

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
DECEMBER 15, 2020  
VIA ZOOM

2a

Preliminary Minutes

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 December 4 and 11, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of December 8 and 15, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

2. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of December 1, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Special Presentations or Awards – none

4. Committee Appointments

a. Terry Heller, Appearance of the Town Committee (Reappointment): **Kim Andersson moved to reappoint Terry Heller to the Appearance of the Town Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Public Hearings – none

6. Public Comment - none

7. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head Monthly Reports: Kathy Martin-Savage thanked Linda Perry and staff for the commendable work on the election citing the 1400 absentee ballots that were submitted.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Wastewater Treatment Plant generator bids: The bids received exceeded the budget. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to reject the Wastewater Treatment Plant generator bids. Vote 5-0-0.**

9. New Business

- a. Renewal of License for Sale of Consumer Fireworks-Allen Cohen, Big Al's Outlet, Inc. DBA Big Al's Fireworks Outlet, 300 Bath Road: Pam Dunning said according to the town's attorney, the Fire Marshal, and the Attorney General, the renewal application for the building at 300 Bath Road was separate from the building on JB's Way. In response to a request to speak from the Bryants' attorney, she said that there would be no public input, as this was not a public hearing, and since the matter was on the agenda, no input under public comment was allowed. In response to Kim Andersson's question about recourse the Bryant's (owners of property adjacent to Cohen's building on JB's Way) might have, Dunning said the board could not provide legal advice to the Bryants and said it was up to the Code Enforcement Officer to follow up. Simmons said a solution would be to repeal the license ordinance and allow Cohen to operate under the State Fire Marshal's license. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the renewal of license for Sale of Consumer Fireworks of Allen Cohen, DBA Big Al's Fireworks Outlet. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. Resignation – Steve Christiansen: Dennis Simmons said the staff held a luncheon for Steve Christiansen and Ellin Jasmin, both of whom had retired. Jeff Slack thanked Steve for his work on the Downtown project. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to accept the resignation with deep regret with best wishes on future endeavors. Vote 5-0-0.**
- c. Sewer Abatement – Donald and Cynthia Davis: **Jeff Slack moved to approve the sewer abatement request of Donald and Cynthia Davis. Vote 5-0-0.**
- d. Monthly Financials: Dennis Simmons said the Town had recouped what had been taken out this year, and the fund was currently over \$16 million. He added that the General Assistance total was higher due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- e. Correspondence: A letter of appreciation had been received from the Good Shepherd Food Bank.
- f. Holiday Closures – December 24 and December 31: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to declare December 24 and December 31 as paid holidays for Town Employees for 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**
- g. Joint meeting with School Board – January 26, 2021: The meeting has been scheduled with Terry Wood. Simmons asked the board to think about agenda items.
- h. Falvey, LLC Settlement Agreement: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to authorize, direct, and delegate authority to the Town Manager to enter into and perform the Settlement Agreement with Falvey, LLC in substantially the form presented here tonight. The delegation of authority is intended to permit the Town Manager to execute the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Town and bind the Town to the terms set forth therein, including disbursement of the settlement payment called for in the Agreement. Vote 5-0-0.**
- i. Earned time policy: Simmons said the revised policy incorporates 40 hours of sick time and 40 hours of earned paid leave time. The change does not affect union employees. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the earned time policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 10. Town Manager's Report

- a. Personnel Matters: Steve Christiansen has retired from Public Works Department effective December 18. Aurel Marks has joined the EMS Department as full-time Deputy Director. Scott Getchell has joined the Police Department as full-time officer. Molly Bonang has moved to the position of Finance Clerk and her position as Tax Collector will be advertised as well as the position of Treasurer.
- b. Revised policy to include 40 hours of paid leave – see above.
- c. Simmons met with Bob McDonald to review bids for Parks and Recreation Center engineering study and the bid was awarded to Wright-Pierce.
- d. Simmons met via Zoom with Ted Snowden and Wright Pierce project engineers and managers on the Old Ferry Road culvert repair. A mid-2021 start with completion in late 2021 or early 2022 is anticipated.
- e. A staff meeting with department heads was held to discuss the need to improve worker safety within the town's workforce. Worker's comp rating was unacceptably high. Staff will be working with Maine Municipal Association on instituting safety programs. Budget process and schedule were also discussed.
- f. Simmons recently attended MMA Elected Officials workshop and the Mid-Coast Municipal Association meeting.
- g. Rob Lallis and Simmons have reviewed the bids for the pump station generators, will be reworking the specs and will send them out for rebidding.

#### 11. Other Board Business

The executive session on the agenda was not needed.

Kim Anderson thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for a great job reducing expenses with the pandemic and providing a place for remote learning.

Duane Goud reported that the tree-lighting went well, basketball practice has begun, and the pool has been rented by four high school teams providing income from the pool at times when it is not being used by members.

Sarah Whitfield asked why the downtown DOT lights were not flashing. Simmons said that was not part of the agreement, but he will again contact the DOT to see if the lights could be set to flash.

#### 12. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

4a

**Town of Wiscasset  
Board/Committee Membership Application**

Full Name: Timothy A. Mercy  
Street Address: 3 Old County Rd  
Mailing Address: 3 Old County Rd Home Phone: 687-2179  
Town of Legal Residence: WISCASSET

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: timothymercy@yahoo.com

I wish to be considered for the appointment to the: Budget Comm  
\_\_\_\_\_ Term Of Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

Full member:  Reappointment: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate member: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently serve or have you ever served on any Town Board? Selectman

If yes, please state which Board or Committee/term exp. \_\_\_\_\_

List civic organizations to which you belong now: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior experience, knowledge, or abilities that you have which would contribute to the activities of the Board or Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Timothy A. Mercy Date: 12/15/20

Additional comments can be made on the reverse side of this form.

Please return to the Selectmen's Office, 51 Bath Road, Wiscasset, ME 04578, by fax 882-8228 or e-mail at [clerk@wiscasset.org](mailto:clerk@wiscasset.org)

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**For Office Use:**

Date received: 12/15/2020 Date Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Fwd. to Kathy 12/15/2020

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**Town of Wiscasset  
Board/Committee Membership Application**

Full Name: Stephen P. Wallace

Street Address: 18 Brown Rd., Wiscasset, ME 04578

Mailing Address: same as above Home Phone: 207-882-7237

Town of Legal Residence: Wiscasset, ME

Work Phone: 882-8220 Cell Phone: 406-0354 E-mail spwallace52@outlook.com

I wish to be considered for the appointment to the: Wiscasset Budget  
Committee Term Of Appointment June 2021 Election

Full member:  Reappointment:  Alternate member:

Do you currently serve or have you ever served on any Town Board? YES

If yes, please state which Board or Committee/term exp. Planning Board, Budget  
Committee

List civic organizations to which you belong now: Wisc. Rod & Gun Club

Prior experience, knowledge, or abilities that you have which would contribute to the activities of the Board or Committee: Shaw's Supermarket management, Church  
leadership

Signature: Stephen P. Wallace Date: 12/15/20

Additional comments can be made on the reverse side of this form.

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Town of Wiscasset  
Board/Committee Membership Application

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Mailing Address: Same Home Phone: 882-7237

Town of Legal Residence: Wiscasset, ME

Work Phone: 882-8220 Cell Phone: 406-0354 E-mail: spwallace52@outlook.com

I wish to be considered for the appointment to the: Planning board

Term Of Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

Full member: \_\_\_\_\_ Reappointment:  Alternate member: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently serve or have you ever served on any Town Board? yes

If yes, please state which Board or Committee/term exp. Planning board, Budget Comm.

List civic organizations to which you belong now: Wiscasset Rod & Gun Club

Prior experience, knowledge, or abilities that you have which would contribute to the activities of the Board or Committee: Retail management, Church leadership

Signature: Stephen P. Wallace Date: 12/15/2020

Additional comments can be made on the reverse side of this form.

Please return to the Selectmen's Office, 51 Bath Road, Wiscasset, ME 04578, by fax 882-8228 or e-mail at [clerk@wiscasset.org](mailto:clerk@wiscasset.org)

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For Office Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Date received: 12/15/2020 Date Appointed: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_

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To the Municipal Officers of the Town of Wiscasset, Maine:

Normally this request would be accompanied by a petition signed by the required number of signatures of qualified voters. Due to the rules of contact directed by the State of Maine during the current pandemic and the forecast that the next three to four months will be more dangerous, we request that the Board, within their legal capacity, vote to place the following article on the ballot.

We request the Board of Selectmen place the following article before the voters for their consideration at the Annual Town meeting scheduled for June 8, 2021.

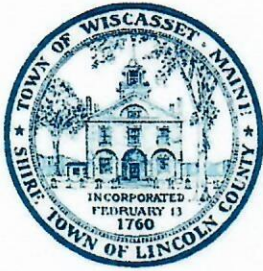
1. Preferred:

Shall the Town vote to create a committee of five residents to evaluate the financial impact to the Town of abolishing the High School classes (Grades 8 – 12) in the Town of Wiscasset and to tuition out the effected students.

If the article passes, the Selectmen and the School Board members shall each appoint one of their members and the Town Manager shall appoint the remaining three members from the public within 45 days of the Town Meeting. Thus, the committee shall consist of one member from each board and three from the public. The committee shall meet no longer than 90 days after the Town Meeting. The committee shall report their progress every six months to both boards and complete their evaluation no longer than 18 months after the first committee meeting.

2. Alternative:

The Selectmen decide not to place the above article on the Town warrant, instead working with the School Board to appoint the committee as outlined above as is within their authority.



# Town of Wiscasset

Office of the Town Manager

9a

December 30, 2020

To: Wiscasset Board of Selectmen

Ref: Town Manager's Report

I hope everyone is enjoying their holidays with family and friends, at least as much as the circumstances allow.

Like previous job openings, we did not receive any interest in the Tax Collectors position by our usual venues, Maine Municipal Association and the local papers. After talking with some other area town managers about recruiting, I experimented with trying Indeed.com. To say I am disappointed in the results would be an understatement. However, I am pleased to announce the Sue Anderson has been offered and accepted the position of Tax Collector. Sue is a Wiscasset resident and graduated from Wiscasset High School. She lived on Westport Island for many years, where her grandmother was Tax Collector. Sue had approached me some months ago about working in the town office so when the applicant pool was thin, I reached out to her and asked if she was interested in applying and voilà.

We have received several complaints about the traffic lights in the village area. During the recent storm cars and trucks were being forced to stop for red lights on the Rt 1 hill and then, due to slippery conditions, had trouble getting moving again. Both the Police Chief and myself have contacted MDOT about the issue. I have been in communication with Ernie Martin and we are arranging a meeting with those in charge of the traffic lights to see if we can come to an agreement over having them changed to flashing yellow until late spring.

I spoke with Peter Murray (Murray, Plumb & Murray) in regards to the Maine Yankee ISFSI assessment and taxation agreement, which expires in 2023. They are digging into the "lay of the land" in terms of assessment and taxation of similar properties across the country. He described what they have found so far to be "murky" but will have a report for the Board sometime in January.

I attended a webinar Dec 17<sup>th</sup> by Celina Cunningham, Deputy Director of the Governor's Energy Office, over a proposed Floating Offshore Wind Research Array. The Governor's Energy Office has identified offshore wind as a potential significant opportunity for Maine's energy and economic future. While this project is in its very early stages and the Energy Office is reaching out and engaging as many stakeholders as possible, it pricked my ears up because it has been mentioned that the offloading of electricity from the project could possibly come through Wiscasset, either at the Maine Yankee or Mason Station facility. I wish to stress that NO decision on this is imminent. But I will watch the developments closely.

Rick Tetrev and I had a meeting with Cenergy in reference to the airport solar project. Cenergy has been forced to make some changes to the project. They will be attending the Jan 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to update the Board on those changes. In this same vein I have been working to find a consultant to assist the Board in making decisions moving forward with the solar project. After talking with several other municipalities I had a meeting with a company called Competitive Energy Solutions (CES). The City of Waterville is using them and they also have a Cenergy project proposed for their airport. They will be sending me further information on their services after the holidays.

Met with Terry Wood on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>. She will ask the School Board about a joint meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> and get back to us