

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MAY 21, 2013

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 7 p.m.

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

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: May 14, 2013 and May 21, 2013

Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of May 14, 2013. Vote 5-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of May 21, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes: May 7, 2013

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2013 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Town Report Dedication: Pam Dunning announced the dedication of the 2012 Town of Wiscasset Annual Report to Roy Farmer, a resident of Wiscasset for more than 80 years who, she said, was referred to by some as a Wiscasset Institution. Mr. Farmer thanked the board for the honor.

6. Appointments: None

7. Public Comment

Susan Robson, Chair of the Waterfront Committee, commented on the health and vibrancy of the town's waterfront and the importance of the Harbormaster's boat.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Pay Per Bag presentation with Ron Lear, Transfer Station Supervisor: Lear distributed flyers with facts and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Pay as you Throw program. Lear said the town hopes to be proactive by reducing the tonnage now before the costs of Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (where trash is now taken) increase when its contract with the power company expires. It is estimated that the amount of trash will be reduced from 1700 tons to 1300 tons and the amount required from taxes would be cut in half. The budget will stay the same, only the revenue would be affected. Information is available at the town office and at the Transfer Station.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Tax-acquired property:

1. Sommelier Holdings, LLC, Bath Road : taxes have not been paid.
2. Ethel Barnett Trustee, 25 Middle Street: If demolished it may provide 10 to 12 parking spaces in the downtown area. Demolition is estimated at \$20,000, an impact survey on hazardous waste and asbestos would also be necessary and the taxes would have to be written off.
3. Hunt Company, Inc. 519A Gardiner Road: this parcel has not been used recently and taxes are due.
4. Mabel McAfee, 930 Gardiner Road: Property is vacant, there is a mortgage with Savings Bank of Maine and the bank has not paid taxes.
5. Donald True, 73 Shady Lane: In the process of resolution, remove from list.

Judy Colby moved that the Sommelier, Hunt and McAfee properties be put out to bid, giving the abutters first opportunity to bid, the minimum bid being the total of back taxes, costs and interest. Vote 5-0-0.

Judy Colby moved to use the whole property at 25 Middle Street for a parking lot. Roy Farmer said the property is suitably located for a parking lot; the house is in poor condition with roof leaks and collapsed ceilings. Laurie Smith advised the board to first obtain an asbestos impact survey to determine demolition cost. Contingency funds would be used because there is no budget for demolition. Lonnie Kennedy, an abutter, expressed interest in buying a part of the property at 25 Middle Street that contains a storage shed. This would remove two parking spaces from the lot. The value of that portion of the land if sold to the abutter will be determined and a sale will be considered if it would lessen the burden on the taxpayers. **Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Sign Quit Claim Deed for Marjory Delano Sproul property: Smith said Bruce Mullins had paid taxes, interest and costs. The Mullins are abutters of the Sproul property and Mrs. Mullins is a direct descendant of the last owner. **Judy Colby moved to sign the Quit Claim Deed for property of Marjory Delano Sproul, 489 Lowelltown Road, Map R-2, Lot 17B. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

A. Sign Homestead Exemption Form: **Ed Polewarczyk moved to sign the Homestead Exemption Form as submitted. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Renewal of Commercial Waste Disposal Hauler Licenses: **Judy Colby moved to approve renewal of Commercial Waste Disposal Hauler Licenses for Regional Rubbish Removal, Inc. ; Giles Rubbish, Inc.; and Pine Tree Waste. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Discussion with Al Niese regarding historical plaque for African American poet and civil rights leader James Weldon Johnson: Niese said June 26 is the 75th anniversary of the death of James Weldon Johnson who died in a traffic accident in Wiscasset in 1938. Niese asked if Wiscasset would consider helping to fund a marker or plaque to be placed somewhere in town to remember Johnson, a poet, professor, diplomat, lawyer, songwriter, anthropologist, and first black field secretary of the NAACP. The board will consider the request; Pam Dunning will contact the trustees of the library regarding possible placement of a plaque at the library.

D. Approval of Robert Jones and Ridgeback Pottery as a vendor on the Main Street Pier: **Judy Colby moved to approve Robert Jones and Ridgeback Pottery as a vendor for the 2013 season on the Main Street Pier. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Approval of Ron Leeman and Forgotten Recipes as a vendor on the Main Street Pier: **Jeff Slack moved to approve Ron Leeman and Forgotten Recipes as a vendor for the 2013 season on the Main Street Pier. Vote 5-0-0.**

F. Approval of Forrest Faulkingham and Maine Saltwater Outfitter & Guide Service as a business on the Recreational Pier: The Waterfront Committee has recommended approval and waiving the first year fee. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve Forrest Faulkingham as a business for salt and freshwater guided fishing and tours with both boats and kayaks for the 2013 season on the Recreational Pier. Vote 5-0-0.**

G. Discussion of using Sunken Garden for Wiscasset Art Walks with Tony Crouch: Ms. Crouch asked permission to use the Sunken Garden as a venue for performances and to place signs on town property to promote events as part of the Wiscasset Art Walk. Performances will be held the fourth Thursday of June, July, August and September. The performances at the Sunken Garden will be limited to individual and small group performances. She said the performances would attract visitors to the downtown area and nearly all businesses have agreed to stay open during the event hours. CEO approval for the signs will be automatic if the selectmen approve this request. Norma Gordon and Don Jones of the Appearance of the Town Committee have been notified and are in favor of the event. **Judy Colby moved to permit the Wiscasset Art Walk to use the Sunken Garden and to put signs at the corner of Routes 1 and 27 and on the town common. Vote 5-0-0.**

H. Union contract between the Town of Wiscasset and the District Lodge #4 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and its Local Lodge S/89: **Judy Colby moved to adopt**

the contract between the Town of Wiscasset and the District Lodge #4 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and its Local Lodge S/89 (Public Works Unit) expiring June 30, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.

I. Contract between the Town Manager and the Town of Wiscasset

Ed Polewarczyk moved to adopt the contract between the Town of Wiscasset and the Town Manager to expire June 30, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Town Manager's Report

Smith said the County Commissioners had received a request for an abatement hearing from Midcoast Properties, LLC. The Wiscasset Board of Assessors had denied the abatement because the property owner had not appeared at its hearing. Midcoast Properties has asked for an extension and the County Commissioners would like to schedule a hearing on July 2 at 11 a.m. Ed Polewarczyk recommended that in the future when the property owner does not appear for an abatement hearing, the decision should be delayed rather than denying the abatement so that the property owner would not have to appeal to the county commissioners. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the extension to July 2. Vote 5-0-0.**

Smith reported that because the length of the harbormaster's boat when measured was 24 feet 11 inches, the boat would be covered under the town's insurance, saving \$1,000. Had the boat been 25 feet in length, it would not be eligible to be covered under the town's regular insurance.

The theme for July 4 will be Treasures of Wiscasset and there will be a pirate's theme to the 10 a.m. parade and festivities. A veteran's salute, antique car show, concert and fireworks will take place at the pier as well as an attack on Wiscasset Harbor by pirates.

Bob Faunce will make a presentation on the sea level study at a workshop on June 4 or 18 at 6 p.m.

The selectmen's summer schedule is as follows: June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16 and August 13 and 27. The August dates have been changed because of the air show. A special meeting to sign the warrant will be held on July 30 at 6:30 p.m.

12. Other Business

Bill Curtis announced that the Legion will hold a memorial service on Monday, May 27, at 9 a.m. on the Municipal Building lawn.

13. Adjournment

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