

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
APRIL 15, 2014

Preliminary Minutes

tape recorded meeting

Present: Vice Chair Judy Colby, Pam Dunning, Tim Merry, Chair Ed Polewarczyk, Jeff Slack and Interim Town Manager Don Gerrish

6:45 p.m.

**Judy Colby moved to enter executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 1, §405, (6)(C) for the purpose of discussing land disposition. Vote 4-0-0. Judy Colby moved to exit executive session at 6:55 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

1. Call to Order

Chair Ed Polewarczyk called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: April 8 and April 15

**Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of April 8. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of April 15. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes: April 1, 2014

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of April 1 as amended to correct a typo. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Appointments – none

6. Public Comment

Bill Barnes asked where funds came from for the Public Works truck approved at the last meeting, as it was not in the budget. Don Gerrish will research. Barnes also said he understood the truck was to be for town use only and that meant the truck would not leave town and would not be used for the road commissioner to go back and forth to his home.

George Green asked that the area around the memorial at the corner of Routes 1 and 27 be kept clear of signs.

Norman Guidoboni said incorrect information had been given in response to Jeff Slack's question at the April 1 meeting: The number of absentee voters was not 35%, it was over 50% (207 absentee votes, 403 total votes).

Steve Mehrl commented on the lack of information on the school budget, and that meeting minutes or agendas, which are required by FOIA, are not available. Even though final numbers are not available, he said the schools constitute 80% of the town budget and some of last year's numbers could be used in

drafting a budget. Pam Dunning explained that the school board was waiting for information from the RSU and State, and, as it currently had no employees, the school board could not use last year's numbers. There will be a public hearing on the school budget on May 14.

#### Addition to Agenda

**Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the purchase and Sale agreement for Lot U-15A, 007C with Norman Sherman for the price of \$6,000.** The land was tax-acquired and was offered for sale by the Town. The board accepted Mr. Sherman's offer. **Vote 4-1-0.**

#### 7. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Cemetery Committee Report: Chair Don Jones said the committee had revised the rules and regulations for cemeteries, adding two sections: a definition of perpetual care and a determination of those who may be buried in town cemeteries. The committee also made recommendations for the enforcement of the rules, which the selectmen adopted, and created a map of all known cemeteries in town.

The committee is reviewing the records of the Jackson Cemetery where there are approximately 175 graves. The records are not complete and do not show where space is available for people inquiring about lots. He suggested obtaining the help of a surveyor to lay out the plots. Don Gerrish said he will be meeting with staff regarding not only the Jackson Cemetery and but others as well.

Jones said that he was having difficulty obtaining complete information regarding veterans' graves from the local post of the American Legion. He added that, according to State law and the national American Legion, flags which are put on veterans' graves by the American Legion on behalf of the Town for Memorial Day should be taken down soon thereafter, but that is not being done in Wiscasset. Jones had recently removed flags which were installed last May and suggested that the Town contact the local American Legion about removing the flags or take action to have them removed by volunteers, Boy Scouts, or others. Don Gerrish said the town would address the problem. Ed Polewarczyk recommended drafting a policy regarding the flags on veterans' graves.

Jones said the committee needs more members, and Judy Colby recommended that the Town Clerk advertise for people to fill the vacancies.

#### B. Walkability Audit Final Report – Postponed

C. Discussion regarding removal of tree in front of Fire Department: Roland Abbott, EMS Director, and Fire Chief T. J. Merry requested that the fir tree in front of the Fire and EMA/EMS departments be removed to improve visibility and safety for emergency vehicles. In addition, the removal will create up to 12 parking spaces for emergency services. Abbott said that the removal of the dead willow tree in front of the fire department had been scheduled and he suggested that the fir tree be removed at the same time. **Judy Colby moved to remove the tree. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 8. Unfinished Business – None

## 9. New Business

A. Approval of Robert Jones and Ridgeback Pottery as a vendor on the Main Street Pier – postponed

B. Review and Approval of revised airport rates and fees: Airport Manager Erv Deck said that there had been increases in fees consistent with those at other area airports. He explained the three rates for land leases for future hangars: undeveloped land, leased land without water and sewer and leased land with water and sewer. **Judy Colby moved to approve the proposed rates. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Review and approval of a hangar land lease agreement between the Town and David MacDonald: Erv Deck said MacDonald had selected a site at the far end of the airport on which to build a hangar and will pay a fee for preparation of the lot. The proposed hangar will be next to the SRE building and will have water and sewer. MacDonald is ready to begin construction as soon as the board approves the lease. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the lease agreement as presented. Vote 5-0-0.**

## 10. Town Manager's Report

A. Update on Scout Hall: Don Gerrish said that following the board's vote at the last meeting, he had met with the organization using Scout Hall. Through a miscommunication, the for-profit organization had been using the hall for two years but will be vacating the property at the end of the current program in May. Gerrish said he will draft a policy or process for future use of town-owned buildings. He had met with representatives of the American Legion who had used the property in the past in working with the scouts and they will be included in future discussions.

Five minute recess

B. Presentation of 2014-2015 Municipal Budget: Gerrish distributed copies of the draft 2014/2015 budget that included the same amounts budgeted for schools and county as in the previous budget because those numbers were not available. There was no change in valuation. The total budget is \$5,341,177, an increase of \$436,099; revenues of \$3,535,000 were projected, an increase of \$255,000. The net amount to be raised from property taxes is \$1,805,000, an increase of \$213,000. Gerrish said increases were projected for salary adjustments for union employees and cost of living increases for other employees and an additional police position, a school resource officer. He described the capital improvement budget and increases in departmental budgets, two of which are covered by departmental revenue. The first budget meeting will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Don Gerrish said the board would hold second interviews with two candidates for the town manager position on Wednesday, April 23.

Gerrish announced that the Maine Eastern Railroad will schedule Saturday trips this summer on the Wiscasset Flyer from Wiscasset to Newcastle/Damariscotta and from Wiscasset to Bath.

## 11. Other Business

Bill Barnes asked if the board members still wanted to hold an open town meeting in light of public comments opposing it. He said he had no problem with the town shutting down as a result of an early adjournment of the meeting.

Ed Polewarczyk said if the open town meeting were adjourned before a budget was approved, as had been threatened, the board would be obligated to give notices of termination to town employees.

12 Adjournment

**Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**