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WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 20, 2018

Preliminary Minutes

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 7:05 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

- a. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of March 9 and 16, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.
- b. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 13 and 20, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2018 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

- a. Liquor License Renewals: Kathy Martin-Savage moved to open the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Town Manager Marian Anderson noted that the three applications for renewals had been submitted prior to the change in policy which would not require a public hearing for licenses in effect five or more years. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0, Jeff Slack moved to approve the liquor license renewals for Sarah Heald, DBA Sarah's Café and Twin Schooner Pub; Tony Bickford, DBA Little Village Bistro; and Cecilio H. Juntura, DBA Taste of Orient. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Public Comment

Chief of Police Jeffrey Lange read the statement attached to these minutes in response to a suggestion from a selectman to eliminate the Police Department.

Kim Dolce reviewed the original purpose of MDOT's plan to reduce traffic in Wiscasset, the options presented to the town, the description of changes in Option 2 since the first vote on the options, the

feasibility study not given to the Town which indicates little improvement in traffic and the adverse effect on businesses projected with Option 2, the possible removal of 54 parking spaces, not 25 as planned and the remaining not "within reasonable walking distance" as described by the DOT.

Bill Maloney said that because Wiscasset was named as a party of interest to the Wawenock, LLC lawsuit against MDOT, Wawenock should pay Wiscasset's legal bills related to that suit. He added that pursuing the lawsuit against MDOT was foolish and irresponsible.

Ann Scanlon spoke on mistakes made in the name of progress. She said 80% of the businesses see the proposed MDOT changes as harmful and asked the reason for destroying the character of the Town which brings visitors to Wiscasset. She said it was irresponsible to spend time and money on a project with no assured outcome.

Will Truesdale criticized the leadership of the board and recommended not continuing the lawsuit but finding creative collaborative solutions with MDOT.

Seaver Leslie took issue with the criticism of the leadership of the board which he described as outstanding. He said the State has no interest in Wiscasset's economy and Option 2 will not increase traffic flow, but compromise was possible with Option 1 which would include amenities and bump outs while compromising on parking. He commended those individuals who had offered to contribute to the legal expenses of the Town,

Lonnie Kennedy said the lawsuit brought by the Town was to force MDOT to abide by the Town's ordinances; it was not about Option 1. The select board turned down the compromise offered by MDOT.

Pam Logan said the lawsuit would set a precedent in Maine about the state being able to steamroll over a little town. She said there was not a clear sidewalk from the high school to downtown in the last two or three weeks and asked how the town would maintain wide sidewalks when it can't maintain existing sidewalks. As for those who felt that private citizens offering to help with legal expenses might have an ulterior motive, she pointed out the free speed sign that the Police Department had just accepted from the MDOT.

Dick Vigue thanked the board for the wording of the vote. He said people were confused about the vote and recommended thinking of the long-term consequences, the possibility that the town experience a net loss in parking. He urged the board to think through process logically and decide not to continue law suit. MDOT will not stand down.

Leslie Roberts said she appreciated the idea of compromise. She said 25 businesses were in favor of Option 1, a compromise with the idea of improving traffic flow but keeping parking spaces. Three businesses favored Option 2 and five businesses were neutral.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Town Clerk Linda Perry – Appointment of Election Clerks: Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the list of Election Clerks presented by the Town Clerk. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Department Head Monthly Reports: Kathy Martin-Savage thanked the department heads for their reports.

10. New Business

a. New Business Licenses (Information only)

- Freedom Christian Counseling, Owner Teresa Clark
- Red Flame Restaurant Group, DBA wHop, owner Zafiric Saldatos

b. Monthly Financials

- Department year to date expense report: Treasurer Vernice Boyce explained the decrease in health insurance expense which resulted in \$12,000 being added back.
- The investment Committee will meet in April.

11. Town Manager's Report

Anderson announced that the new ambulance will arrive on Friday, March 23. She asked whether the board wanted to declare the old ambulance surplus. EMS Director Toby Martin said equipment will be removed from the old ambulance before it is sold. Jeff Slack moved to declare the old ambulance surplus. Vote 5-0-0.

After discussion, it was decided to hold the public hearing on April 3 at the Community Center gym. Anderson will explore possibilities of recording the hearing.

12. Other Board Business

a. Abatement: Jeff Slack moved to approve the abatement for Philip L. Latella (Map R01, Lot 026B) for \$26.19 as recommended by Assessors' Agent Ellery G. Bane. Vote 5-0-0.

At 7 p.m. Chair Judy Colby declared a five-minute recess.

9. Unfinished Business

a. 2018-2019 Budget

Transfer Station: Ron Lear said the budget calls for replacing the 1991 trailer and keeping the 2004 trailer, although repairs will be needed to the latter (replacing floor). The 1991 trailer will be traded in; the cost of a new trailer is estimated at \$65,000. the Transfer Station has a 2013 trailer and the purchase of a new trailer will provide a second roadworthy trailer. Lear described the continued need for a full-time employee, and the difficulty scheduling part-time workers to fill in. Judy Colby moved to

place the amount of \$590,697 on the Town Warrant for the Transfer Station budget. Vote 4-1-0 (Blagden opposed).

Parks and Recreation: Lisa Thompson explained changes to the budget: Anticipated expenses, \$815,669; Anticipated Revenue \$450,000; and Money Raised via Taxation, \$365,669. She explained the difficulty in anticipating revenue, particularly when the increase in revenue was not keeping up with the increase in expenditures. She will be looking for other revenue sources, grants, and the possibility of raising prices to offset the increase in expenses; however, that may lead to loss of memberships. She cited the rate of food insecurity in Wiscasset and the food the Recreation Department provides to children in various programs. In addition, she described the activities the department provides for after school programs. Judy Colby moved to place the amount of \$815,669 on the warrant for the Parks and Recreation budget. Vote 4-1-0 (Blagden opposed).

Capital Improvements: Anderson said the Capital Improvements budget has been revised to remove \$30,000 for radios; the total is now \$831,153.95. Regarding the amount to be withdrawn, she said a 3.5% draw would be \$382,522 and a 4.5% draw would be \$487,930. H.M. Payson had informed Anderson there was \$750,000 in cash currently in the Town's account and he could come up with \$1 million, if necessary. He said borrowing should not be a problem as the Town could borrow at 3% while earning 7% on its investments. A representative from H. M. Payson will be willing to meet with the board about the withdrawal and about development of a real plan for the board.

In response to Bob Blagden's question about the Parks and Recreation truck, Lisa Thompson said the truck is out of commission because of problems with the frame. Questions about the Public Works trucks were postponed until the Road Commissioner can meet with the board at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27. At that meeting, the board will finish the budget and send it to the Budget Committee. A breakdown of the paving on the Public Works budget will be provided to Bob Blagden before the meeting. A short meeting will be held before the public hearing on April 3.

Peter Murray will be invited to the public hearing on April 3.

13. Adjournment

At 8:21 Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.

Spoken at the Select board Meeting on 3/20/18

I would like to know, if the suggestion to ask the voters if they want a police department was initiated by citizens of this town, or was this by a particular Select board member going forward with this idea?

The voters overwhelmingly voted to keep the PD as recently as 2015, so the question remains why the continued efforts to disband the department against the will of the voters? This seems very much in line with the current select board going against recent voter decisions.

My job as the Chief of Police is to make sure people are safe from various crimes, enforce the law, provide services such as house checks, assist motorists, issue CCW permits, provide safety in our schools with an SRO, and generally be there at the a time in people's lives when bad things occur. I can guarantee you that if the County Sheriff's Office does take over these duties without a dedicated unit in town, some of these services will cease to exist.

The County Sheriff's Office does offer good services and has great law enforcement officials working for them. But they will not be invested in what occurs in this town. The Wiscasset Police Department is made up of extremely loyal and dedicated members that have direct involvement and interests in this town. You will not have an SRO- This is a PD position unless you contract with the Sheriff's Office, which will cost money. You will not have a Shellfish or Harbormaster position staffed by members of the PD, that too will be a contracted position that will cost money. You will lose house / property checks, you will lose the ability to have a personal interactions with police services. Those that want CCW permits will be forced to go to Augusta, the enforcement of OUI, speed, distracted driving, etc. will diminish. The ability to provide quick responding action will automatically cease to exist without a dedicated unit. The average time for specific calls for service are the following; Average response time for a burglar alarm in Wiscasset is 5 min, for the County So to respond to Alna is 22 min, 25 min in Dresden, and 29 min to

Westport Island (WPI). Domestic- Wiscasset-4 min, For the county Alana-5 min, Dresden 9 min and WPI is 10.

MVA- Wiscasset is 6 min., for the county to Alna is 16, Dresden is 17 and WPI is 17 min.

Wiscasset Calls for Service for 2017- was 7121 this is an increase of 20% over last years calls for service.

I came from a town in Western Maine that did the same thing that is being done here. Morale and police services went down the tubes. What some board members fail to understand is that the voters will most likely vote to maintain the PD but until that time, members will not and should not have to put up with blatant disrespect from Town leaders. I've heard it from a member of this board call other town employees "goons" or that when the board is told that departments heads are working extremely long hours in order to save the town money, "That's your choice". Yes it was our choice because we are dedicated to the town. Since Jan of this year I've given back \$3,399. I work an average of 50 hours a week, that's an average, some less and some more. 2 weeks ago I had a 75 hours work week to make sure the town was covered. That's 35 hours I didn't get paid for, and that is an unreasonable amount for a salaried employee to work without being compensated. Over a course of a year at only averaging 10 extra hours a week at my hourly wage equals \$16,068. That is 16K towards policing Wiscasset that I don't get paid for and gave back to the town because of dedication. But yet we hear the remarkable comments from a board member who doesn't appreciate the fact that all of the department heads do this week in and week out.

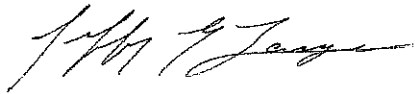
It will take all of my efforts to maintain morale within the department because of the rhetoric.

Recruiting is bad enough. I couldn't convince reserve officers to take full time job because they told me, "its too uncertain to be a cop in this town, I'll go elsewhere". Luckily we did get one candidate....from over 1100 miles away in Georgia.

When a Select board member states "we struck the fear of god into them" doesn't play well with me. To me, that's a bully mentality and has no place in leadership roles. The negative tones and remarks need to stop.

With that being said I would ask the board to reconsider soliciting votes to eliminating a Department especially if this was not started by a petition or a group of citizens in the Town of Wiscasset.

If money is the reason - The cost of having a PD is broken down as follows- of the 2296 tax cards (2294 last year) that go out-based on a budget of \$464,199.00, (This includes the SRO)- That Reflects 202.18 a year, 16.85 a month, 3.89 week and 55 cents a day. At 55 cents a day the PD is not the problem!



Jeffrey E. Lange

CHIEF OF POLICE

Wiscasset Police Department

51 Bath Road

Wiscasset, Maine 04578

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
Minutes of March 26, 2018

Present: Chairman Judy Colby, Vice Chairman Benjamin Rines, Jr., Jefferson Slack, Katharine Martin-Savage, Robert Blagden and Town Manager Marian Anderson.

Chairman Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Capital Improvement

A motion was made by Ben Rines seconded by Jeff Slack to place the request of \$10,000 for a Pool Chemical System for the Parks and Recreation on the June Town Meeting Warrant, motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Judy Colby to place the request of \$42,000 for a New Truck with Plow for the Parks and Recreation Department on the June Town Meeting Warrant, motion passed 4-1 (Blagden opposed).

A motion was made by Jeff Slack seconded by Judy Colby to place the request of \$175,000 for a New Plow Truck for the Public Works Department on the June Town Meeting Warrant, motion passed, 5-0.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Ben Rines to place the request of \$395,000 for Paving Projects on the June Town Meeting Warrant, motion passed 4-1 (Blagden opposed).

A motion was made by Ben Rines, seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the request of \$9,000 to purchase outdated fire arms and video recording equipment for the Wiscasset Police Department, motion passed, 5-0.

It was noted that \$96,691 for a new ambulance; \$40,603 for Pier Debt; and \$30,000 for a Public Works Back Hoe lease are previously approved capital expenditures for FY '19.

Department Budget

A. Administration

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$197,868 on the June Town Warrant for the Administration budget, motion passed 4 -1 (Blagden opposed)

B. Airport

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine-Martin Savage to place the amount of \$84,447 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Airport budget, motion passed 5-0.

C. Animal Control

Motion made by Katharine Martin-Savage seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$11,487 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Animal Control budget, motion passed 5-0.

D. Assessing

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of \$6,654 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Assessing budget, motion passed 5-0.

E. Boards and Committees

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$2,843 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Boards and Committees budget, motion passed 4-1 (Colby opposed)

F. Capital Improvement (see above)

G. Celebrations

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$12,000 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Celebrations budget, motion passed 5-0

H. Cemeteries

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$97,923 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Cemeteries budget. Money to be appropriated from the Cemetery Reserve Account, motion passed 5-0.

I. Clerk

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$88,215 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Clerk budget, motion passed 5-0.

J. Code Enforcement

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$49,507 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Code Enforcement budget, motion passed 5-0.

K. Community Organizations

- **Library**

Motion made by Katharine Martin-Savage seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of \$57,250 on the June Meeting Town Warrant for the Wiscasset Public Library, motion passed 5-0.

- **Healthy Kids-\$1,500**

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of \$1,500 on the June Meeting Town Warrant for Healthy Kids, motion passed 4-1 (Blagden opposed).

- **New Hope for Women-\$1,515**

Motion made by Jeff Slack seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of \$1,515 on the June Meeting Town Warrant for New Hope for Women, motion passed 4-1 (Blagden opposed).

- **Help Yourself Food Pantry-\$1,000**

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of \$1,000 on

the June Meeting Town Warrant for the Help Yourself Food Pantry, motion passed 5-0.

- **Church of the Nazarene Food Pantry-\$1,000**

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of **\$1,000** on the June Meeting Town Warrant for the Church of the Nazarene Food Pantry, motion passed 5-0.

L. Contingency

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$20,000 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Contingency budget, motion passed 4-1 (Slack opposed)

M. Contractual

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$160,300 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Contractual budget, motion passed 5-0.

N. Elections

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$18,046 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Elections budget.

O. EMA/EMS

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of 553,227 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the EMA/EMS budget, motion passed 3-2 (Blagden, Martin-Savage opposed).

P. Finance

Motion made by Judy Colby, seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$218,590 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Finance budget, motion passed 4-1.

Q. Fire Department

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Kathy Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$148,242 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Fire Department budget, motion passed 5-0.

R. General Assistance

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$25,071 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the General Assistance budget, motion passed 5-0.

S. Municipal Building

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$72,342 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Municipal Building budget.

T. Municipal Insurance

Motion made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Ben Rines to place the amounts of \$33,229 for Municipal Property/Casualty Insurance; \$13,100 for Unemployment Compensation Insurance; and \$44,613 for Retiree Health Insurance on the June Town Meeting Warrant, motion passed 5-0.

U. Parks and Recreation

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Judy Colby to revisit the Parks and Recreation Budget. On March 20 the Board voted to place \$815,669 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Parks and Recreation Budget, the vote was 4-1 (Blagden opposed).

Budget Committee Member Kim Andersson told the Board it wasn't appropriate to reconsider this budget after the Parks and Recreation Director had left the meeting. She said the Board already voted on it and they should allow the voters to decide on the budget approved at the earlier meeting. She said it felt a little under handed for the Board to reconsider at this point.

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$815,669 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Parks and Recreation budget, motion passed, 4-1 (Blagden opposed).

V. Police

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of **\$432,858** on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Police budget, motion passed 4-1 (Slack opposed).

W. School Resource Officer

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of \$40,341 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the School Resource Officer, motion passed 5-0.

X. Public Utilities

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$277,475 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Public Utilities budget, motion passed 5-0.

Y. Public Works

Motion made by Jeff Slack seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of \$665,546 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Public Works budget, motion passed 5-0.

Z. Office of Selectmen

Motion made by Katharine Martin-Savage seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$27,247 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Office of Selectmen budget, motion passed 5-0

AA. Senior Center

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$11,482 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Senior Center budget, motion passed 5-0.

BB. Shellfish

Motion made by Ben Rines, seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$6,075 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Shellfish budget, motion passed 5-0.

CC. Transfer Station

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$590,697 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Transfer Station budget, motion passed 4-1 (Blagden opposed). (Vote taken on March 20, 2018)

DD. Wastewater Treatment Plant

Motion made by Ben Rines seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to place the amount of \$546,298 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget, motion passed 5-0.

EE. Waterfront and Harbors

Motion made by Judy Colby seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of \$44,777 on the June Town Meeting Warrant for the Waterfront and Harbors budget, motion passed 5-0

Other Business

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by Ben Rines not to place the questions regarding the continuation of the services of the Wiscasset Police Department and Wiscasset Ambulance Service on this year's June Town Meeting Warrant, motion passed 4-1 (Slack opposed).

Adjournment

At 7:45 a motion was made Jeff Slack, seconded by Judy Colby to adjourn, motion passed 5-0.



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**NOTICE
TOWN OF WISCASSET
OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARING**

The Wiscasset Board of Selectmen will hold an official public hearing on April 3, 2018, at the Wiscasset Town Office Meeting Room beginning at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss and hear public comment on the **Special Referendum Town Meeting** warrant article to be voted by secret ballot on April 17, 2018 at the Wiscasset Community Center from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. This provides the public an opportunity to clarify any questions they may have regarding the ballot but no further changes can be made to the articles.

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**SAMPLE BALLOT
TOWN OF WISCASSET, MAINE
SPECIAL REFERENDUM TOWN MEETING
APRIL 17, 2018**

Instructions to Voters

- ◆ Fill in the oval next to your Yes or No choice, like this: ●.
- ◆ To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- ◆ If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

- 40
41
42
43
- Yes
 - No

Question 1: Do you wish to continue with the lawsuit filed by the Town of Wiscasset against the Maine Department of Transportation regarding the Wiscasset Downtown Project?

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SAMPLE