

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2017, 6 P.M.

Tape recorded meeting

Present: Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Kathy Martin-Savage, 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 August 25 and September 1, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

**b. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of August 29, 2017 and September 5, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**a. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of August 22, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. Adoption of the 2017-2018 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to go into a public hearing to discuss the adoption of the 2017-2018 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D. Vote 5-0-0.** Marian Anderson said the ordinance covers State maximums for assistance with housing, food, electricity, and heating fuel. After a brief discussion, **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adopt the 2017-2018 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

James Kochan advised the board to spend more time advertising for a planner, to advertise with the Maine Association of Planners and New England Association of Planners and to lengthen the time for responses. He said that experience in strategic planning and economic impact should be emphasized.

Norm Guidoboni said he appreciated the help given to the food pantries. He also mentioned Eric Strimling's circuit breaker program to help seniors pay their taxes.

Albert Konrath inquired about the progress in obtaining a sound system and was told it has been ordered.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Fire Chief T. J. Merry – Repairs to Engine 6: Rescheduled to next selectmen’s meeting.

b. Wiscasset Police Department – Resignation of Sgt. Alfred Simmons: Chief Jeffrey Lange said Simmons was retiring after 34 years of service and suggested that he be honored in some manner. Lange said Fred Wooster had been promoted to sergeant and was filling in as SRO until someone is hired for that position. The school supply drive went very well and Lange thanked all who had contributed school supplies. He said this will be a yearly event. **Judy Colby moved to accept the resignation of Sgt. Alfred Simmons with great regret and to thank him for his service to Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.**

9. Unfinished Business

a. November Election Warrant:

Article 3, Shellfish Conservation Ordinance is being changed to allow Selectmen to set fee.

Article 4, Repeal of Historic Preservation Ordinance: Ben Rines recommended waiting to vote until next June. Judy Colby said legal opinions from both Bernstein Shur and MMA said the timing of the vote was at the discretion of the board.

Bob Blagden recommended rewriting Article 3 and Article 4 to reference ordinance sections.

Ben Rines, Jr., said he was anticipating a public meeting before commitment. Anderson said it was a possibility, but they were running out of time. Judy Colby said they need more figures than they have and inevitably they will have to go back to ask for reserve funds to lower taxes. A selectmen’s meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, and Budget Committee should be involved.

10. New Business

a. Budget carry forward: The list of carryforwards from FY17 to FY18 were discussed and the following accounts were carried forward:

Planning-Town share of safe harbor and WWTP grants	\$580
Shellfish Seed	740
Waterfront Building	1,191
WWTP Loan Interest	93,339
Public Works Cemeteries	43,553
EMS Primo Vents	38,000
Main Street Pier/electric upgrade	4,702

The Maine Street Pier/electric upgrades will be visited next year.

The balance of the carryforwards represents work that has been completed and the balance left will be put into the reserve account. Anderson will check on the Public Works Backhoe Lease.

b. James W. Sewall Company cable TV franchising and broadband expansion: Anderson asked the board to consider joining the consortium to negotiate with other municipalities for cable TV and broadband. She suggested bringing it up at the next meeting. Ben Rines, Jr., asked that Anderson provide an update on what other towns are doing.

c. MMA Dividend Check: Anderson said there were few claims and losses, and the dividend check is more than the dues being paid to MMA.

d. Correspondence: Anderson said that a thank you letter had been received from Healthy Kids for the \$1500 appropriation.

### 11. Town Manager's Report

Anderson pointed out correspondence received from James Kochan, the Ordinance Review Committee and Central Maine Power public meeting notice for the bid for construction of the New England Clean Energy Connect transmission line. Good Shepherd food Bank thanked the board for donations to the food pantries. The MDOT/Wawanock/Town of Wiscasset legal issue depositions from Ralph Doering and Ernie Martin from the MDOT will begin on Thursday.

Tax Commitment: Anderson distributed documents to the board including a breakdown of the primary school expenses incurred before the school was sold. After expenses, the Town realized \$380,640.47 from the sale of the school.

Three scenarios were presented to the board indicating the tax calculation for three different amounts being taken from the fund balance. She reminded the board that the Town lost \$2.5 million in value from the homestead exemption change, and about \$1.1 million in the Maine Yankee valuation this year. She said it would take \$650,000 to keep the mill rate at \$18.71, the overlay would be \$32,303. If \$640,000 were taken from the fund balance and reserve, to maintain the mill rate of \$18.71, the overlay would be \$22,303. If the board did nothing, put no money toward the tax commitment, the mill rate would be \$20.15. The Town currently has just over \$400,000 in the reserve fund and \$160,000 in the endowment. Anderson estimated that there was \$200,000 to \$250,000 in the fund balance (undesignated cash funds). This amount could be taken from \$650,000 to reduce the amount needed to maintain the mill rate. An accurate fund balance will be available by the following Tuesday. These numbers do not include the school monies. The majority of board indicated that they favored a flat budget. Bob Blagden asked that the money from the sale of the primary school be factored in before any increase.

In response to Jason Putnam's question, Marian Anderson said that the auditor had demonstrated that the Town owed the school \$348,000; however, board members, having paid all warrants from the school, wonder why the town owes any more money. Marian Anderson said this should be the subject of a conversation between the select board and the school board.

Ben Rines said he hoped that the budgets would be kept flat, but now it appears it will take \$600,000 to keep it flat. Anderson explained that there was no way to have known that the legislature would increase the homestead exemption from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and cut the reimbursement to 50%. **Bob Blagden moved to ask the Town Manager to look through these budgets and come up with a half million in cuts. Vote 5-0-0.**

In response to Jason Putnam's question regarding the reduction in valuation of the Maine Yankee property, Marian Anderson said a 2005 agreement required the periodic reduction of valuation until 2023 when a new contract will be negotiated.

EMS Director Toby Martin said it was difficult for department heads to keep within their operational budgets without a capital improvement plan, as repair of equipment is sometimes more costly than replacing the equipment if it were provided for in a capital improvement plan.

In response to Bob Blagden's question regarding carry-overs, Anderson said she will research previous years' numbers.

In response to Bob Blagden's question, Anderson said when the school was sold, amounts of bills from 2015 and 2016 were subtracted from that account.

12. Other Board Business – none

13. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**