

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
DECEMBER 4, 2018

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

1. Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and called for a moment of silence in honor of President George H. W. Bush before reciting the pledge of allegiance.

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of November 16, 23, and 30, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Bob Blagden moved to accept the accounts payable warrants of November 20 and 27 and December 4, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of November 13, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Chief T. J. Merry – Fire Station door opener and generator in rescue truck: Chief Merry said the fire station door opener had failed and to repair it would deplete the Fire Department maintenance budget. He said the compressor on the rescue truck needed a rebuild estimated at \$3000 or replacement estimated at \$4,500 and was more urgent than repairing the doors which could be opened but with difficulty. Chair Judy Colby said she had no problem taking the cost of the generator out of the maintenance budget. It was the consensus of the board to replace the generator on the rescue truck and to delay repair on the door opener until next year's budget if possible. The chief was authorized to replace the generator without bids because of the immediate need, using his best judgement on the price.

b. Budget Committee October 10, 2018 meeting minutes – no action required.

c. Department Head Monthly Reports for October – no action required.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Delinquent Property Tax Update:

- Review Property Tax Payment Agreement with Town Legal Counsel: Phil Soucier, Bernstein Shur, recommended that the board use the Land Purchase Installment Contract provided by the Maine Municipal Association for repayment of taxes after foreclosure in the future in order to be in compliance with the statute. If a repayment plan is for more than four payments, the town would then be the lender by statute which is not advised. All repayment contracts the Town had have expired. The Town's options at this point are to offer a contract or list the property for sale. A letter to the owner after the foreclosure has taken place to arrange payments is recommended. A workshop will be scheduled in January to formulate a policy and to discuss the properties in foreclosure.

- Listing of delinquent taxes on land/non-primary residences: Six properties were discussed. The back taxes on three properties owned by Scott Connors will be paid by Ray Soule; the property owned by Cody and Chelsea Haggett will be combined with another property owned by Haggett. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to put the properties owned by Robert and Misty Gagnon and Kevin James up for sale unless the balance is not paid within 30 days; no financial arrangements will be offered. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Boardwalk Project: Deed information, RFP for feasibility study: Information is being researched on deeds and an RFP for a feasibility study for options and costs will be delayed until the deed information is complete.

c. Sunken Vessel update from November 26 court date: Continued until December 17, 2018.

d. Central Maine Power, Clean Energy Connect - John Carroll: Carroll provided an update on the powerline project from Hydro-Quebec to Massachusetts which will be in place in 2023. He explained that the project would rely less on natural gas which exposes New England to high electricity costs and increase the use of oil shipped in in cold weather. He said one-third of the generators of electricity (nuclear and coal) will be going off line in the next ten years. Carroll said the New England Clean Energy Connect would not displace private rooftop solar, community solar and energy storage; it would not displace small solar such as the Farmington Solar field; and transmission has not discouraged large-scale wind. He said a regional solution was necessary to lower the energy costs in New England. He said six miles of transmission in Wiscasset will be part of the project and no new real estate will be needed. The project will have a low impact on Wiscasset.

e. Downtown restroom project update: An application has been submitted to the DEP and will be processed with a deadline of February 19, 2019 for a decision. Anderson thanked Kathy Onorato for her work on the project.

f. School Board Joint Meeting: An email had been received from Stacey Souza, Administrative Assistant, Wiscasset School Department, inviting the select board to two budget workshops in January and February. Judy Colby said she was not interested in a budget workshop with the school department, but rather in a discussion of where the school system was going; the selectmen would have no input on the school budget. Ben Rines, Jr., recommended discussing shared costs with the School Board. Marian Anderson said she had talked with the superintendent twice about ways for the boards to collaborate on shared services. Colby asked the Town Manager to invite the school board to meet with the select board to discuss how the town budget is affected by the school, to see their vision and where they are going in five years.

g. Comp Plan Update: next steps December 18, 2018

10. New Business

a. Town Pole Permits: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to grant the pole permit for Railroad Avenue and Birch Point Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Resignation – Wendy Williams – Interim EMS Director: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the resignation of Wendy Williams as Interim EMS Director with regret. Vote 5-0-0.** Williams will remain on the EMS; Jon Powers will take over as Interim EMS Director. The Town Manager will write Williams a letter thanking her for her service.

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Downtown Parking Update: Marian Anderson said copies of parking maps had been received from MDOT.

b. EMS Donation: Marian Anderson said the Organ Society of the First Congregational Church had donated \$500 to the Emergency Medical Service, thanking them for installation of and instruction on the AED equipment. Anderson will acknowledge the gift.

Anderson thanked Erv Deck for volunteering to lower the flag the past week in honor of George H. W. Bush.

According to a winter update from MDOT, construction will shut down on December 7 and begin in the spring on April 15, 2019. Anderson had asked why curbing was on only one side of the road. She had been told the purpose of the curbing was to channel the water to the undermain system. She had written to the DOT asking that parking on the south side of Main Street be allowed for the weekend of the Holiday Marketfest. In addition, Brad Sevaldson had asked whether parking would be allowed for the Marketfest weekend and through the winter. A reply had been received from DOT that the current DOT contact was Brad Foley, 624-3539, cell 557-0010. Bob Blagden had asked at an earlier PAC meeting if the granite curbs would be retained; he had asked if the asphalt curbs were temporary and was assured that they were temporary. He asked if any granite curbs saved could be used on Railroad Avenue. Anderson will check on the curbing. Jim Kochan said he had been advised that the curbing was temporary for the winter. He said blacktop curbing on Railroad Avenue, which is in the Historic District, is permanent and asked that the town request that any old curbing be saved and used for Railroad Avenue.

12. Other Board Business

a. Assessors Abatements

•Personal Property Abatement. \$18,571.85-Uncollectable by reason or death or absence of business/person: Tax Collector Molly Bonang had asked that a list of uncollectable personal property taxes be discharged as uncollectable. **Kim Andersson moved to approve the uncollectable Personal Property Abatement in the amount of \$18,571.85, as recommended by Tax Collector Molly Bonang. Vote 5-0-0.**

•Personal Property Abatement. \$24,528.66-Uncollectible by reason of six-year statute of limitations: **Judy Colby moved to approve the uncollectable Personal Property Abatement in the amount of \$24,528.66 as recommended by Tax Collector Molly Bonang in the hopes that they will be taken to small claims court in the future. Vote 5-0-0.**

•Nouria Energy Wiscasset, LLC (Map R01, Lot 003). \$930.58: Because the wrong map and lot number were used in the past, **Judy Colby moved to approve the abatement of Nouria Energy Wiscasset, LLC in the amount of \$930.58 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery Bane. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Assessors Supplemental

•Nouria Energy Wiscasset, LLC (Map U17, Lot 004B). \$3,094.77: **Judy Colby moved to approve the Supplemental for Nouria Energy Wiscasset, LLC in the amount of \$3,094.77 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery Bane. Vote 5-0-0.**

13 Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.