

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Present: Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Ben Rines, Jr., Ben 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 November 10 and 17, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Judy Colby moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of November 14 and 21, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of November 7, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards –none

5. Committee Appointments

Jeff Slack moved to approve the appointment of Judy Shea Flanagan to the Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Steve Christianson asked whether those attending had exceeded the allowable limit for the room. He counted and found there was no problem with the number of people in the room.

Nancy Roby expressed her frustration at the action of the board (at the previous meeting) regarding the MDOT traffic improvement plan which she said was approved by the voters; and it was insulting to them to suggest that they didn't know what they were voting for. She asked the board to not use tax money for lawsuits. As for the loss of parking next to shops, she cited the benefits of walking and the need for improvements in the downtown area where some sidewalks were inaccessible to the handicapped and stairs that were crumbling.

Susan Blagden submitted her resignation from the Historic Preservation Commission to take effect immediately. She said she would be working as a consultant on the Historic Preservation Ordinance revision with County Planner Bob Faunce. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept her resignation from the Historic Preservation Commission with regret and to approve her as a consultant to the Historic Preservation Commission as needed. Vote 5-0-0.**

Shay Perry, resident, teacher and mother, expressed her concern over comments made at the previous meeting regarding the special education services to be offered next year. She said the schools need more counselors, not a School Resource Officer.

Cordelia Oehmig, Wiscasset Bay Gallery, said she was not comfortable with the fact that Ernie Martin had met individually with shop owners (regarding the MDOT Main Street improvements) and asked why he had not met with them as a group.

Another shop owner encouraged the groups to work together and cited the potential for businesses on other streets to develop.

Bruce Marcus said Ernie Martin had made an appointment with him but did not show up, which he considered rude and unprofessional.

Sherry Dunbar said she was troubled by the dissension and negativity regarding the MDOT plan and as a taxpayer did not support her tax dollars being used to fight the State of Maine.

Seaver Leslie said the Main Street project being pushed through by the State was something the Town could not afford. Even though it would benefit other towns, it didn't take into consideration the vitality and health of Wiscasset. He said traffic could be moved with other technologies. He advised upgrading Railroad Avenue and making the improvements incrementally.

Judy Flanagan expressed concern that there had been no discussion on the motion taken at the last meeting on the law suit. She asked the board to reconsider, to put the motion on the agenda for an open discussion so that all would be prepared to vote on the motion.

Ann Scanlon said she couldn't think of any town in Maine that doesn't have on-street parking. Her customers tell her they stopped only because there was a parking space close by. She said the Middle Street Parking lot which is counted as off street parking is already used by business owners and employees of the businesses. The parking lot created by the demolition of the Haggett Garage will be used by the residents of the new apartments planned across the street. She cautioned that Wiscasset would not be a viable town without parking.

8 Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Town Clerk, Linda Perry – November 7, 2017 State and Local Referendum results (provided)

b. Police Chief Jeffery Lange Report –Depletion of Overtime Funds and Manpower Issues; Day treatment Program at Wiscasset middle-High School: Lange was not present.

c. Budget Committee: Resignation of Bryan Buck: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to accept the resignation with regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Monthly Department Head reports. Marian Anderson referred to the Treasurer's report which included balances in town and school accounts. She thanked the Treasurer for coming into the office on a storm day to complete the county tax report to avoid a \$100 late fee.

e. Shellfish recommendation – Donation of the upweller to the Chewonki foundation: Anderson said the Shellfish Committee would like to donate the upweller to the Chewonki Foundation, as the committee members no longer had time to run the upweller. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to give the upweller to Chewonki if they want it. Vote 5-0-0**

f. EMS Director Toby Martin – Memo regarding budget line overdraft: Martin notified the board that the EMS budget would have an overdraft due to the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased last year as required by OSHA. The overdraft will be in the operational budget, as no provision was made in the capital improvement plan for this requirement. Martin said he already works additional hours but cannot work extra hours to offset the purchase of the PPE. He said there were two options: to reduce staffing or use revenue from Dresden. Chairman Colby asked Martin to return in three months with a report on the EMS budget. In response to a question, Martin said the cost of the new ambulance will be taken from the capital improvement account, rather than from the Dresden revenue.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Wawenock, LLC et al v. MDOT v. Town of Wiscasset \$31,183 as of 11/16/17: Marian Anderson reported that, as of party of interest, Wiscasset had paid \$31,183 so far in legal fees for responses and appearances in court. The decision in that case has been appealed so there will be further costs and Wiscasset will be involved in two lawsuits.

b. Town Clock Update: Ben Rines reported that although the steeple needs work it is in better condition than he thought. Bob Blagden was impressed with how good the steeple looked. One timber needs to be replaced and Jason Putnam offered to do the repair. An official inspection report has not yet been received from the engineers. Anderson reported \$4,000 had been approved for the repair and a contribution of \$1,000 toward the repair had been received.

c. Budget Cuts per Board directive: Marian Anderson distributed a working document showing a budget reduction of \$431,107 as requested by the board. The cuts which would necessitate policy decisions included eliminating departments, contributions to community organizations such as the library, New Hope for Women, Senior Spectrum, etc., contingency, celebrations, contractual obligations, shellfish and reductions to other accounts and departments. Increases in salaries due to contractual obligations, increases in insurance and other increases were not taken into account. Ben Rines, Jr., asked what the cuts would mean for taxes. Cutting \$500,000 from the budget would reduce taxes approximately \$200 on a \$200,000 property.

Richard Forrest, Shellfish Committee member, asked about the elimination of the shellfish budget. Anderson said that would be up to the board. The board sets the shellfish fees and the fees would pay for the warden only, not any other activities. He warned that raising the fees for shellfish licenses might diminish the digging.

In response to Phil DiVece's question, Anderson said contractual services include legal, auditor, assessing, tax maps, contract with animal shelter, Mason Station legal fees, union and labor issues and engineering.

d. Rules of Order and Procedure: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the Rules of Order and Procedure for Wiscasset Board of Selectmen. Ben Rines, Jr. moved to amend the motion to take out No. 36 Meeting Length. Vote 3-2-0. Vote on amended motion 4-1-0 (Blagden opposed).**

e. Discussion regarding location for future voting (first discussed 6/27/2017): Bob Blagden pointed out the advantages of voting at the municipal building such as the permanent voting booths and staff available in the event of complaints. Disadvantages mentioned were fewer parking spaces, fewer booths, waiting outside to vote in inclement weather, lack of outside lights. The Town Clerk will be consulted and a report will be made at the next meeting.

10. New Business

a. Downeaster Pilot 2018 Program: Anderson reported on a pilot program running from Brunswick to Rockland with stops in Wiscasset and Newcastle. A presentation will be made in the future.

b. Huntoon Hill Grange blanket approval to operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for the year 2018 (required yearly by the Maine State Police). **Jeff Slack moved to approve the Huntoon Hill Grange's request. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Revision to the Check Disbursement Policy: Changes would allow the treasurer to pay credit card charges and loan payments to avoid late fees. **Judy Colby moved to approve amendments to the Check Disbursement Policy as recommended by the Town Treasurer. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Monthly Financials

- Department year to date expense report
- H. M. Payson Statement of Account: The report showed growth in the Endowment and Reserve funds.

e. Bid Opening-Fire/EMS Vehicle Exhaust System: The following bids were received

Airvac 911	EMS \$12,263	FD \$17,978
Airplanning Specialists	Option A \$53,700	Option B \$52,700

Judy Colby moved to have the Town Manager and EMS Director review the bids and award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Town Manager's Report

Monique McRae, President of the Chamber of Commerce, had asked the board's permission, as part of the Holiday Marketplace, to discharge fireworks from the commercial pier. Spectators would watch from the Creamery Pier. The Chamber will be using the same company the town uses for the 4th of July. There were no objections from the Fire Chief. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to authorize the Chamber of Commerce to set off fireworks on December 7. Vote 5-0-0.**

Anderson clarified that the fee for applications to the Historic Preservation Commission is printed on the application (\$25 for the application and \$2 for each notice to abutter). She explained the process by which applications are forwarded to the chairs of the committees and notices of meetings sent out by the town using the fees paid by the applicant.

Jeff Slack said the Historic Preservation Commission needs members. In response to Susan Blagden's question about the application from James Kochan, Slack said it was his motion to not approve that application.

12. Other Board Business

13. Assessors' Business

a. Abatements

b. Supplementals

Jeff Slack moved to approve the following abatements and supplementals as recommended by Ellery G. Bane, Assessors' Agent:

Abatements

Schuyler Fairfield, Personal Property, \$123.82

Steve Lutes, Jr., Map R01, Lot 20-1, \$2,362.78

Casco Bay Vending Personal Property, \$408.49

Supplementals

Richard A. and Nancy G. Lutes, Map R01, Lot 20-1 for \$2,362.78

Joseph W. Ruzyckij, Map U012, Lot 5A for \$2,371.26

Vote 5-0-0

14. Adjournment

The chair wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**