WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

APRIL 21, 2015

- Tape recorded meeting

Present: Bill Barnes, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Town Manager Marian Anderson

Absent: Tim Merry

1. Call to Order

Chairman Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Hearing

A. Twisted Iron Customs Special Amusement Permit: The hearing opened at 7:01 p.m. Pam Dunning said there were no objections to the permit from the Code Enforcement Officer or from the Planning, Police, Ambulance or Transfer Station departments. Applicant Michael Benner said he will hold events on Thursday and Saturday nights throughout the summer from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 3 to 7 p.m. He added that events raise money for cancer, autism and other charities. The public hearing closed at 7:03 p.m**. Jeff Slack moved to approve the Special Amusement Permit. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

A. **Bill Barnes moved to approve the minutes of April 7, 2015. Vote 4-0-0.**

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**Bill Barnes moved to approve the payroll warrants of April 10 and April 17, 2015. Vote 4-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of April 14 and April 21, 2015. Vote 4-0-0.**

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take Item 11 at this time. Vote 4-0-0.**

11. Unfinished Business

A. Investment Presentation: Daniel Lay, H. M. Payson Portfolio Manager, presented a portfolio review of the Town’s investments from July 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. The beginning market value for that period was $15,153,131; after disbursements of $1,916,719, the ending market value was $13,634,196; increase in market value was $161,106. A graph in Lay’s report showed the how the difference between the account value and invested capital had changed over the past five years using the investment strategy developed by the selectmen.

6. Approval of Abatements and Supplemental: None

7. Special Presentations or Awards: None

8. Appointments: None

9. Resignations: None

10. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

In response to Steve Mehrl’s question regarding the $35,000 fee for a report on the Maine Yankee storage situation, Pam Dunning said the board is researching grants to fund this work.

12. New Business

A. Wiscasset Weathervane/Cupola: Pam Dunning asked the board to consider if the weathervane, a replica of the ship Wiscasset, should be repaired and where it should be displayed. The weathervane had been on the cupola of the municipal building until the cupola was removed. **Bill Barnes moved to approve funds to determine if the weathervane should be repaired, funds to come from contingency. Vote 4-0-0.** Phil DiVece said Gil Whitman had built the copper replica.

B. Approve Pier Vendors: **Frank Sprague, Ridgeback Pottery, and Chamber of Commerce Kiosk: Jeff Slack moved to approve all three vendors. Vote 4-0-0.** A change in fee will be considered for next year.

C. Review and sign 2015 Town Meeting Warrant

Marian Anderson confirmed to Bill Barnes that a memo regarding reducing staff by attrition had been sent to department heads.

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to appropriate the following estimated revenues to reduce the tax commitment – Total $2,874,500? **Ben Rines moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0**

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $342,810 for the Police Department? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 6. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $47,400 for the Police Department’s School Resource Officer? Ben Rines said it was inappropriate for the board to make a decision; the school board should recommend it. Marian Anderson said she had met with the school principals and the superintendent who said the School Resource Officer “had been helpful.” **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to remove this item from the warrant. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $63,346 for Municipal Planning? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 8. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $47,032 for Code Enforcement. **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $10,630 for Shellfish Conservation? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 10. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $742,673 for the Parks and Recreation Department? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 3-1 (Barnes opposed).**

Article 11. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $679,997 for the Municipal Highway Department. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 12. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $25,777 for the Senior Center**? Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 13. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $39,554 for Waterfront and Harbors? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $168,295 for Town Office Administration/Operations? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 15. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $6,000 for Lincoln County Television for local access programming? **Bill Barnes moved to approve $4,000. Vote 0-4-0. Jeff Slack moved approve $0. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 16. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $30,000 from the Capital Reserve Account for Wastewater Treatment Pick-up Truck? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 17. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $8,000 from the Capital Reserve Account for Airport Obstruction Clearance? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 3-1-0 (**Barnes opposed).

Article 18. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $25,000 from the Capital Reserve Account for Repairs to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) 2003 Ambulance? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.** The chairman said Inquiries have been sent to private firms for quotes on service, but no replies have been received and the town would still have to fund the EMS for the next fiscal year.

Article 19. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $150,000 from the Capital Reserve Account for Public Works Paving Projects? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 20. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $39,000 from the Capital Reserve Account for a New Police Cruiser? **Jeff Slack moved to remove the question from the warrant. The motion failed on a 2-2-0** (Rines, Jr., and Dunning opposed**). Pam Dunning moved to approve. The vote failed on a 2-2-0 vote** (Slack and Barnes opposed). **Jeff Slack moved to place the question on the warrant indicating a 2-2 vote by the selectmen. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 21. To see what amount the Town will vote to appropriate up to $ (TBD) from the Municipal Reserve Account to reduce the tax commitment. No vote, the Town Manager will supply the amount on April 27, before the warrant is signed.

Article 22. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $1,611 for Municipal Boards and Committees? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 23. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $60,155 for Municipal Building Maintenance/Operations? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 24. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $35,000 for Contingency**? Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 25. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $106,660 for Contractual Services. **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 26. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $27,380 for Office of Selectmen? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 27. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $6,490 for Office of Assessment? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 28. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $200,475 for Office of Finance/Tax Collector? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 29. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $64,169 for Town Clerk/Excise Tax Collector/Registrar? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 30. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $15,900 for Office of Elections? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 31. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $20,510 for General Assistance. **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 32. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $17,000 for Tax Anticipation Note (Interest)? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 33. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $94,625 for Municipal Insurance? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 34. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $6,313 for Unemployment? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 35. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $14,500 for Celebrations (July 4 and Winter Celebration)? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 36. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $109,636 for the Fire Department? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 37. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $286,288 for the Emergency Medical Services? **Ben Rines moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 38. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $10,390 for Animal Control? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 39. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $204,600 for the Public Utilities? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 40. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $448,084 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant operational budget, the amount to come from departmental revenues, impact fees and surplus. **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 41. Shall the Town will vote to appropriate an amount, not to exceed $59,331, from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for the care of Cemeteries? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 42. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $283,175 for the Airport? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 3-1-0 (Barnes opposed).**

Article 43. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $522,730 for the Transfer Station? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 3-1-0 (Barnes opposed).**

Article 44. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate $68,950 for the Wiscasset Public Library? **Jeff Slack moved to approve.** Vote 2-1-1 (Barnes opposed, Dunning abstained**). Ben Rines moved to put on the warrant with a 2-1 vote.** Vote 2-1-1 (Barnes opposed, Dunning abstained). A legal opinion will be sought on required number of votes for a majority.

Article 45. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $12,764 from the Capital Reserve Account for the Cardiac Monitors Lease (year 4 payment of 5-year lease)? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 46. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $40,463 from the Capital Reserve Account for Municipal Pier Debt (year 4 payment of 10-year lease)? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

**Ben Rines moved to place Articles 45 and 46 after Article 20. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 47. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $16,815 for Fiscal Year 2015 for the payment of retiree health insurance premiums, the funds to come from the Health Insurance reserve account? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 48. To see if the voters will accept the transfer of the Wiscasset Primary School to the Town from the Wiscasset School Board pursuant to 20-A MRSA §4103 and to authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of said Real Estate on such terms as they may deem advisable and to execute quit claim deeds for such property? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 49. To see if the Town will fix Friday, October 23, 2015 and Friday, April 29, 2016 as the dates when semi-annual tax payments are due and payable and instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at the rate of 7% per annum on all taxes unpaid after said dates**? Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 50. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a “tax club” payment plan for commercial and/or residential real estate property taxes, whereby:

1. The taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the Town based on his/her estimated and actual tax obligation for current year real estate property taxes;

2. The Town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement;

3. The Town authorizes the Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current year taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes;

4. The agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due date(s) and interest date(s) and rate as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club program; and

5. Taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter an agreement with the Town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 51. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following:

A. To pay interest at 3.00% per annum on any amount overpaid on property taxes as noted in M.R.S.A. Title 36, Section 506-A, and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from undesignated fund balance;

B. To authorize the payment of tax abatements and applicable interest approved by the Selectmen/Board of Assessors from the property tax overlay;

C. To authorize the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of property taxes, with no interest to be paid on the same;

D. To authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for such property. Property that, in the opinion of the Selectmen, best serves the interest of the Town by remaining Town-owned property need not be sold;

E. To authorize the Selectmen to expend additional funds received from federal, state and other sources during the year for Town purposes provided such additional funds do not require the expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated;

F. To authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to accept gifts, real estate and other funds including trust funds that may be given or left to the Town and to apply these funds to the accounts the Selectmen deem appropriate;

G. To authorize the Selectmen to sell or dispose of various items, except real estate, that serve little or no purpose in the operation of the Town, and to apply the proceeds from these sales to the accounts the Selectmen deem appropriate;

H. To authorize the Selectmen to disburse money received from registration fees of snowmobiles for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails in Wiscasset;

I. To authorize the Selectmen to apply for and accept State and Federal grants, including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications, and grants from non-profit organizations, donations or revenues on the Town’s behalf for municipal purposes, including , when necessary, the authority to sign grant contracts, documents or other paperwork and to accept the conditions that accompany grant funds and to appropriate and expend grant funds and/or funds for authorized purposes as the Board of Selectmen deems to be in the best interest of the Town during the fiscal year 2015;

J. To authorize the transfer of all unexpended balances to fund balance and to authorize the Selectmen to carry any unexpended balance as they deem advisable and to authorize the Selectmen to set at a later date the amount of undesignated fund balance, if any, to be used to reduce property tax assessment;

K. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer and expend the appropriate funds from taxes and personal property revenue in accordance with the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement for repayment of taxes and for economic development purposes from the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Account, consistent with 30-A M.R.S.A.§5251-5261. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 52. Shall the Town vote to accept monies received from the sale of cemetery lots to be used for perpetual care and maintenance of all cemeteries within the Town of Wiscasset? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 53. Shall the Town vote to authorize the municipal officers to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. §2953? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 54. Shall the Town will vote to allow an abatement of ½ of one percent on taxes paid within 30 days from commitment of the tax list to the Collector**. Jeff Slack moved to remove this article from the warrant. Vote 3-1-0 (Dunning opposed).**

Article 55. Shall an ordinance entitled “Historic Preservation Ordinance” be enacted? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Article 56. Shall an ordinance entitled “Flood Plain Management Ordinance” be repealed and replaced? **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

**Non-binding Referendums**

Article 57. Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Wiscasset Police Department and utilize the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 3-1-0** (Rines opposed).

Article 58. Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Wiscasset Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department and utilize a private company? **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

Janet Smith asked that the board consider putting Article 6 regarding the School Resource Officer on the ballot with a 2-2 vote and letting the voters decide. Ben Rines, Jr., said that if the School Board recommended it in the next few days, the article could be put in; however, when the Budget Committee indicated it was not in favor of the article, Rines said it would not be on the warrant.

D. Sign Certification of Ordinance for 2015 Town Meeting Warrant: **Jeff Slack moved to approve. Vote 4-0-0.**

E. Set April 28, 3 p.m. to open bids for airport snow removal equipment. Airport Manager Erv Deck said the early signing date (i.e. not at a regular meeting) was a national signing date for airports all over the country and could not be changed. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the date. Vote 4-0-0.**

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Report: None

14. Town Manager’s Report – none

15. Adjournment

**Jeff Slack moved to adjourn . Vote 4-0-0.**