

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
APRIL 4, 2017

tape recorded meeting

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

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **David Cherry moved to approve the payroll warrants of March 24 and 31, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **David Cherry moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 28 and April 4, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Jeff Slack moved to approve the minutes of the Capital Improvement Workshop on March 13, 2017, of the Budget Workshop on March 16, 2017, of the Budget Workshop on March 20, 2017 and the minutes of meetings on March 21, March 23 and March 28, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

a. Todd Souza: Judy Colby presented a plaque to Souza in appreciation for his 14 years of dedicated service to the Wiscasset Community Center.

5. Committee Appointments

a. Jeff Slack said he and the Police Chief had interviewed the volunteers for the Public Safety Advisory Council. **Slack moved to appoint Gregory Uthoff, Brad Sevaldson, Marie Reinhardt, John Reinhardt, Holly Giles, Coleen Gilliam, and Jody Elwell to the Public Safety Advisory Council. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to open the public hearing for the liquor license renewal for Cecilio Juntura, DBA Taste of Orient and Tony Bickford, DBA Little Village Bistro. Vote 5-0-0. There were no questions or comments and the Police Chief reported no problems. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to grant a liquor license to the Taste of Orient and Little Village Bistro. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Robert Buchina asked the select board to add an article to the warrant requesting that all property tax increases be paid for by the surplus accounts of both school and town.

Preston Dunning, Harbormaster, reported that he has been working with the Waterfront Committee and had talked with some of the local worm dealers about taking the worm cars off the float. Another ongoing problem is lobster crates being left on the float for more than the allowed 24 hours. In response to Judy Colby's question, Dunning said he is working on the problem of wormers' crates on the recreational pier; he has removed old crates without names or numbers. He said applications for moorings may be obtained from him or the Town. His winter schedule includes a visit to the harbor at least once a week plus a drive-by both morning and night and he is available by phone and email; the summer schedule will include being at the Town Office one day a week and at the harbor on weekends.

b. Waterfront Committee-2017 Pier Vendor Applications: Tammy Brooks, who rents space on the Recreational Pier for QT's Ice Cream Parlor, asked if the fee for the summer permit could be lowered on the Recreational Pier until it is better established as the Creamery Pier is. Although she has advertised extensively and installed the allowed signage, business is slower than at the Creamery Pier and her income fell from \$40,000 to \$11,000 last year. She suggested leaving the winter fee at \$300, but starting the summer permit at \$250 and increasing the fee over five years to \$400. **Jeff Slack moved to lower the permit fee to \$250 on the Recreational Pier for this summer season and revisit each year. Vote 5-0-0.** The difference in fees for the two piers will be clarified in the policy.

Ben Averill provided sketches of the piers with vendor locations. A sculpture previously approved, QT's Ice Cream Parlor and Maine Kayak will have locations on the Recreational Pier if approved. Maine Kayak has also applied for space on the Creamery Pier for ticket sales along with Sprague's Lobster, Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce, Forgotten Recipes and The Potter's Shed. Because the board had questions regarding the space Maine Kayak's wheeled rack for the kayaks (capable of being locked) would occupy on the Recreational Pier, the application was tabled. The Chamber of Commerce asked that its fee be waived. **Jeff Slack moved to approve Sprague's Lobster, Forgotten Recipes, The Potters Shed, QT's Ice Cream Parlor, to waive the fee for the Chamber of Commerce and postpone the application from Maine Kayak. Vote 4-1-0. (Cherry opposed).**

c. EMS Director Toby Martin-Dresden proposal: Martin sought the board's approval to bid on EMS coverage for Dresden. Dresden currently has coverage from Gardiner; however, it has expressed an interest in coverage from Wiscasset. Martin recommended offering a three-year contract at \$6,000 for the first year, and an increase of \$500 each year for years two and three with a clause indicating that if the contract is broken, Dresden would be responsible for the unpaids. Dresden currently has 50 calls per year and he estimated that revenue would be \$15,000 to \$17,000 per year without the subsidy. In response to Larry Gordon's question, Martin said if Wiscasset discontinued EMS service, any contracts with neighboring towns would be transferred to whatever entity took over service. In response to Kim Andersson's question, Martin said that if service were increased, another ambulance would be needed. The 2003 ambulance is aging and Martin proposed using the revenue from Dresden for a lease purchase of a new ambulance. This would not change the operational budget and the department would have two ambulances plus one in reserve. In response to Bill Barnes' question, Martin said additional staff would not be needed. **David Cherry moved to go into negotiations for a three-year contract with Dresden for EMS coverage with a non-appropriation clause and, based on negotiations, the starting rate would be \$6,000 for the first year, \$6,500 for the second year and \$7,000 for the third year. If Dresden backs out of the contract, it will be responsible for the uncollectibles.** Cherry said without adding staff, a contract would add \$20,000 to \$23,000 which could be used for replacing or refitting an ambulance. **Vote 4-1-0 (Gordon opposed).**

At 7:25, the board took a five minute recess.

d. Wiscasset Parking Subcommittee Steve Christiansen, Susan Robson and Chief Jeffrey Lange – Parking recommendations (no action required): The subcommittee, which is only advisory, had submitted its recommendations for parking in the downtown area in coordination with the MDOT traffic plan. Ben Rines, Jr., encouraged enforcement of present laws before recommending anything new. Chief Lange said the ordinance needed to be clear in order for the police to enforce the present parking restrictions and the committee will be looking at inconsistencies in order to revise the ordinance. Lange will be meeting with MDOT on the recommendations.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Review of mooring fees: A comparison of mooring fees indicated that Wiscasset's fees were higher than those of neighboring towns, and no increase was recommended.

b. Proposed new ordinance and ordinance revisions: The ordinances will be reviewed at the next meeting.

10. New Business

a. Municipal Deed Release-Karena Field: **Judy Colby moved to sign the Municipal Release Deed. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: In order to show the voters how select board and budget committee members voted rather than a consensus, **Ben Rines, Jr., moved that the warrant display the individual votes of the board of selectmen and the budget committee members. Vote 5-0-0.**

Article 68: **Judy Colby moved that the select board had no recommendation. Vote 5-0-0.**

Articles 69 and 70: There was public discussion on these two articles including the reason for the articles appearing on the warrant. It was pointed out that voters would have the opportunity to vote for or against the Planning Department budget, so there would be no need for a non-binding referendum on keeping the Planning Department. With regard to the non-binding referendum on closing one school and tuitioning out students, it was the consensus of the board and public that not enough research had been done and the voters were not given enough information to make an intelligent decision. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to remove Article 69 from the warrant. Vote 4-1 (Slack opposed). Ben Rines, Jr., moved to remove Article 70 from the warrant. Vote 3-2-0 (Cherry and Slack opposed).** During the discussion of Article 70, School Superintendent Heather Wilmot said that the school department is on track to have over \$1 million in tuition revenue (including special needs students) next year to offset the budget. In response to Ben Rines' question on the \$380,000 the Town owes the School Department, Treasurer Shari Fredette said \$380,000 was not included in the estimate by the RSU Financial Manager of the amount the Town owed the RSU because the tax commitment on which the debt was based was incomplete at that time. The Town and the School Department are working on a resolution of the situation. In response to Bob Blagden's question, Marian Anderson said that combining the unassigned fund balance of \$37,708 with the net proceeds from the sale of the primary school (\$380,640) the Town has approximately \$418,000 to reduce the tax rate.

c. Town Manager's Contract: **Judy Colby moved to approved a new two-year contract for the Town Manager effective August 18, 2017. Vote 4-1-0 (Rines opposed).**

11. Town Manager's Report: Anderson reminded the board and public of the celebration on Friday, April 7, from 5 to 7 at the Community Center to show the town's appreciation for Todd Souza's work with the Town.

12. Other Board Business

a. Abatement- **Jeff Slack moved to approve the abatement for Richard Mank at 432 Lowelltown Road in the amount of \$1,586.61 as recommended by Assessors' Agent Ellery G. Bane. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

Ben Rines moved to adjourn in honor and memory of Sally Brun, Wiscasset's oldest resident who passed away. Vote 5-0-0.