

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

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 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of September 8 and 15, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of September 12 and 19, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of September 5 and 12, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards: none

5. Committee Appointments

a. Jeff Slack moved to appoint Shaye Paradis to the Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearing – none

7. Public Comment

Steve Christianson inquired about the removal of the Hesper sign at the waterfront, which he said was supposed to take place by Labor Day. Town Manager Marian Anderson will look into the matter.

Dick Forrest said the Waterfront Committee's role is advisory, not enforcement; however, he had noticed some violations at the pier, and it was unclear who was enforcing pier policies. He was advised to notify the Town Manager who would delegate responsibility for correcting the violation to the appropriate party.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Fire Chief T. J. Merry

- Repairs to Engine 6: Merry said the bill for repairs to Engine 6 was more than half of his fleet budget for the year, and he will be over budget. The annual pump test at \$375 will be required for each truck; chassis inspections for all four trucks will be necessary. Public Works

Director Doug Fowler said that he is looking into the acquisition of equipment for the garage to certify and license town vehicles.

- In response to a question on filling fire extinguishers, Merry said he rarely does that because they have to be sent out six at a time, and he advised that disposable extinguishers be bought at Ames instead.

b. Police Chief Jeffrey Lange – Request to purchase ID card maker: Lange said the ID card maker would allow the Police Department to issue Carry Concealed Weapons permits with photo ID attached, and all Town Employees could have photo IDs. Funds received for conducting background checks on applicants for Carry Concealed Weapons permits could be used toward the purchase of the ID card maker as well as contributions from other departments. Cost of the equipment is \$3,213. Marian Anderson recommended getting quotes from other companies. Ben Rines, Jr., and Jeff Slack recommended considering purchase of the equipment in next year's budget. In response to Ben Rines' question, Lange said photo IDs are not required for CCWs. In response to a comment that department heads seemed to come up with unbudgeted funds for new equipment or other items, Police Chief Lange and the EMS Director Martin explained that they had worked extra hours without pay in order to offset the cost of needed equipment.

c. Department Head Monthly Reports: In response to Jeff Slack's question, Martin said the majority of calls from Dresden have traditionally been in the winter months and average 113 per year. Income from Dresden calls will be generating \$30-40,000 per year plus the annual subsidy.

Marian Anderson said, in response to a previous question, the Treasurer's monthly report includes bank balances for Town, the schools and the elementary school.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Balzer Clock Works – Town Clock: Rick Balzer, whose company services the 1907 E. Howard round clock in a building on Fort Hill Street, reported to the board on the condition of the clock and tower and recommended removing the clock from the steeple, repairing it, and installing it in a town-owned building where it can be displayed. He said current access to service the clock monthly is difficult, as the Town does not own the building where the clock is located and the tower is in poor condition. The clock and tower were given to the Town in 1907 by William Henry Clark. The deed to the clock and tower will be researched and it was suggested that members of the board inspect the tower and clock.

b. 2017-2018 Tax Commitment: The board decided at the previous meeting to take \$619,000 out of the fund balance which would result in a mill rate of \$18.76, a less than .5% increase. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to set the 2017-2018 mill rate at \$18.76 and sign the commitment paperwork. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Discussion of Public Safety Council's letter: Marian Anderson said information for a formal response to the council's letter was being compiled. She said the new mechanic had computerized record-keeping which will help in generating information in the future.

d. Discussion on Budget Reduction for FY 2018-2019: Marian Anderson said she and Fred Quivey of the Budget Committee had discussed the request by the board to reduce next year's budget by \$500,000, or 10%. She distributed a draft matrix, indicating which budgets were under control of the select board and which parts are not, such as public utilities and unemployment insurance. She asked the board how

flexible it wanted to be in attaining the goal of reducing a half million from a 5 million dollar budget. Fred Quivey added that the board has control over only 41% of the budget, the school department making up the balance, or 59% of the budget. Revenue brought in by the various departments, offsetting the budget amounts can be added to the matrix. It was suggested that the assessor be asked to provide his numbers in August.

10. New Business

a. New England Clean Energy Connect presentation – John Carroll, CMP: Carroll said that in an effort to diversify energy resources in New England, Massachusetts has issued an RFP to private utilities for a multi-million dollar regional competition to develop the next phase of clean energy projects in New England. Central Maine Power Co has submitted a plan to build a high-voltage transmission line through western Maine to bring hydroelectricity from Quebec to Massachusetts. He described the possible corridors running from a new substation in Lewiston to Quebec. The project would require a new line to Maine Yankee. There will be no change to the line for the first three miles from Maine Yankee. He said the project would result in a reduction of CO₂, suppression of energy prices across New England, the addition of 1700 jobs and an annual tax benefit to Maine of \$18 million. He asked for support from the community and will send a draft letter of support for the board's consideration.

b. Monthly Financials

- Department year-to-date expense report: Most of the budgets are on target. The auditor will give a report to the Selectmen on November 7.
- H.M. Payson Account Statement: Anderson reminded the board that the Investment Committee will be meeting in October.

11. Town Manager's Report

Marian Anderson said the American Legion had submitted a list names be added to the memorial wall;

WWII: Case B. Rafter; Vietnam: David E. Grover; John G. Rafter, Jr.; James B. Quinnam; Sewall Hutchins, War on Terror: Joseph Lucas; Granada-Lebanon: Morgan G. Flood; Glenn Lewis; Patricia Hill; Zachary R. Callan; Joshua R. Page; and Rupert Flood. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to add the names to the wall. Vote 5-0-0.** Doug Fowler said he would be honored to seek the price for the additions.

Anderson said Clara Wentworth, DAR member, had brought in photos and asked for permission to put a small plaque by the tree that they had planted in honor of all veterans. Wentworth will research through the DAR where the plaque in the selectmen's office should be placed, possibly on the common. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the placement of a small plaque by the tree behind the memorial. Vote 5-0-0.**

Anderson said closing documents had been received for the pending conveyance between the Town and Central Maine Power for a new substation. The closing will be within the next month or so. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2019.

The Budget Committee has met; the chairman is William Laliberte, Vice Chairman is Zachary Gray and the Clerk is Fred Quivey. Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

The EMS will be sending out fund-raising letters in order to buy a utility vehicle so that the department can respond when both ambulances are on calls.

Anderson said Wiscasset was the subject of an article in a recent issue of the AARP magazine.

12. Other Board Business – none

13. Adjournment

Jeff Slack moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.