

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

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. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the payroll warrants of October 20 and 27, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Bob Blagden moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of October 24 and 31 and November 7, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

a. Certificate of Appreciation, Michael Smith for service to the Wiscasset Police Department: Chair Judy Colby thanked Smith for his 25 years of outstanding service to the Police Department and presented the Certificate of Appreciation. Judy Colby also thanked those who worked during the storm, firefighters, highway department police, ambulance, community center and all who had helped.

5. Committee Appointments

a. Steve Wallace, Budget Committee: **Jeff Slack moved to appoint Steve Wallace to the Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearing – None

7. Public Comment - None

8. Department head or committee chair

a. Chief of Police Jeffrey Lange – Proposed new program at Wiscasset Middle-High School: Lange submitted a letter to the board expressing his concerns regarding the School Department's application for a \$518,000 grant to fund special education services to secondary students (grades 6-12, through age 20) from RSU 1 AOS 98, AOS 93 and RSU 12. Lange said the current School Resource Officer is financed by the Police Department and adding to the present population verbally abusive and possibly irrational behavior adults up to age 20 will require more personnel. He asked for all paperwork associated with the program so that a study could be done and a determination could be made regarding the staffing required together with the source of funding.

Marian Anderson said the Superintendent of Schools will make a presentation regarding the proposed program on November 14. In response to Kathy Martin-Savage's concerns about safety of the students, staff and SRO, Jason Putnam, School Committee member, said the number of students to be included in the program is unknown at this point, as they will be coming from multiple towns and there will probably be eight students and four adults. The special education program will include a social worker and an ed tech. He said it was a great opportunity for the school and the students. Judy Colby said the grant would provide \$518,000 for the first year and after that the cost would be apportioned to the towns. She said every child deserves a chance but the cost to the community for another SRO then unknown future costs need to be considered. Questions from the board included whether the school board had asked the community about the program, safety, and future costs.

Kim Andersson, teacher at WMHS, spoke on the cost of the program and said there had been no input from stakeholders. She expressed concern about the process which began in February without notice and has been labeled "non-negotiable". She said the teachers and staff do not support the program.

Trent Jeffrey, WMHS student said that the town should not restrict students' opportunity to learn and although some students may suffer from depression or anxiety, it should not automatically be assumed that they will cause problems.

Judy Colby said the superintendent will be invited to the next meeting to discuss both the safety and financial issues.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Reconsideration of action taken at the October 3, 2017 meeting regarding the board's position on downtown parking: Kathy Martin-Savage said she had been in touch with Main St. business people and had brought a motion by which the MDOT improvement issues would be litigated. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved that the Board moves and orders the following:**

1. To authorize and instruct the Town Manager to retain a qualified independent attorney deemed sufficient by the Select Board, to file a petition to the Maine Superior Court on behalf of the Town seeking it to require MDOT before it commences any Option #2 demolition or construction, to comply with all applicable Town ordinances, MDOT regulations and policies, and State law, including:

A. Obtaining a Municipal/State Project Agreement with the Town as approved by the voters;

B. Obtaining all applicable Town permits and approvals;

C. Accepting the will of the Town voters as expressed in their binding June 2017 referendum vote rejecting the changes made by MDOT to the Option #2 project since June 2016, and accepting the will of the Select Board in its June 2017 vote withdrawing its support of Option #2, and its October 2017 vote opposing MDOT's removal of Main Street's parking.

2. In retaining independent counsel, the Town Manager is authorized to use funds approved by the voters by warrant article for legal services, and is further authorized to accept donations of money to the Town to supplement this specific appropriation.

3. In accordance with the representation that MDOT made to the Town in May 2016 that it would abide by the will of the Town in deciding on any downtown traffic improvement project design, to invite MDOT as an alternative to a court action, to work with the Town on other design options, such

as improved Option #1, that would maintain Main Street parking, and preserve and return Haggett Garage to the community. Vote 3-2-0 (Bob Blagden and Judy Colby opposed).

Marian Anderson said it was important for the public to know that the selectmen and others have been working behind the scenes with MDOT regarding some downtown parking and improvement to the Treat's parking lot.

Mark Swartz said time was of the essence because the contract for demolition of the Haggett Garage would be awarded with a week. Kathy Martin-Savage asked that the suit be filed within the next 24 hours.

10. New Business

a. Auditor's Report – Fred Brewer: Postponed until December.

b. EPA Brownfields Clean-up Grant Application for Point East Maritime Village: Anderson said Lincoln County Planning had helped with the grant application. **Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the vision statement and cost-sharing commitment letters for the EPA Brownfields Clean-up Grant Application for properties located at 11 and 12 Point East Drive and 31 and 41 Point East Drive. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Report on Hydrologic Conditions (enclosed State of Maine Drought Task Force Report)

d. Correspondence: Letters thanking the Town for donations to their organizations were received from Eldercare Network of Lincoln County and New Hope for Women.

11. Town Manager's Report

Anderson thanked all that had worked during the storm, particularly those working behind the scenes-- the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Toby Martin who is investigating the town's eligibility for federal funds. Anderson will see whether the White's Island Bridge will be eligible for federal funds for damage.

She announced that Ray Bellefleur , Wastewater Treatment Plant, had received his 1st class license. Anita Sprague has received the advanced EMA provider designation

A request has been received from Lucia Droby requesting permission to erect "Holiday Marketplace" signs in the village from December 7 to 10. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the request. Vote 5-0-0.**

A celebration honoring veterans will be held at 9 a.m. on November 11 at the monument, to which new names have been added.

12. Other Board Business

Ben Rines, Jr., asked when the board would receive an update on the \$500,000 proposed to be cut from the budget. Anderson said she had planned to present the proposed cuts during the budget process after meeting with department heads, but in light of his request, she would provide it at the first meeting in December.

The selectmen's guidelines, which have to be approved each year, will be on the next agenda.

Bob Blagden asked that the board discuss holding the elections in the meetingroom. Anderson said she would check previous minutes and put the item on the next agenda for discussion.

13. Assessors' Business

a. Abatements

Alfred Simmons (Map R01, Lot 39) \$1,857.24

Maureen Smith (Map R03, Lot 53-A) \$375.20

Linda Field (Map R04, Lot 024) \$335.80

Brendan McMorrow (Map R04, Lot 030) \$116.31

b. Supplemental

Carolyn Soule (Map 01, Lot 39-F) \$2,474.44

Bob Blagden moved to approve the above abatements and supplemental. Vote 5-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.