

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MAY 6, 2014

Preliminary Minutes

Tape recorded meeting

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

Absent: Tim Merry and Chair Ed Polewarczyk

6:30 p.m.

Judy Colby moved to enter executive session to discuss legal issues regarding Mason Station pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E). Vote 3-0-0. The board entered executive session and exited at 6:45 on motion of Pam Dunning that was unanimously approved.

7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

In the chairman's absence, Vice Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order.

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

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: April 22 and 29 and May 6

Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of April 22. Vote 3-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of April 29. Vote 3-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of May 6. Vote 3-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes: April 15, 2014

Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of April 15. Vote 3-0-0.

5. Appointments

A. To appoint Joan Barnes as Warden, effective June 10, 2014: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the appointment. Vote 3-0-0.**

B. To appoint Susan Blagden as Deputy Warden , effective June 10, 2014. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the appointment. Vote 3-0-0.**

6. Public Hearing for amendment to Special Amusement Permit for Twisted Iron Customs

The public hearing opened at 7:03 p.m. A representative of Twisted Iron said the amendment was requested in order to host events from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the first Friday of the month instead of on the first Wednesday. No other changes were requested. **Pam Dunning moved to close the public hearing. Vote 3-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the amendment to the Special Amusement Permit for Twisted Iron Customs. Vote 3-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

George Green asked the board to consider not taking down the fir tree in front of the municipal building for additional parking; he cited its aesthetic value and its visibility from Routes 1 and 27. He suggested instead trimming bottom branches to allow space for parking.

Bill Cossette said the Fire Department tried to put parking in that area but the town's insurance would not allow it.

Bob Blagden, speaking for himself, not as a member of the Budget Committee, said that a 25% tax increase was the worst thought since Maine Yankee closed. He said it was the worst time to have an open town meeting instead of a ballot vote which would give more people an opportunity to vote.

Don Gerrish said the school budget that would be responsible for a large part of any increase would be voted by a secret ballot.

Ben Rines said an open town meeting would keep voters from voting if they had to choose between giving up a day's pay or quitting their job. He urged the selectmen to respect the wishes of the townspeople.

Norm Guidoboni said the average household in Wiscasset with a house assessed at \$189,900 would have a \$4,000 tax bill under the increased budget. He suggested that rather than spending money on the senior center, people could go to the Good Shepherd food bank across the street.

Bill Barnes said people had complained to him about the increase in taxes and a 25% to 50% increase would be devastating. He asked that the board give the people the right to vote by secret ballot.

Ron Leeman said a 25% increase in taxes was too much and asked why the town couldn't live within its budget. He questioned the need for three schools.

Pam Dunning said the projected increase in the municipal budget was \$160,000; the possible increase in the school budget is \$1,800,000. She said the school board budget meeting would be held at the high school cafeteria on May 14 at 6 p.m. and she encouraged those concerned about a tax increase to attend.

Richard Hanson said the board did not have the right to take away the secret ballot that the town voted for in 2004.

Michael Dunn asked permission for the high school seniors to use the pier on June 1 from 12 to 4 p.m. for a last fling. He was asked to send the request in writing to Don Gerrish.

Bill Cossette, Commander of American Legion Post 54, thanked the selectmen for support of the flag project. He said the American Legion had reached 75% of its goal from donations. He read a letter to the selectmen regarding the Legion's role in placing flags on and removing them from veterans' graves, contradicting statements made at a previous meeting. He added that flags were usually placed on the graves before Memorial Day and were removed after Veterans' Day except for last year when snow prevented the removal of some of the flags.

Neil Page presented information to the board on the mapping of veterans' graves and said information on new graves found was given to the Town.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Open Catch Basin Bids – The following bids were received:

	<u>Per Basin</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Wilson's Commercial Sweeping, Inc.	\$34.00	\$150.00
Nest & Sons, Inc.	50.00	195.00
Hartigan Co.	32.50	118.50

Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 3-0-0.

9. Unfinished Business – none

10. New Business

A. Approval of Robert Jones and Ridgeback Pottery as vendor on the Main Street Pier: **Pam Dunning moved to approve Robert Jones and Ridgeback Pottery as vendor on the Main Street Pier. Vote 3-0-0.**

B. Approval of Ron Leeman and Forgotten Recipes as vendor on the Main Street Pier: **Jeff Slack moved to approve Ron Leeman and Forgotten Recipes as vendor on the Main Street Pier. Vote 3-0-0.**

C. Request by First Congregational Church regarding use of Town Common, road closures, display of auction items and placement of street signs for Summerfest: **Pam Dunning moved to approve the request of the First Congregation Church for use of the town common, road closures, display of auction items and placement of street signs for Summerfest. Vote 3-0-0.**

D. Sign warrant for June 10, 2014 election: **Pam Dunning moved to waive reading of the warrant. Vote 3-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the warrant. Vote 3-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

A. Set date for Selectmen to hear property abatements: There was a consensus that the meeting be scheduled for May 27 at 7 p.m.

B. Sign deed for sale of town-owned property, Map U-15A, Lot 7C: The quit claim deed was signed.

C. Other: Don Gerrish reported that the board would be re-advertising for a town manager and he will stay on until a new manager is hired. Residency in Wiscasset, while preferred, will not be mandatory in the new contract.

12. Adjournment

Pam Dunning moved to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Vote 3-0-0.