

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 7, 2017

tape recorded meeting

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

At 5:03, Judy Colby moved that the board go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) for consultation with legal counsel. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved that the board come out of executive session at 5:29 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. At 5:30, Judy Colby moved to go into executive session. Vote 5-0-0. At 5:50, Judy Colby moved to come out of executive session. Vote 5-0-0. No action was taken.

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. David Cherry moved to approve the payroll warrants of February 24 and March 3, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

b. David Cherry moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of February 28 and March 7, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ben Rines moved to approve the minutes of February 14, February 21 and February 25, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

9. Unfinished Business

A change was made in the agenda to discuss unfinished business at this point. Attorney Shana Mueller reported that she had met with the school department attorney and discussed and confirmed the language authorizing the financing and wording of an article for town meeting as well as timing. Working with town staff, a date of April 25 was discussed for the special town meeting. School Superintendent Heather Wilmot said they had not closed on the loan on March 1 as planned and would consider a town vote. David Cherry thanked Ms. Wilmot and asked that it be put on the June warrant. Wilmot said key components of the project are time sensitive and would affect the rebate from Efficiency Maine. At issue was the \$90,000 rebate if the project were on track for March 1; however, \$70,000 may still be available. David Cherry asked how the first phase of the project could be completed by the end of April, as outlined previously, if the vote were held on April 25. Judy Colby asked whether Wilmot was looking for financing before the town vote. Wilmot said she would have to confirm the quotes from the banks and that better rates were available from larger banks, not local banks. Tom Seekins, contractor for the project, said it was difficult to work with local banks and added that the Efficiency Maine grant of \$16,000 was no longer available. Judy Colby asked why a bond with a better interest rate was not being considered, and Seekins explained the bond was risk adverse and that

if the loan was not repaid, the bank would take possession of the assets. He further explained that it would not be possible to keep the contractors waiting until June. Jeff Slack and Larry Gordon expressed preference for a vote at the Town Meeting in June where a larger vote would be likely. Wilmot said she would use Facebook and other electronic means to publicize a special town meeting in April and looked forward to a good turnout. **David Cherry moved to schedule the referendum vote on the school project at the June Town Meeting. Vote 4-1-0** (Slack opposed). Shana Mueller said it was important that the school department supported the June vote and not pursue financing before the vote. Wilmot said the School Department budget will be discussed at a workshop on March 23 at 5 p.m.

A five-minute recess was taken at 6:27 p.m.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. Liquor License Renewal Sarah's Café: **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to open the public hearing for consideration of a liquor license renewal for Sarah's Café. Vote 5-0-0.** There was no discussion. **Judy Colby moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** **Jeff Slack moved to approve the renewal of the liquor license for Sarah's Café. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Pam Logan asked that the 110-year old town clock be cared for and she was advised that there were funds in the budget for that purpose.

Larry Gordon moved that the box on the telephone pole by the Legion Hall be taken down. Vote 5-0-0.

8. Department head or committee chair – none

a. EMS Director Toby Martin: Martin was in a training session and was unable to be present. Judy Colby announced that the ambulance had been repaired at a cost less than anticipated.

b. Town Planner Ben Averill – Update on airport office space rental: Averill said the rental space had been advertised since last fall on the Town website, MLS and Craig's List without success, and he asked whether the board wanted him to spend funds to pursue other avenues. There was a consensus that no change be made in the advertising.

c. Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor William Rines – WWTP Misner sewer write-off: Marian Anderson said the property at 12 Ox Horn Road had been vacant since 2013 but was still being billed for services. According to the sewer ordinance, charges are not made if the house is vacant and Anderson asked permission to write off the sewer lien. **Judy Colby moved to abate the sewer lien amount of \$1,374.90. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

a. Municipal Quit Claim Deed: **Jeff Slack moved to authorize the signing of the quit claim deed. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Review and approve suggested changes in the Guidelines for Use of Town Property and Equipment: **David Cherry moved to accept Guidelines for Use of Town Property and Equipment as proposed. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Communications: Anderson extended an invitation from Spectrum Generations to a March for Meals luncheon on March 22, 2017 at 11 a.m. She also distributed a letter from Lowell Joerg with photo of a postcard showing 1920 Wiscasset he had found in an antique store in California.

b. Red Brick School house – reschedule site visit. Anderson reminded the board of a planned visit to the schoolhouse.

c. Anderson announced that the Business Friendly signs had been installed by the Public Works Department on Routes 1 and 27.

d. Anderson and Jeff Slack will be interviewing three audit firms next week.

12. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.