

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JANUARY 21, 2014

Tape recorded meeting

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

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Goal Setting Discussion

Smith asked the board to create a list of goals which would include the establishment of a school system. Some of the problems the board faces for the 2014-2015 fiscal year are the financial situation and reduction of state revenue sharing, impact of the school budget, policies dealing with the Affordable Care Act and part-time employees. Discussion included the search for a town manager, dealing with Mason Station, revenue sharing with the school department, providing support and looking at marketing opportunities with the new rail service, the town's commitment to "Wings over Wiscasset", adoption of the Bath Road Master Plan with its concomitant responsibilities to amend the comprehensive plan and ordinances, marketing opportunities with the expansion of Rynel, and the boardwalk design.

3. 6:15 p.m. Executive Session regarding land disposition

Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405 (6)(C) for the purpose of discussing land disposition. Vote 5-0-0.

Pam Dunning moved to consider item 13c out of order. Vote 5-0-0.

13c. Authorization of Purchase and Sale Agreement for 25 Middle Street

Pam Dunning moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the sale of 25 Middle Street for \$35,000 to John Kennedy. Vote 5-0-0.

4. 6:30 p.m. Executive Session regarding economic development

Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen go into executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A., Title 1, §405 (6)(C) for the purpose of discussing economic development and land disposition. Vote 5-0-0.

The board entered executive session at 6:39 and exited at 6:58 p.m.

5. 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance

6. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: January 21, 2014

Judy Colby moved to approve the treasurer's warrant of January 21, 2014. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Approval of Minutes: January 7, 2014

Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014. Vote 5-0-0.

8. Executive Session to discuss Personnel

Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to Title 1, M.R.S.A., §405(6)(A) for personnel. Vote 5-0-0. The board entered executive session at 7:04 and exited at 7:07.

9. Appointments

Judy Colby moved to appoint Susan Van Alsenoy and Kathleen Lincoln as members of the Board of Appeals for a term to expire on December 31, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

10. Public Comment

Ed Kavanaugh updated the board on the Museum in the Streets and requested \$2,000 from the board to complete the project. **Pam Dunning moved to approve \$2,000 from contingency for the Museum in the Streets project. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Investment Committee Presentation: Daniel M. Lay, H. M. Payson, and Steve Mehrl presented a power point presentation on the town's investments. The beginning market value of the reserve fund on 1/1/13 was \$10,737,097; the market value of the fund increased to \$11,741,552 by 12/31/13. The endowment fund increased from \$2,380,462 over the same period to \$2,793,000. Capital investments in 2013 included cardiac monitors, commercial pier debt, road paving, municipal building roof repairs, wastewater pump repairs, extractors to clean fire gear, fire pick-up and mowers for cemetery. The cost of a generator and a public works truck which could have been taken from the capital investment account were not approved by the town, although the funds were available under the investment policy. In accordance with the investment policy, the available distribution for July 2014 is \$375,642. In accordance with the investment policy, the town had maximized return on its investments while using the funds for capital improvements and reducing impacts on the taxpayer.

B. Ron Lear, Transfer Station Superintendent PERC presentation: Lear recommended adopting the resolution to continue the advancement of the post-2018 planning process. He said the agreement with the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) will expire in 2018 and Wiscasset, as a charter member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC), was being asked to support the efforts of MRC to provide a regional solid waste solution beyond 2018, to support the expenditure of funds for those efforts and to not enter into any agreement before 2017 that would conflict with or preclude consideration of any MRC disposal solution. **Pam Dunning moved to adopt the resolution. Vote 5-0-0.**

Ed Polewarczyk distributed copies of legislation regarding disposal of municipal solid waste.

C. Waterfront Committee update: Susan Robson, chairman, asked whether the committee could have a presence on the town's Facebook page to publicize area services in the bay as well as train and boat passenger information. There was a consensus that the request be approved. Margo Rafter Strong said the committee hoped to beautify the waterfront and a future boardwalk could feature benches and plantings. The committee is looking into a manual pump station on the town's float, the cost of which

would be \$2500 delivered. This amount will be considered during the budget process. Jack Pringle said visitors need a boardwalk or walkway on the edge of the water to provide a way to go from one pier to the other. The town has received a grant for preliminary design and engineering of a boardwalk. Rick Scanlan asked the board for funds for two vinyl 19" x 36" banners featuring a map for rail and boat passengers which would be placed at the harbormaster building and near the railroad platform. There was a consensus of the board that the expenditure be approved from waterfront funds.

12. Unfinished Business – none

13. New Business

A. Discussion with Dick Metivier on public input for Town Manager search and review of Town Manager timeline: Dick Metivier, Eaton Peabody, summarized the comments he had received at the public meeting where residents had the opportunity to offer suggestions for qualities they would like to see in a town manager. He also gave the board a draft of the ad which will appear on the websites of MMA, Maine Job Bank, Wiscasset and the International City Manager Association beginning January 24 with a February 18 deadline for applications. Candidates will be interviewed by the selectmen. Starting date for a new town manager will depend on the applicant's availability. A residency requirement was discussed, and whereas the selectmen would like to have the town manager live in town, the legality of such a requirement will be investigated.

B. Discussion with Chief Merry regarding the ladder truck: postponed

14. Town Manager's Report

A. American Legion Project update: Laurie Smith reported that CMP was checking on the amount of liability insurance required for the project which would place flags on utility poles.

B. Information regarding the costs associated with school withdrawal: Smith reported she had met with two members of the school committee, auditor, attorney and consultants regarding the cost obligations of Wiscasset to RSU 12. Total costs including school construction and renovation debt as well as contracts and agreements are \$1,483,405.23 with \$502,726.56 due to the RSU the first year; \$734,573.77 for summer salaries and contractual obligations; and \$246,104.90, which the Town will need to budget over time for long-term obligations. When the \$2 million bond was approved, it was assumed that was the amount needed to cover withdrawal costs and summer salaries. Because the summer salaries are included in the \$1.5 million total, the board will have flexibility with regard to the remaining funds for an interim superintendent and start-up costs and, if needed, funding an RSU shortfall. The School Board will hire the interim superintendent but funds must be authorized by selectmen. **Pam Dunning moved that the School Board be authorized to enter into a contract with an interim superintendent at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. State Revenue Sharing hearing on January 22: Smith said she would be giving testimony at the hearing opposing the bill to eliminate state revenue sharing.

D. Building Inspection Results: Smith reported that as a result of the inspection of the town office, the Town will need to purchase battery operated emergency signage and lighting or a generator to be used in case of power failure. She will obtain prices.

15. Other Business

The Town Manager was asked to leave the room. Judy Colby said an appreciation luncheon for Laurie Smith would be held on February 2 at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. Sarah's Café will cater the luncheon. A 22" x 30" collage will be presented to Smith. Colby asked the board to approve \$1200 from Administration funds to cover the costs. **Pam Dunning moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1200 for the appreciation luncheon for Laurie Smith to be held on February 2 at 1 p.m. Vote 3-0-2.**

16. Adjournment

Pam Dunning moved to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.