

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
FEBRUARY 16, 2021
VIA ZOOM

Present: Kim Andersson, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice-chair Kathy Martin-Savage, Jeff Slack, Sarah Whitfield, and Town Manager Dennis Simmons

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of February 5 and February 12, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of February 9 and February 16, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.**

2. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2021. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Special Presentations or Awards – none

4. Committee Appointments

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to appoint Raymond Soule, Ervin Deck and Steve Williams to the Airport Advisory Board. Vote 5-0-0. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to appoint Lester Morse and Jacqueline Lowell to the Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0.

a. Two Liquor Licenses, Andrew Gross, DBA Maine Tasting Center, 506 Old Bath Road (2 buildings require two separate licenses). **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to open the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.** It was noted that the application will also require State approval. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to close the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the liquor license application. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Comment – none

7. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head monthly reports: Kathy Martin-Savage noted that the reports were excellent as usual.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Discuss the formation of the ad hoc advisory committee to investigate discontinuing grades 9-12 and tuitioning students to school of their choice: Kim Andersson advised the board to contact the Commissioner of Education for guidance. Jeff Slack suggested forming a committee and hiring a consultant or consulting firm. Money for a consultant would have to be added to the warrant, although Sarah Whitfield questioned the need for and cost of a consultant when the Town has qualified people. Slack asked that all information be on the table in order to let the town know the board is interested. Whitfield suggested instead of investigating discontinuing grades 9-12 to focus on examining the future of the schools; what it looks like going forward. In response to Kim Andersson's question, Bill Maloney said the school committee had not been approached with the original question, as it was the taxpayers who pay the bill for the school. He added that for years, there has been talk about closing the high school and in his opinion there were three alternatives: everything is fine and nothing needs to be done, the high school should be closed, or a way should be found to increase the number of students in the high school. Dennis Simmons will prepare a warrant article for the next meeting asking whether voters are in favor of a committee to look into the Wiscasset school system as suggested by Slack.

9. New Business

a. Monthly Financials

- Department year to date expense report
- H.M. Payson, Statement of Accounts: Jeff Slack noted that \$1.2 million had been taken out of the Payson account last year and \$1.7 had been added.

b. Appoint Committee liaisons: The following appointments were made:

- Comprehensive Plan Committee – Sarah Whitfield
- Investment Advisory Committee – Jeff Slack
- Waterfront and Shellfish Committee – Kim Andersson
- Ordinance Review Committee – Sarah Whitfield
- Airport Committee – Jeff Slack
- Budget Committee – Kathy Martin-Savage
- Planning Board – Pam Dunning
- Appearance of Town Committee – Kathy Martin-Savage

c. Quit Claim Deed-Catherine A. Sherman, Map U18, Lot 007: **Jeff Slack moved to execute the Quit Claim Deed for Catherine A. Sherman, Map U18, Lot 007. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. Town Manager's Report

Dennis Simmons reported that he had met with Lucia Droby about "yarnbombing" in town this summer and Droby was looking for a consensus from the board before moving forward. Photos of yarnbombing in other towns were given to the board. Comments ranged from "incompatible with historic district," "fine for somewhere else," to "funky, artsy," and "I'm for it." Simmons said he was not in agreement with allowing the yarnbombing on trees or plants and was hesitant about creating a driver distraction on

Route 1. It was suggested that Railroad Avenue would be a suitable place for the yarnbombing as an added attraction to the farmers' market which will be on Railroad Avenue this summer. The board was "good with the concept" and needs to figure out the details.

Simmons reported that the airport has a new tenant for the terminal building.

Simmons and members of the Waterfront Committee met with Gartley & Dorsky on the study to expand the recreation pier and add slips.

Simmons had also met with the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission. He asked the commission to refer anyone requesting its services to him, as there are limited funds available under the contract and he needs to prioritize the work to be done by the commission.

11. Other Board Business

a. Executive session to consult with legal counsel: At 6:54 p.m., **Jeff Slack moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (E). Vote 5-0-0. At 7:45 p.m. Jeff Slack moved to come out of executive session. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.