WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

DECEMBER 15, 2015

Tape recorded meeting

Present: David Cherry, Judy Colby, Vice Chair Judy Flanagan, Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Town Manager Marian Anderson

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ben Rines, Jr., called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Hearings – none

4. Approval of Minutes

**David Cherry moved to accept the minutes of December 1, 2015. Vote 5-0-0**. The minutes of the meeting on December 10 will be forthcoming.

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**Judy Colby moved to approve the payroll warrants of December 4 and 11, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Judy Flanagan moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of December 8 and 15, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Assessors’ Business

A. Discussion on outstanding personal property accounts: Town Manager Marian Anderson reported that there was a long list of outstanding personal property taxes, some of which have passed the statute of limitations and are no longer collectible. She will recommend action on dealing with these outstanding taxes at the next meeting. In response to a letter from Christopher Morrison regarding a change in tax policy procedure, Anderson said the matter will be on the next agenda when the Assessors’ Agent can be present.

7. Special Presentations or Awards

**Ben Rines, Jr. moved the following proclamation: Be it known that we, the Wiscasset Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the citizens of Wiscasset convey our best wishes and congratulations to**

**Ruth Kierstead on the occasion of her 100th Birthday. And furthermore, with this proclamation, we confirm our sincere appreciation for her many contributions to the betterment of our community by**

**declaring Saturday, December 19, 2015, Ruth Kierstead Day in Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.** Linda Winterberg accepted the framed proclamation for Ruth Kierstead. Judy Flanagan and Ben Rines, Jr. shared their memories of Mrs. Kierstead. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved that we instruct the Town Manager on Friday morning to have the town sign cleared and read “Ruth Kierstead Day, December 19, 2015, Happy 100th Birthday.” Vote 5-0-0.**

8. Appointments – none

9. Resignations

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the resignation of Cathy Williams as patrol officer with great regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. Public Comment – none

11. Unfinished Business

A. Refinance of the $2 million bond to finance town’s cost of withdrawal from RSU #12: The board members were provided with bond refinancing options for the $2 million bond. Asked why the refinancing had not been put out to bid, Marian Anderson said she believed that the treasurer had contacted five banks and only The First had responded. David Cherry asked for an estimate on the interest being earned on the reserve accounts to determine the spread between what the Town was receiving and what would be paid on the new loan. If the Town Manager and Treasurer consider it advisable to put the bond refinance out to bid, the board would be able to approve it on January 5. The Town sets the terms with regard to payment; the first quarterly payment could be due in July in the next fiscal year, or a special town meeting could be held to approve the first quarterly payment in April. There was a consensus that if all else fails, Option 1 (10-year refinance at 3.5%) would be preferred.

B. Hesper and Luther Little remains: Marian Anderson said that under the Maritime Salvage Law, there is a two-year statute of limitations and Mr. Seigars would have had to file an action to recover the piece from the Hesper within two years , which he had not done. Even though Mr. Seigars had found the remnant of the Hesper, the law states that if the Town did not intend to discard the item and took action immediately to acquire it (which is the case in this instance), Mr. Seigars had no standing to recover the piece. Mr. Seigars had been informed of the above facts . The Town Manager said that the Town can legally move forward on the matter and she suggested that if the piece is restored, Mr. Seigars could be given credit for recovering it**. David Cherry moved to instruct the Town Manager to take the large beam with the name “Hesper” and discuss with the high school shop classes if they have an interest in refurbishing or restoring it in a manner such that it could be displayed in the future and should that all go in the affirmative, that upon displaying it we recognize Jason Seigars’ participation in the initial recovery of said piece. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to ask the Town Manager to talk with the school officials and see if they are interested in taking other various parts of the boats that we might find around and do something to repurpose those. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. New Business

A. Request for Conservation Closure of Cushman Cove: Richard Forrest requested the closure of the Cushman Cove from January 1 to June 1 for conservation purposes and to allow the clams to grow. He said the ordinance required that recommendations for closures be approved by the Selectboard.

He said Polly Clark had been closed by the DMR from June 1 to September 1. **David Cherry moved to accept the conservation closure request as submitted. Vote 5-0-0.** In response to Forrest’s question, the board members said they would prefer that requests for closure continue to be made to the board.

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Reports

A. Public Works – Gardiner Road crosswalk memo: Doug Fowler had provided a memo outlining two options for the crosswalk on Gardiner Road**. Judy Flanagan moved to do Option B. Vote 5-0-0**. (Option B: Maintain existing crosswalk and create additional crosswalk across Community Center’s driveway entrance. Install RFB’s. Install signage on guardrail in Center’s driveway to warn exiting motorists.)

B. Wiscasset Municipal Airport – Memo from Airport Manager to Airport Committee: No action was needed. Marian Anderson will contact the airport manager about a tour of the airport on Monday or Wednesday morning for David Cherry and Judy Flanagan.

14. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson commented on the generosity of people who had donated gifts for the giving program.

**Ben Rines, Jr. moved to sign the quitclaim deed to David Cronk for $80,000. Vote 5-0-0.**

Anderson said she had not yet been able to meet with ReVision. Ben Rines, Jr. urged her to come up with the best deal possible for rental of space for solar panels.

Anderson said that December 15 was the Town Planner‘s last day. She will advertise the position after the holidays. Future planning ideas were discussed in Jamel Torres’ exit interview.

Ben Rines asked if there had been any response from the congressional delegation to the town’s invitation. Anderson will follow up.

Rines said he had received a letter from the residents of the Sheepscot area informing him that they are contemplating a law suit regarding the weight limit on Federal Street. He asked that Anderson speak with Chief Cline about police presence on Federal Street. His first concern was the safety of the residents, but he also wanted to protect the town’s investment in the road from damage by heavy trucks.

At 6:55, **Judy Flanagan moved to go into executive session pursuant to MRSA 1 Section 405 (6)(D) to discuss union negotiations. Vote 4-0-1** (Rines abstained as a former member of a union.)

The board exited executive session at 7:29 p.m. **Judy Colby moved to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Wiscasset and Wiscasset Police Association for the duration of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018. Vote 4-0-0.**

15 Adjournment

At 7:30, **Judy Colby moved to adjourn. Vote 4-0-0.**