

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MAY 7, 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

- a. **Judy Colby moved to approve the payroll warrants of April 26 and May 3, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **Judy Colby moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of April 30 and May 7, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes.

Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of April 23, 2019 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to appoint Leslie Roberts to the Historic Preservation Commission. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Cordelia Oehmig, Wiscasset Bay Gallery, said that inasmuch as the MDOT will not be putting up signs directing traffic to parking on the side streets until the project is finished, it had been suggested that white sandwich-board PARKING signs could be used in the meantime. The signs are 36" x 24" and would cost \$364 for four signs. Oehmig said merchants will contribute to the cost of the signs. **Judy Colby moved that the Town buy the signs for \$364.00. Vote 5-0-0.**

Richard Forrest said that the sloop Providence will have the mast stepped May 14. The crane will be set in the parking lot to the right of concrete pier and should not impact the fishermen.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

- a. Town Clerk Linda Perry-Registrar's hours

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to change the required hours of operation before Election Day for the registrar to be consistent with the normal hours of operation and not require the additional hours of 5 to 9 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Waterfront Committee, Pier Vendor Permit Updates, Susan Robson: Robson submitted the recommendations of the Waterfront Committee for pier permits for 2019. The committee recommended that Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce fee be waived but that the chamber pay for electricity. The committee did not recommend renewing Coastal Cones because they were not open the required number of hours last year. She said the vendors had been told that fees would increase at some time in the future when policies also will be reviewed. The applications were sent out in February before an increase in fees was discussed and had been returned with the current fee. Kim Andersson said she was dismayed that the discussion on the fee schedule was postponed for another year and recommended that the board plan to address the fees before the budget season. Bob Blagden said if Coastal Cones pays for the space on the pier, they should be renewed.

Susan Robson asked for direction from the board on the application of Evan Kelsy and Steven Kent who have applied for a permit for "Pier Beer." The applicants briefly described their plans. They will have a metal storage container and a fenced-in patio where beer will be served. They have a class A license. They will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Identifications will be checked at the entrance. They will have \$1 million in insurance with \$400,000 coverage for the town. Judy Colby said the Police Chief will be consulted. Susan Blagden, chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, said she would like more information but inasmuch as the operation will be temporary, the commission would not have jurisdiction. Judy Colby said the Town would look into the application and the applicants will provide further information at the May 21st meeting. A public hearing on the liquor license will be necessary.

Jim Kochan said he was disappointed that nothing had been done on the fees, as the Town has been subsidizing the vendors with low fees and electricity hasn't been taken into account. The Town is paying \$4,000 for the port-o-johns and he suggested that they be removed. Kochan said that the Chamber does not represent all the businesses in town, and he suggested that if the Chamber's fee is being waived, all tax-paying businesses in town should be able to display their materials at the WACC information building, not just the chamber member's materials. Bob Blagden recommended that in the future fees not be accepted until applications are approved.

At Ben Rines, Jr.'s, request, the board then discussed the pier vendor applications (10 b)

- Two Bridges Jail Industries (Waterfront Committee recommended)
- Frank Sprague, Sprague's Lobster (Waterfront Committee recommended)
- Todd Jubinville, The Potter's Shed (Waterfront Committee recommended)
- Wiscasset Area Chamber of Commerce (Waterfront Committee recommended, fee waiver requested)
- Ronald Leeman, Forgotten Recipes (Waterfront Committee recommended)

Ben Rines, Jr. moved to approve the five pier vendor applications and the applications of Lobsterholic Tee Shirt Apparel Shop and Coastal Cones. Dick Forrest said that the Committee had followed the pier policies, which are enforced by the Town Manager, in their recommendation on Coastal Cones' application, and if an applicant wasn't required to be open the required five hours, five days required, the policy should be changed. Kim Andersson said that the board should not discount the committee's recommendations and asked that Coastal Cones' application be removed from the motion. **Vote 4-0-1**

(Andersson opposed). A motion by Ben Rines, Jr. to increase the fees for future applications by 10% was defeated by a vote of 2-3 (Colby, Andersson and Martin-Savage opposed). **Kim Andersson moved to waive the Pier Vendor Permit application fee for the Wiscasset Area of commerce. Vote 3-1-1** (Blagden opposed, Martin-Savage abstained).

9. Unfinished Business

a. Removal of shed from Sunken Garden: A memo had been received from the Appearance of the Town Committee asking that the board's decision to remove the garden shed be reconsidered. Steve Christiansen said when the land was given to the Town in 1958 the deed specified that no building would be allowed on the site. He said the board had voted to have the shed removed and asked why it was now reconsidering. Dan Sortwell, an heir, said he appreciated Steve Christiansen's research, but he agreed with the committee's memo and suggested the shed be left where it is; he felt the family would feel the same way. Kathy Martin-Savage said the heirs are in charge and if they don't have a problem, the board should vote to keep it where it is. Bob Blagden said the decision would not be up to Dan Sortwell but to other heirs down the line and he recommended that out of respect to the donor to not change the wording of the gift now. There were suggestions to remove the shed for the winter, or to use a temporary shed during the growing season. Susan Blagden said a small piece of land adjacent to the Sunken Garden property had been given to the Town by Choppie Tarbox and asked if there would be room on that piece for the shed. There were questions whether the shed could be considered a building, and whether the deed's intent was that nothing should be built on the foundation or just on the property. Research on the possibility of moving the shed to the land acquired from Tarbox or to an abutter's property will be done before the next meeting.

b. Clean-up Grant- Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) Interviews- Selection Committee: **Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager to form a selection committee to interview the applicants for the Qualified Environmental Professional. Vote 5-0-0.** The committee will meet on May 15 in the afternoon.

10. New Business

a. Quitclaim deeds

- Judith Dow and James Abbott, ap R04, Lot 002-019
- Keith Holly, Map R04, Lot 010-A25
- Kevin James, Map R05, Lot 037-F
- Anna Flood, Map U09, Lot 1-2
- Charles and Barbara Wyman, Map U01, Lot 103
- Debra Schaffer, Map U01, Lot 57
- Stephen Widmer, Map U01, Lot 161
- Dion West, Map U02, Lot 15

Bob Blagden moved to approve the quitclaim deeds. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Notification to Bruce Flaherty regarding Spirit of America award: O'Connell has sent Flaherty the town's nomination of the Family Wishes group.

b. Appointment of Water District Trustee Update: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to appoint Dan Sortwell as a Water District Trustee. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Review of Wastewater fees: The following Septic Dumping fees were recommended by the Wastewater Treatment Plant manager: RV Dumping - \$25 per dump; Septage Haulers - 13¢ per gallon. No change was recommended for the porta potty waste. O'Connell said a significant rate increase in sewer rates will be necessary. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the septic dumping fees as recommended. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Set Public Sewer Rate Hearing Date: **Judy Colby moved to hold a public hearing on the rate increases on May 21 at 5:30 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** Public hearings on the Chewonki Campground and Town Meeting Warrant will also take place on the 21st so the Selectmen's meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Current water rates are \$72 minimum per quarter and there has been no increase in seven years

e. Union negotiations update: The current proposed contract has been given to Colby and Martin-Savage. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 9 at 10 a.m.

f. Avigation Easement Closing: Documents were in selectmen's packets.

g. FIX Marine Truck and Auto Business License Update: Lawrence Eckert asked why his business license application had been tabled. He said the building hadn't been changed, so no building permit was necessary, and the debris on the site had been cleaned up. He had received a sign permit but had not heard from the town regarding his business license. He said he had been told by the previous CEO that all he needed was a sign permit. O'Connell said Eckert had been operating without a license for a year and a half, and there had been adequate notice that the license would be required. He said he will be discussing the matter with the selectmen in executive session and would get back to Mr. Eckert.

h. Fire Department grant application: O'Connell said T. J. Merry had applied for a grant. O'Connell will check if the grant was federal or state.

i. Safety Grant: A safety grant for a magnetic manhole lifting device, which will lift 1200 pounds, has been applied for. The Public Works and Wastewater Treatment Plant will share the equipment.

12. Other Board Business

The board had visited the waterfront site for proposed kayak racks. Judy Colby said she was not in favor of attaching the racks to the building but would approve a site where the floats are kept in the winter. Ben Rines, Jr., suggested finding out how the townspeople felt about the racks, whether there was interest. Bob Blagden said the racks suggested by Jim Kochan could be reworked at not a huge expense if there was interest, and rentals should be done by the Town. It was suggested that Damariscotta be contacted about their experience with kayak racks.

Bob Blagden said he was concerned with the Recreation Department being over budget. He said the revenue was not keeping pace with the expenditures. He added that he would not sign the warrant. **He moved to not authorize any overtime for full-time employees in the Recreation Department budget and hold any part time employee to 32 hours.** Kim Andersson objected to the fact that the matter was not on the agenda. Judy Colby explained that "Other Board Business" was an opportunity for board members to bring up matters that were not on the agenda. Colby said she was also concerned about

the Recreation Department budget as well as the EMS budget. Bob Blagden said he brought up the matter two months ago and the board needed to act now. Colby said that there will not be enough revenue brought in for summer activities to cover the deficit. O'Connell said he has spoken to Recreation Department manager and is looking at alternatives. **Vote 4-0-1** (Andersson abstained).

At 8 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (E). Vote 5-0-0.** At 8:26 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to exit executive session. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., **Kim Andersson moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**