

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
JANUARY 6, 2015

Preliminary Minutes

Tape recorded meeting

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 to the Flag of the United States of America

Ben Rines, Jr., moved that when we adjourn we do so in memory and lasting tribute to Bill Phinney. Rines said although Phinney was not an elected or appointed official of the town, he was involved with many town issues. **Vote 4-0-0.**

3. Public Hearing

A. Liquor License renewal for Pub 27: The public hearing opened at 7:03 p.m. Marc Buscanera, owner of the Pub 27, said he was not applying for an entertainment license at this time. There were no questions or comments from the board, public, or fire or police departments. The public hearing closed at 7:04 p.m.

Jeff Slack moved to approve the renewal of the liquor license for Pub 27. **Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

A. December 16, 2014: Ben Rines, Jr. moved to approve the minutes as presented. **Vote 4-0-0.** Ben Rines noted that although the selectmen's meeting was posted on the outside sign the Friday before the meeting, as he requested at the previous meeting, the day was omitted. He was advised the omission would be corrected.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

A. Jeff Slack moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of December 19 and December 26, 2014 and of January 2, 2015. Vote 4-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of December 23, and December 30, 2014 and of January 6, 2015. Vote 4-0-0.

6. Approval of Abatements and Supplementals – none

7. Special Presentations or Award – none

8. Appointments – none

## 9. Resignations

A. Airport Manager Erv Deck: Board members thanked Deck and wished him well for the future. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the resignation with regret. Vote 4-0-0.

## 10. Public Comment

Larry Lomison commented on the mass destruction by Chewonki of maple and oak trees on Cushman Mountain. He said it would take 15 to 20 years for the area to recover and was devastating to the wildlife. Pam Dunning said the Code Enforcement Officer would be addressing the matter at the next meeting.

Steve Mehrl said that although logging had taken place along Young's Point Road, trees had been cleaned out, fire lanes were created and a lot of trees remained.

Steve Mehrl remembered Bill Phinney as a historian, particularly when he papered the meeting room with old photos and was one of the few people to keep Wiscasset alive.

## 11. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Reports were provided.

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## 12. Unfinished Business – none

## 13. New Business

A. Future of the Wiscasset Airport – Ben Rines, Jr.: Rines made and later withdrew a motion regarding a ballot question to see if the town would vote to authorize the board of selectmen to enter into negotiations with the federal government for the purpose of closing the Wiscasset Municipal Airport. He was concerned with the effect the closure of the Brunswick airport would have on Wiscasset airport's revenue stream and if the town would be penalized if it closed its airport. He recommended having serious conversations with those in the highest level of the federal government.

In response to Bill Barnes' question regarding grants the airport had received, Pam Dunning said that the grants have a 20-year lifespan; i.e., grants do not have to be paid back if it has been 20 years since the town last applied for funds from the FAA.

Ken Boudin, chair of the Airport Committee, reported that the airport is clearing \$17,000 per year, plus it generates \$25,000 in real estate taxes which go into the town's general fund. He also said that rather than any ill effects the Brunswick Airport might have on the Wiscasset airport, it had increased Wiscasset's fuel sales and other business. He invited Rines to attend the Airport Committee's meetings.

Anderson said the issues and goal should be clarified, and Rines and the Town Manager will meet to discuss the master plan and specific issues, such as the Chewonki trees, that should be brought up with the congressional delegation.

B. Request for Letter of Agreement with Maine Yankee for use of Wiscasset Airport: Maine Yankee had asked to renew the agreement to use the Wiscasset airport in case of emergency. Ben Rines moved that we approve this request, contingent upon their showing up at one of our meetings. Vote 4-0-0.

C. Review of H.M. Payson Statement of Accounts: Marian Anderson reported that the Investment Committee, the treasurer and she will be meeting with H.M. Payson in February.

D. Approval of \$250 Municipal Sponsorship of Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Dinner: Jeff Slack moved that the town become a sponsor of \$250 (from contingency) toward the annual dinner. Vote 4-0-0.

#### 14. Town Manager's Report

Anderson reported that 14 requests for proposals for assessing services had been sent out and will be considered at the February 3 meeting. The bids will give the town an opportunity to consider whether outside assessing firms would be a better decision financially than hiring an additional staff member.

Shari Fredette has accepted the responsibilities of Human Resources formerly performed by Sue Varney. Anderson said a very productive meeting had been held with the union.

The tax map and tax records have been moved to the map room, adjacent to the office of the Town Planner and Code Enforcement Officer.

Anderson and Town Planner Jamel Torres met with the Wings over Wiscasset group regarding the August 15 and 16 event. The Planning Committee intends to involve the business community, the yacht club, the railroad and students and teachers in order to showcase the town and support all of Wiscasset's businesses. Anderson volunteered to sell tickets for the event and for the dance at the town office.

An initial review of EMS services has begun in an effort to streamline services. An update of the Operations Manual has begun.

Jeff Slack moved to appoint Christine Wolfe as Registrar of Voters. Vote 4-0-0.

#### 15. Executive Session

At 8:09, Bill Barnes moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405, subsection (6)(F) to consider two poverty abatements. Vote 4-0-0. At 8:26, Jeff Slack moved to come out of executive session. Vote 4-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to approve Tax Abatement 15-01. Vote 4-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to deny Tax Abatement 15-02. Vote 4-0-0.

#### 16. Adjournment

Jeff Slack moved to adjourn in memory and lasting tribute to Bill Phinney. Vote 4-0-0.