

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

Tape recorded meeting

Present: Judy Colby, Bill Curtis, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice Chair Ed Polewarczyk, Jeff Slack and
Town Manager Laurie Smith

1. Call to Order

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: April 9, 2013 and April 16, 2013

Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of April 9, 2013. Vote 5-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of April 16, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes: April 2, 2013

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of April 2, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Special Presentations or Awards – none

6. Appointments – none

7. Public Comment

Joe Delois, Manager of Denovo, LLC, said that as part of the subdivision which contains McDonald's and the Shell station a piece of land was set aside. Through an oversight, taxes on this parcel of land were not paid. Delois was informed by the Treasurer that before all taxes could be paid, a quit claim deed would have to be signed. Town Manager Laurie Smith said that the board could authorize the Town Manager to sign the quit claim deed on his behalf and when the cashier's check for the taxes was received, she would sign at closing. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the quit claim deed to Denovo, LLC (on property at Map U17, Lot 004B) once all taxes, interest and costs have been paid in full. Vote 5-0-0.**

Norman Guidoboni said bundling [of warrant articles] passed by only 15 votes and the board was taking away his right to make up his mind by not allowing votes on each article. He expressed disappointment at the cut in funding for the library.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report – none

9. Unfinished Business

A. Sue Varney to discuss the remaining abatements for tax year 2012

1. Luis Serrano, Acct # 1769: Varney said during a site visit, it was found that the finished basement square footage was wrong and additional fixtures were removed. She recommended an abatement valued at \$3,500, resulting in a refund of \$55.65. **Judy Colby moved to authorize an abatement of \$3,500 in value, \$55.65 in taxes for Luis Serrano, Map U-17, Lot 1. Vote 5-0-0.**
2. Richard Thomas and Karen Dilley, Acct #924: Varney said no response had been received to a letter requesting additional information for an abatement and she recommended that the request be denied. **Judy Colby moved to deny the abatement of Richard Thomas and Karen Dilley, Map R07, Lot 20-02, due to lack of data supporting an error in valuation. Vote 5-0-0.**
3. Kenneth and Teri Lambert, Acct #1414: An abatement valued at \$15,800 resulting in a refund of \$251.22 is recommended to correct a coding error on the dwelling. **Judy Colby moved to authorize an abatement of \$15,800 in value, \$251.22 in taxes for Kenneth and Teri Lambert, Map U03, Lot 11. Vote 5-0-0.**
4. Melanie Ashton, Acct #2248: Varney recommended an abatement to correct the grade of the garage and to show it is only 50% functional. **Judy Colby moved to authorize an abatement of \$16,700 in value, \$265.33 in taxes for Melanie Ashton, Map R01, Lot 38C. Vote 5-0-0.**
5. Andrew Robinson, Acct #787: Varney recommended an abatement to correct the grade of house and to correct type of heat and number of baths in the house. **Judy Colby moved to authorize an abatement of \$27,800 in value, \$442.02 in taxes for Andrew Robinson, Map R05, Lot 125. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

A. Annual Town Warrant Authorization: Authorization was postponed because the Budget Committee had not had a quorum to make its recommendation.

No change was made to Article 3; 3/12 will be used rather than 1/4 as suggested by Bill Curtis.

The funding for the library, Article 39, was discussed with Don Blagden, Treasurer of the Library, who explained the library’s policy on investment of its endowment fund and its rationale for the \$68,100 request. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to reconsider the library request. Vote 3-1-1.** Dan Sortwell, member of the library board, spoke in favor of the original request as did Susan Blagden, a former president and treasurer of the library. A motion to raise the amount on the warrant for the library from \$60,000 to \$65,000 failed on a 2-2-1 vote. **Judy Colby moved to approve \$60,000 for the library. Vote 4-0-1.**

B. Sign the Ordinance Certifications

Ed Polewarczyk moved to certify that the ordinance entitled “Town of Wiscasset Article IV, Port and Harbor Ordinance” is a true copy of the official text of the ordinance amendment to be voted on June 11, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

Ed Polewarczyk moved to certify that the ordinance entitled, “Town of Wiscasset Article V, Solid Waste Ordinance” is a true copy of the official text of the ordinance amendment to be voted on June 11, 2013. Vote 4-1-0.

Ed Polewarczyk moved to certify that the ordinance entitled, “Town of Wiscasset, Article X, Miscellaneous Ordinances, Section 6, Shellfish Conservation” is a true copy of the official text of the ordinance amendment to be voted on June 11, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

Jeff Slack moved to certify that the ordinance entitled, “Town of Wiscasset, Article VI, Zoning Ordinance, Definition of Districts and Zoning Map” is a true copy of the official text of the ordinance amendment to be voted on June 11, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

C. Set Public Hearing for Warrant on May 7, 2013: **Judy Colby moved to set the Public Hearing for the Town Warrant on May 7, 2013 at 6 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Review Sewer Commitment: Smith explained that on an annual basis, the board commits sewer user rates to the Treasurer to enable her to proceed with the legal process to collect the unpaid bills. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to authorize the Sewer Certificate of Commitment. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Discuss resolution language for the legislature: Several versions were discussed and the proposed resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governor’s unprecedented biennial budget proposal places towns in an untenable and uncertain fiscal position during their budget planning; and

WHEREAS, we oppose the Governor’s proposal to lay the burden of increased State spending on the backs of the property owner; and

WHEREAS, the proposal includes the elimination of \$283 million in municipal revenue sharing; falls \$200 million short of funding local schools at the 55% level passed in referendum; would cut the state’s reimbursement for General Assistance by an estimated \$6.7 million; would eliminate the Homestead Exemption for anyone under the age of 65; would eliminate the “circuit breaker” property tax and rent relief program for anyone under the age of 65; would take \$8 million in truck excise tax revenue from towns; and would create a corporate tax exemption for large amounts of currently taxable property, resulting in significant losses of local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s proposal also contains cuts to health and human services such as prescription drugs for the elderly and disabled; while also rejecting federal funds to make health care affordable for over 44,000 Mainers; and

WHEREAS, we oppose any Legislature attempt to increase the burden of State spending on the backs of the Wage Earner and Producer under the guise of raising revenue in an equitable fashion; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature continues to adopt and or expand programs either without adequate means to fund them or fund them with additional taxes on the Productive; and

WHEREAS, we also oppose any other tax increases including income, sales, inheritance and other fees and charges; be it

RESOLVED, The Town of Wiscasset calls upon the Governor and Maine Legislature to exercise fiscal responsibility, reject any proposals to increase taxes and provide a balanced budget by cutting State spending.

Ed Polewarczyk moved to prepare a finished copy to be signed and sent to the Governor. Vote 5-0-0.

F. Open bids for repair of 2004 Steco Transfer trailer: The following two bids were received:

West Alna Welding	\$5,000.00	Removal, replacement and painting of trailer
	\$300.00	Replacement of upright supports
A&B Welding, LLC	\$4,639.07	Removal, replacement and painting of trailer
	\$320.30	Replacement of upright supports

Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager to award the 2004 Steco Transfer Trailer repair bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.

G. First Congregational Church Summerfest request: **Judy Colby moved to grant the request of the First Congregational Church to close off the road adjacent to the Common on July 27, 2013 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and allow use of the Town Common for Summerfest. Vote 5-0-0.**

H. Annual Review of the Commercial Waste Hauler fees: **Judy Colby moved to maintain the Commercial Waste Hauler fees at \$300 per license. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

Comstar, the new EMS billing company, had advised the Town that it approved the services agreement with changes that had been discussed. Smith asked for approval to sign the agreement which would lower the EMS billing fees from 7.25% to 4%. Medicare and Medicaid require 60-day notice in order to change billing companies, so the new agreement would begin July 1. **Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the billing agreement with Comstar, Inc. Vote 5-0-0.**

Smith advised the board that the court had awarded an inspection warrant to the Town for Mason Station, LLC; and arrangements will be made to inspect the property for code violations within the next ten days.

12. Other Business – None

13. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.