

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
APRIL 9, 2019

Preliminary Minutes

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. Approve/Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June 11, 2019

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to sign the warrant as all items were approved last week. Clarification and/or changes were made to the following Articles.

Article 3: There is no money figure for the Wiscasset School Department because the amount is voted on at the Wiscasset School Department budget meeting.

Article 4: The revenue listed consists of only those items which will affect the taxes.

Article 21: The State does not reimburse office expenses and the phrase "The General Assistance program is currently offset by State Reimbursement" was deleted.

Article 25: The Parks and Recreation Department budget in the past has not met revenue projections and has needed to take money from the general fund in order to make up a shortage in anticipated revenue. It was explained that the Parks and Recreation Department would have to completely shut down if anticipated revenue had not yet come in when expenses occur. The wording was questioned as the article approves anticipated revenue which may not be accurate. This results in approving weekly warrants for amounts which have not been authorized and it was suggested that action should be taken at that point. As stated in Article 4 the anticipated revenues cited are estimated amounts. No change was made in the wording of the article.

Article 26: The inclusion of Economic Development in the article was questioned; however, the objective of the position was to assist the committees and work on attracting new business. It was suggested that the TIF document specifies economic development and money from the TIF would be partially used.

Article 35: The 30% increase in sewer fees has occurred because of delayed necessary repairs the town was unaware of that should have been made years ago. In addition, depreciation has not been included in previous capital budgets. It was suggested that some money be taken from the reserve account to offset the increase. Neglect of the plant was not the responsibility of the rate payers.

Article 48: Wording was changed to: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$22,237 from the Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of paying the **fourth** annual lease-purchase of a five-year Lease-Purchase of a Backhoe for the Public Works Department?"

Article 49: Wording was changed to: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$40,464 from the Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of paying the **eighth** annual payment of a ten-year General Obligation Bond for the Municipal pier debt?"

Article 50: Wording was changed to: "Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$117,707 from the Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of reducing the 2019 tax commitment?"

Article 51: Wording was changed to "Shall the Town vote to appropriate the unexpended balance of the Capital Improvement projects totaling \$157,007 to reduce the 2019 tax commitment?"

Article 53: Wording was changed to "To see if the Town will fix Friday, October 25, 2019 and Friday, April 24, 2020 as the dates when semi-annual tax payments are due and payable and instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at the rate of 8% per annum on all taxes unpaid after said dates?"

Treasurer Vernice Boyce said that the mill rate increase would be 1.94% and the increase in the overall budget is 1.44% over last year.

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the warrant as amended. Vote 4-1-0. (Blagden opposed).**

Budget Committee member Judy Flanagan commented that anyone on the select board should share in the responsibility for not addressing the problems of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. She asked the board to consider taking \$1,000,000 from reserves for the plant and communicate this decision to the State and federal government. Flanagan said the warrant did not move the Town forward, as three board members last year voted to spend \$100,000 on a law suit that could have been used for the fund balance.

### 3. Adjournment

Ben Rines, Jr. moved to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.