

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Tape recorded meeting

Present: Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Town Manager Marian Anderson

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. November Warrant

Town Manager Marian Anderson reported that Article 2 relating to the fees for shellfish licenses had been changed to include the wording of the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance (Article X, Section 6.5.3) as requested at the previous meeting. Also added was the vote of the Budget Committee on Article 2, transferring up to \$96,690.75 from the Capital Equipment Reserve Account to purchase a 2013 Ford Ambulance.

Anderson asked the board to advise on the inclusion in the warrant of a petition recently received which states, "We ask the Voters of the Town of Wiscasset to vote by Referendum Ballot, to transfer the remaining balance of the Municipal Planning Account, as of November 30, 2017, into the Fund Balance (surplus) for the purpose of reducing the 2018 tax commitment." **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to add the article to the upcoming warrant.** Susan Blagden asked what would happen if a planner were hired and then this petition was approved. Kathy Martin-Savage advised not defunding the account until the votes were tallied and in the meantime, assistance could be sought from Mary Ellen Barnes of Lincoln County Planning. **Vote 5-0-0.** Anderson said the petition would be the on the ballot as Article V "inserted by petition."

Anderson provided the board with a copy of an email from James Kochan regarding his FOIA request relating to Preservation Ordinance and HPC hearing and vote.

Susan Blagden said the Ordinance Review Committee and the Planning Board had voted that the Historic Preservation Ordinance should not be repealed but should be brought up again after amendments were made. Ben Rines said that since the ordinance required a vote "at the annual Town Meeting," it would be a good thing to wait until June. Anderson said she had been working with the Historic Preservation Commission regarding amendments to the ordinance, as opposed to repealing the entire ordinance, which would reduce the size of the historic zone and make the process more user-friendly. In addition the ORC would work with the HPC on recommended changes.

Bob Blagden said he voted against putting the repeal of the HPO on the warrant because in the past, ordinances had been voted on only at the annual town meeting. He said the ordinance could be changed and then voted on at a later date.

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept Article 2. Vote 5-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to accept Article 3. Vote 5-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to accept article 4. Vote 3-2 (Blagden and Rines opposed.) Bob Blagden moved to accept Article V. Vote 5-0-0.** The votes will be shown on the ballot.

### 3. Other Board Business

In response to Ben Rines' question regarding the recently installed speed bumps on Lee Street. Marian Anderson said the Police Chief had brought up the speeding problems at one of their meetings and they had been installed by the town. John Reinhardt said Lee Street is used as a bypass to avoid the lights when traffic is backed up on Route 1 and has become a dangerous freeway. The speed bumps will be taken up in the fall. Ben Rines, Jr., asked that the board be notified before installation of future speed bumps. EMS Director Toby Martin asked if a feasibility study could be done to see how the MDOT project will affect the side streets both now and in the summer.

Ben Rines asked if there was enough money in the fund balance to keep taxes at zero without going to a town meeting. Marian Anderson said if \$600,000 were taken from the fund balance, the increase in taxes on a \$100,000 house would be \$9. **Jeff Slack moved to take \$619,000 from the fund balance. Vote 5-0-0.** Commitment papers will be available for signatures at the meeting on September 19.

Marian Anderson reported that in response to the board's request that she reduce the upcoming budget by \$500,000, she would like to schedule a meeting with the School Committee, the Budget Committee and the board. The meeting will be scheduled tentatively on either October 4 or 5 or the following week.

In response to Bob Blagden's question, Anderson will check why the Fire Department is no long filling fire extinguishers. Blagden also noted that the new asphalt on the corner of Hooper and Federal streets is pulling up and needs repair.

Susan Blagden asked why the warrant was written before taking into consideration the vote on September 11 by the Planning Board and Ordinance Review Committee, which the select board had requested. James Kochan said that there was no legal opinion that said that the warrant could go forward in November.

### 4. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**