

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Present: Kim Andersson, Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr. and Interim Town Manager John O'Connell

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of February 8 and 15, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of February 12 and 19, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of minutes

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of February 5, 2019 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the appointments of Richard Forrest to the Shellfish Committee; David Sutter to the Board of Appeals; and Margo Rafter Soule to the Waterfront Committee. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

In response to Jim Kochan's question, Chair Judy Colby said pier fees would be discussed in March.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Town Clerk Linda Perry – Lifetime Certification Achievement award: John O'Connell congratulated Linda and said he was delighted that she had received the award.

b. Department Head Monthly Reports: Kim Andersson complimented newly hired Richard Gaeth on his complete and comprehensive report. Bob Blagden said the Recreation Department seemed to be way under on revenue on a monthly basis; however, Judy Colby said much of the revenue comes in for summer camp and said she was not worried.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Fourth of July Committee: John O’Connell said a flyer had been distributed to department heads and placed on bulletin boards in order to recruit more people to participate in the fourth activities. Judy Colby asked the newspapers to also publicize the need for volunteers.

b. Comprehensive Plan – Meghan McLaughlin: John O’Connell said he had worked on several comp plan committees and the work of creating a comprehensive plan was time-consuming. He recommended that the immediate need was for one or two people to chair or co-chair the committee. He also recommended determining the focus of the plan, and what direction to take. He recommended looking at recent comp plans developed by Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor and Westport and at the current comp plan. Judy Colby said Kim Andersson had volunteered to chair the committee. Meghan McLaughlin, newly hired Lincoln County Planner, will be in touch with the committee.

10. New Business

a. Abatement application-Donna Morris, 698 Bath Road: John O’Connell had contacted Ms. Morris and explained the reason for the rejection of her abatement request was that it had not been made within the time limits set by the town.

b. Request for Snowmobile Registration Monies – Wiscasset Sno-Goers: Traditionally monies from the registrations have been given to the Sno-Goers. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved that the money from the snowmobile registrations (\$873.84) be given to the Sno-Goers. Vote 5-0-0.** Vernice Boyce recommended that the donation be put on the warrant article so it would not have to be brought to the board each year.

c. Monthly Financials

- Department year-to-date expense report
- H.M. Payson Statement of Accounts

John O’Connell commented that the report from H.M. Payson reflected the recovery at the end of January.

d. Proposal to Holiday Lighting – Michelle Peele, Chairman of the proposed Christmas Tree Group: Peele, representing the Chamber-sponsored Wiscasset Marketplace organization and the Friends of Wiscasset, proposed that the two groups on a volunteer basis provide and install lighting for twenty Christmas trees in the right of way along Route 1 from the courthouse sign to Middle Street. The group will provide 30 five- to six-foot evergreen trees and asks that the Town provide 90 100-foot mini lite strings of incandescent white bulbs. The amount requested is approximately \$650 to \$700. The volunteers will provide labor to dress the trees. Public Works Department employees will use the lights from previous years on the big tree on the common, and will be responsible for running extension cords, providing electrical access and will undress the trees. In response to comments from Kim Andersson regarding the expense of incandescent lights versus LED, Peel said she would get figures on the cost of electricity; Al Cohen said the LED lights use 10% of the electricity that incandescent lights use. Kim Andersson noted that the town has a Beautification of the Town committee and is hoping for a 4th of July Committee; she asked if this could be done within an existing committee. Steve Christiansen asked where the power for the lights came from. The proposal will be discussed at a later time.

e. Town Office/Fire Station Flooring Replacement: John Merry said that the entire municipal building has asbestos adhesive under various flooring products. He stressed the need for asbestos abatement

throughout the building, but more immediately in the Fire Department. Some of the tiles in the Fire Department are coming up and there is concern about the exposure to asbestos. He had received an estimate from R. J. Enterprises for abatement in the town office section of the building of \$9,600 and \$8,000 for the Fire Department. Bob Blagden recommended doing the work immediately and to put the work out to bid. John O'Connell and John Merry will meet to discuss this on Wednesday, February 20. John O'Connell will check to determine who the town health officer is.

f. Resignation – Ray Soule, Planning Board: Judy Colby announced that Ray Soule, Chair of the Planning Board had resigned from the Planning Board effective February 20. **Judy Colby moved to accept the resignation with very much regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

g. Quit Claim Deeds

- Robert Greenleaf and Carrie Prive, Map 07, Lot 039-17
- David and Marsha Brown, Map U01, Lot 083
- Heidi Wall, Map R05, Lot 051-A1
- Sheri and Lawrence Ekert, Jr., Map R07, Lot 005
- Mike Pinkham, Map R04, Lot 010-A19

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the quit claim deeds as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Town Manager's Report

a. FEMA Disaster Funds from 2017 storm: The Town has received \$63,671.88, 75% of which was from FEMA, 15% from the state, the balance will be sent in due course. O'Connell will meet with a FEMA representative on February 20 for an update.

b. Town Manager Vacation: O'Connell will be on vacation from February 28 through March 7 and he asked if the first meeting on March could be held on March 12 instead of March 5. There was a consensus to reschedule the meeting to March 12.

c. Police Union Negotiation Appointments: There are three bargaining units whose contracts expire June 30 and O'Connell will be meeting with the three units when he returns from vacation. Judy Colby and Kathy Martin-Savage volunteered to participate in the negotiations with the unions.

d. Budget Calendar/Workshop Schedule: The schedule was distributed. O'Connell will review some of the department budgets before he leaves on vacation.

e. Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades: Richard Gaeth has obtained prices on two backup pumps and O'Connell has asked him to research installation costs. The DEP inspector will be at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Wednesday, February 20 and it is expected that a preliminary examination will be performed, and priorities and deadlines will be given.

f. O'Connell has been contacted by the DEP regarding coordinating the waste water system with the Wiscasset Water Department. He said Chris Cosette of the Water Department had received a similar letter.

g. Execute new Certificate of Authority for Transactions with H.M.Payson: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to execute a new Certificate of Authority for Transactions with H.M.Payson. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Other Board Business

John O'Connell said that Ted Snowden is acting Director of Public Works and is in charge of the town garage. The position of director has been advertised internally and another driver will be needed. There was discussion on the number of drivers needed. Colby said that the position will be discussed at the March 13 meeting.

Doug Baston, Alna selectman, has been working on PUC funding from the CMP if the New England Clean Energy Connect Plan is approved. Baston said there is the possibility that Wiscasset could join with Alna to receive money for economic development. O'Connell said he saw no downside and would be receiving paperwork on the matter. A decision will have to be made by Thursday if Wiscasset wanted to join Alna. **Judy Colby moved to allow John O'Connell to inquire and authorize him to make the decision. Vote 5-0-0.** Ed Polewarczyk cautioned the board about any agreement that included mitigation, as the Town in the past had lost tax money when land had been taken off the tax rolls as a result of mitigation.

O'Connell said the school audit would be completed by Thursday.

O'Connell said the department heads would bring their budgets to the Town Manager for review and then they would be presented to the Budget Committee and then to the selectmen. Meetings will be set up after March 12.

Executive Session: At 7:10, **Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to the provisions of Title 36 §841 (2) MRSA to consider a request for abatement of taxes for reasons of poverty. Vote 5-0-0.**

Judy Colby moved to come out of executive session. Vote 5-0-0.

Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6)(A) to discuss a personnel matter. Vote 5-0-0.

Judy Colby moved to come out of executive session. Vote 5-0-0.

13. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.