WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Preliminary Minutes

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

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrant: October 21, and November 4, 2014

**Jeff Slack moved to approve the Treasurer’s Warrants of October 21 and November 4, 2014. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2014

**Ben Rines, Jr. moved to approve the minutes of October 21 as amended. Vote 4-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2014 as originally presented. Vote 4-0-0.**

Ben Rines noted that according to the minutes no public hearing was held for the General Assistance Ordinance at the previous meeting and also that the location of the school petition vote was not designated. Both items will be on the next agenda.

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Recognition of the donation by Wiscasset resident John Hewitt of an oil painting, “Daybreak at Wiscasset.” The painting of the Hester and Luther Little is hanging outside the selectmen’s office. A letter of appreciation will be sent.

6. Public Hearing

A. Morton Street parking restrictions: The public hearing was opened at 7:10 p.m. Grace Garland, 2 Morton Street and Laurie and George Stetson, 6 Morton Street, asked that “No Parking” signs be erected on Morton Street. George Stetson said that Morton Street was a right-of-way for the two homes on the street. The road is narrow (18 feet) and parking on the street blocks residents from backing out of their driveways, and hinders snow plowing and emergency vehicle access. Sometime in the past, the school had connected its driveway to Morton Street to allow school staff and visitors to use Morton Street to access parking at the rear of the school. The residents asked that the road be closed to the general public.

Police chief Troy Cline recommended that parking on both sides of the road be prohibited.

Richard Barnard, a resident of Morton Street, asked if the town would plow the road if access to the road was limited. Town Manager Marian Anderson said the town has a prescriptive right to the road, as it has spent tax dollars on maintaining the road since the 1970s. Posting “No Parking” signs will not have any effect on plowing or maintenance of the road.

The public hearing was closed at 7:38 p.m. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to prohibit all parking on Morton Street. Vote 4-0-0.**

7. Appointments – none

8. Public Comment

Cliff Hendricks inquired about removal of the docks at the recreational pier and was advised that they would be removed by the end of the month as soon as the diggers were finished. Hendricks said some of the boards were rotted and should be taken care of.

Steve Mehrl reminded the board that several weeks ago he had recommended that the town hire a consultant who might view the town differently as far as economic development was concerned and could be paid for with money not being used for the unfilled planner position. He also said he had not received the H. M. Payson reports.

9. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Review of Department Head September Monthly Reports: Ben Rines, Jr., noted that the airport manager reported he will be resigning his position. Police Chief Troy Cline said he had issued tickets to drivers of 18-wheelers on Federal Street, enforcing a state law, which he believes will be a deterrent to other truckers attempting to use Federal Street.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Code Enforcement Home Occupation Permit: The CEO had requested approval by the selectmen of a $25 one- time fee for a home occupation permit. Steve Mehrl asked under what ordinance the CEO could charge a fee for a home occupation permit. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to postpone discussion for two weeks and invite the CEO to the next meeting. Vote 4-0-0.**

B. Spirit of America nominee consideration: **Ben Rines, Jr. moved that the American Legion, Post 54, be nominated for their installation of flags in Wiscasset. Vote 4-0-0.**

C. Review of sales ratio analysis report (July/August): The report listed the selling price of properties as well as the assessed value; in most cases the assessed value exceeded 110% of the selling price. Steve Mehrl said overvaluation as indicated by the report had been going on for years. Cliff Hendricks said the problem should be fixed as soon as possible. Ben Rines, Jr., asked that the assessor’s agent be invited to a meeting in December to discuss the revaluation process, the time frame and staff availability.

D. Consider extension of Tim Dunham Realty listing for tax acquired property on Route 1 (Map U-17, Lot 4B**): Bill Barnes moved to authorize the town manager to sign the extension to Tim Dunham’s contract for the sale of the Bath Road property. Vote 4-0-0.**

E. Small Business Saturday Proclamation: **Jeff Slack moved to sign the proclamation in support of small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday, November 29, 2014, and throughout the year. Vote 4-0-0.**

F. Approval to operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance at Huntoon Hill Grange: **Jeff Slack moved to approve the request. Vote 4-0-0.**

G. Voting kiosks: Ben Rines, Jr., said he was appalled at the new voting kiosks and asked why the booths with curtains were not being used. The Town Clerk will be asked to address the change.

12. Town Manager’s Report

A. Correspondence - Gretchen Burleigh-Johnson, Help Yourself Food Pantry; Scott Hamann, Good Shepherd Food Bank’s Cupboard Collective: Letters of appreciation had been received from the two organizations for the town’s donation toward delivery costs of supplies for the food pantry.

13. Adjournment

**Jeff Slack moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.**