WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

April 7, 2015

Tape recorded minutes

Present: Bill Barnes, Chair Pam Dunning, Tim Merry, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Town Manager Marian Anderson

Executive Session**:** At 6 p.m. **, Jeff Slack moved to go into executive session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) to consult with legal counsel. Vote 5-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to exit executive session at 7 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

1. Call to Order

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Hearing

A. Proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance: Town Planner Jamel Torres said the intent of the ordinance was to protect the outward appearance and architectural features, to prevent the demolition or removal of historic buildings, to preserve and enhance the character of designated districts, accept new construction in designated districts and promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the people of the Town of Wiscasset. Incorporated in the ordinance is appointment by the selectmen of a five-member Historic Preservation Commission whose purpose would be to conduct an inventory of local historical and cultural resources, to advise owners and abutters about the ordinance, make recommendations to establish historic districts, sites or landmarks, to review proposed construction of properties designated under the jurisdiction of the ordinance, and to serve in an advisory role to town officials. The historic district will include Village I, Village II and Village Waterfront districts and the ordinance will address new construction, demolition, moving, alterations of any historic landmark or building. There were no comments or questions and the public hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m.

**Tim Merry moved to put the Historic Preservation Ordinance on the warrant for a town vote. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Update to current Floodplain Ordinance: The public hearing opened at 7:07 p.m. Present with Jamel Torres were Karl Olson, Chair of the Ordinance Review Committee, and Sue Baker, State Coordinator for the Maine Floodplain Management Program. Baker said the current town ordinance allows flood insurance to be sold in Wiscasset. The proposed update contains a few changes because Lincoln County will be receiving new floodplain maps effective in July and FEMA requires all communities to adopt the new maps by reference. There are currently six floodplain insurance policies in Wiscasset for over $1.3 million in coverage. Floodplain insurance is required for any property in the floodplain that is mortgaged or financed. In response to Ben Rines, Jr’s question, Baker said there have been no claims in Wiscasset since 1978. If there should be a presidentially-declared emergency in Lincoln County, FEMA funds would be available for low interest loans or grants.

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to place the Floodplain Ordinance on the warrant for a vote. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes as read. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**A. Bill Barnes moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of March 20, March 27 and April 3, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

**B. Tim Merry moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of March 24, March 31 and April 7, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Approval of Abatements and Supplemental – none

7. Special Presentations or Awards – none

8. Appointments

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the application of Jason Putnam for the Ordinance Review Committee. Vote 5-0-0.** His term expires December 31, 2017.

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment

Bob Blagden suggested that the Budget Committee and the selectmen make an attempt to compromise and put forth budget figures that would have as much support as possible in order to sidestep a deadlock. Pam Dunning said the selectmen would vote on warrant articles for the June town meeting on April 21. Ben Rines, Jr., said he would support the budget presented on April 4 but was willing to discuss it further. The Budget Committee will meet on April 9 to discuss the budget and a joint workshop will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Maine Yankee Spent Fuel: Attorney Peter Murray presented a brief proposal for a preliminary look at the Maine Yankee storage situation as the existing agreement with Maine Yankee expires from a tax standpoint and from a larger political standpoint, the options that might be available to the town for the removal of the spent fuel. He said a part of the study would be to communicate with other towns where fuel is being stored with regard to consultants, engineers and other resources in order to have the best information as far as appraisals are concerned for tax purposes. The second part of the study would address the issue of removing the fuel to either regional sites or Yucca Mountain. This would include federal and state initiatives and options the town would have. Estimated cost of the proposal is $35,000. Chair Pam Dunning said the board had decided in executive session to approach its national delegates for assistance and explore grants that could help the town with the project before approving the work.

B. Set date for Maine Yankee site walk: A site visit to Maine Yankee will be scheduled at a later date.

12. New Business

A. Wiscasset School Committee

1. Larrabee Fund Request: The Wiscasset School Committee has requested $26,656.90 from the Larrabee Fund for a new audio system for the gym and new outdoor speakers. The fund was established to benefit the Wiscasset High School band. Current balance of the fund is $572,642.88 and the request would come from interest, not principal**. Jeff Slack moved to approve the request. Vote 5-0-0.**

2. Bailey Fund Request: The Wiscasset School Committee has requested $985 from the Bailey Fund to cover the tuition of a student who has received an Excellence Award by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists which includes a three-day congress in Boston. Pam Dunning said the fund was set up for improving the high school and not for an individual so the request would not be eligible for the Bailey Fund. She said that the Seth Wingren Trust, under the purview of the school board would seem appropriate. Current balance of that fund is $22,087.22.

B. Request from First Congregational Church to use Town Common for Summerfest. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the request. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Annual review of commercial Waste Hauler fees (Article V, Section 4.2): Dunning said the town has three commercial haulers and currently charges $300 per year. **Jeff Slack moved to change the fee to $500. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Set May 5 for Town Meeting Public Hearing: **Tim Merry moved to set May 5, 2015 at 7 p.m. for the town meeting public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Review Town Meeting Article #53 J (2014 Town Meeting): Ben Rines, Jr. moved to delete a section of the article as follows: “Shall the Town authorize the transfer of all unexpended balances to fund balance ~~and to authorize the overdrafts that may occur in the Town operations in the budget to be taken from fund balance~~ and to authorize the Selectmen to carry any unexpended balance as they deem advisable and to authorize the Selectmen to set at a later date the amount of undesignated fund balance, if any, to be used to reduce property tax assessment.” Ben Rines, Jr., said that the original version is an open invitation to the selectmen to spend whatever they want at the end of the year by taking it out of the fund balance. Pam Dunning said some items can go over budget such as snow removal or General Assistance and asked how they would be handled. Rines said if they could not be taken out of contingency, a town meeting would be necessary. Vote 3-2-0. (Dunning and Merry opposed.)

F. Quit Claim Deed for Laurie Cromwell at 100 Hale Pond Road (Map Lot R01-044-F): Taxes have been paid and the deed was signed.

G. Special Amusement Permit application for Twisted Iron Customs: **Tim Merry moved to set a public hearing for April 21. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Department Head or Committee Chair report: Report was attached to agenda.

14. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson provided the following information on amounts that might be withdrawn from the reserve fund for use in the budgeting process: 3.5% - $390,188.87; 4.5% - $540,651.74.

As directed, Anderson had prepared a Request for Proposals for privatizing the Ambulance Service and wanted confirmation before sending it out. The board confirmed its request.

15. Adjournment

**Jeff Slack moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**