WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

 Tape Recorded Meeting

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

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

**Tim Merry moved to approve the Treasurer’s Warrant of September 2 and September 5, 2014. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes: August 19, 2014

**Tim Merry moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2014. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards – none

6. Appointments

A. Jason Putnam application for Cemetery Committee: Tim Merry and Bill Barnes will meet with the applicant because he has not served previously on a town committee. The policy regarding meeting with candidates before appointment to committees will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Public Comment

George Green pointed out the difference between assessed value of houses in Wiscasset and the sales price, noting that one recent sale was 46% of assessed value. He said the difference was significant and this serious problem should be addressed. He also commented on the number of houses that had been on the market for long periods of time.

Judy Flanagan commented on the decision made by the selectmen at the previous meeting to approve the naming of Redskin’s Drive. She said the name was offensive to some people and had resulted in bad publicity for the town. She said the town had much potential and needed better publicity.

Steve Mehrl asked whether the town collected taxes on foreclosed property. Pam Dunning said the valuation on foreclosed property would be counted on the town’s valuation which in turn would be used to calculate the mill rate. No taxes have been assessed on the Mason Station property but it has been included in the valuation of the town. In response to a second question, Ben Rines, Jr. said that if an owner wanted to buy back his foreclosed property, he would have to pay back taxes.

Wendy Donovan, Girl Scout leader, asked whether bottle collection at the Transfer Station would be discussed this evening as mentioned at a previous meeting**. Jeff Slack moved to take Item 11 out of order. Vote 5-0-0.**  Town Manager Marian Anderson said that she had researched other towns’ policies on non-profit organizations collecting bottles at transfer stations. She said most of the towns did not have policies and would like to see Wiscasset’s when it is finalized. It will be discussed at the September 16 meeting.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Birch Point Road sewer/water update: Anderson said work had begun again on the project but she did not have a completion date.

B. Public Works Department – update on Willow Lane and Foye Road: Anderson asked for feedback on the chip seal process that had been used on the two roads, as the process had not been used before in Wiscasset. Bill Barnes and Pam Dunning said they had heard many negative comments about the rocks on the road and suggested the public did not understand the process. Anderson said better education about the road process was needed.

C. Sewer Department – update on pump station 17: Anderson said the cost to repair is estimated at $7,099.81.

D. Assessor’s Agent – Abatement hearing: The abatement hearing for Jennifer Micozzi and Michael Rowe will take place on September 16, 2014 at 11 a.m. in the County Commissioner’s office; all selectmen are welcome to attend.

9. Unfinished Business – none

10. New Business

A. Lincoln County Caucus for Budget Advisory Committee: Pam Dunning said the budget process will begin on September 11 at 7 p.m. with the selection of the budget committee. All selectmen were invited to attend.

B. Maine Municipal Association dividend check for $13,129: The Chairman said the check was an insurance refund from MMA. Since 1997 MMA’s risk management services had returned over $16 million in dividends to towns.

11. Town Manager’s Report

A. Maine Yankee Fall Informational Tour: Eric Howes, Public and Governmental Affairs Manager of Maine Yankee has invited the board for a tour of the facility. Selectmen were asked to notify Anderson of their availability.

B. Investment Committee/School Board/Select Board Meeting: Anderson said she is having difficulty scheduling a meeting with all members, and possibly a smaller meeting will be held. She will notify the selectmen when a meeting is scheduled.

C. Vandalism at Airport: Anderson said recent vandalism is in the hands of the police; fortunately, the vandal looked directly into one of the security cameras, making identification possible.

D. Community Interaction: Anderson has been meeting with businesspeople who have welcomed her invitation to publicize their events on the town website.

E. Ben Rines, Jr. inquired about information on the tax commitment and was informed that several scenarios will be presented to the board before the September 16 meeting. Steve Mehrl said it was important that the school committee understand the impact their budget will have on the use of funds from the reserve account.

12. Adjournment

**Tim Merry moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**