attorney to represent the town; Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0.

Jeff motioned to hold special town meeting within the first two weeks of November for consideration of the new contract for broadband service with Charter Communications with the date to be determined; George, 2nd; vote: 3-0.

Julie will get back to the Select Board and the Committee for timelines on special town meeting and best date.

6. **Thank you to Bailey Bartlett and Adam Webber:** The Select Board thanked Bailey Bartlett and Adam Webber for painting the cement column in the entry of Town Office and for the cleanup and repair of the Town Office sign. Additionally, they recognized Bailey for the blue pumpkin and décor for Town Office.
7. **Road Committee:** Jeff attended the Road Committee's meeting on Tuesday, September 28th and presented his notes from the meeting. Alexandra Wollins, who last week attended the Select Board meeting was in attendance on the same issue of plowing the road to where her property begins. Alexandra gave permission for town vehicles on official business to go to the top of her property to turn around. George said the town would not pay for plowing on the portion of the hill from the culvert to the turnaround at the barn that is not town road.

It was also discussed that the minutes and any other recommendations on items, such as awarding the ledge removal contract, would be reviewed and acted upon by the Select Board when they are approved and signed by the committee.

8. **Town Clerk Updates:** Julie Casson, Town Clerk, informed the Select Board that absentee voting begins on Tuesday.

Julie also discussed informing the Westport Community Association about requesting permission to use town property. For now the Halloween Trunk or Treat on October 30th is on the calendar.

Julie also getting ready for dog tags to go on sale on October 15th.

9. **Other Legal Business:** Jason Abbott will begin putting in the window in Dedee's office on October 18 – 21 with an additional date if needed of October 22.

George read letter from Eric Nelson regarding his 3-year inspection for his property. He is continuing on with his consent agreement for the property for Map 005 Lot 53.

George thanked Charlotte Boynton and Robert Fairfield for the donuts that they brought to the meeting.

Jeff mentioned that Garry Cromwell, Road Commissioner, had concerns about bringing reserve power to the salt shed during a power outage. Ross discussed using the old generator. They will research how to hook up without salt damage.

10. Meeting Adjourned: George motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm; Ross/Jeff, 2nd; vote: 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

George D. Richardson, Jr.
1st Selectman

Jeffery H. Tarbox
2nd Selectman

Ross Norton
3rd Selectman