WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

JULY 7, 2015

Present: Bill Barnes, David Cherry, Vice Chair Judy Flanagan, Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Town Manager Marian Anderson

1. Call to Order

Chair Ben Rines, Jr., called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Chairman announced that the meeting was streaming live for the first time. He thanked the high school students who had restored the cannon that was now on the town hall lawn and all those who had participated in the July 4th activities.

3. Public Hearings – none

4. Approval of Minutes

**Jeff Slack moved to approve the minutes of June 10, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Judy Flanagan moved to accept the minutes of June 16 with corrections. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**Bill Barnes moved to approve the payroll warrants of June 19, June 26 and July 3, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Bill Barnes moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of June 23, June 30 and July 7, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Assessors’ Business – none

7. Special Presentations or Awards – none

8. Appointments – none

9. Resignations

Marla Blagden has submitted her resignation as Animal Control Officer. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the resignation with regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. Public Comment

Ed Cavanaugh , on behalf of the Museum in the Streets, thanked the Town for its donation of $2,000 and assistance of the town crew in installing the posts for the signs. Judy Flanagan thanked Cavanaugh for the efforts of his group.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Tax Anticipation Note bid opening

The following bids were received for a TAN of $1,567,110:

Bar Harbor Bank and trust Company .99%

Camden National Bank .92%

The First .83%

Bank of Maine .94%

Androscoggin Bank .82%

**Bill Barnes moved to authorize the Town Manager to review the bids with the Treasurer and award the bid to the most qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.** By consensus the board authorized the chairman on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to sign all the paperwork regarding the awarding of the TAN

B. Primary School next steps

Town Manager Marian Anderson said following the town vote to transfer the primary school to the Town, she had had the roof inspected which showed normal wear and tear. She had also contacted Realtor Sherri Dunbar for information on a possible sale should the board decide to sell the property.

Dunbar reported that she had done some research and would provide comps to the board in executive session if the decision was made to sell. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Souza asked the board to consider retaining the back portion of the lot next to the Sortwell Forest so that existing trails could be kept open. He will map out the property for the board. Anderson will schedule an executive session in the next week. The primary school has until the end of the month to vacate the building.

Desirée Bailey, owner of a local hair salon, expressed interest in the building for use as a holistic healing center, salon, day spa, day school, charter school with cafeteria and coffee shop. She would be interested in acquiring the building at an affordable price and with a break on taxes.

C. Middle School baseball field, basketball and tennis court update

Todd Souza listed the new equipment for the playground and changes to existing equipment to accommodate the younger children. The playground will have safety surfacing and four basketball hoops will be moved to the tennis court area. Twenty-four parking spaces are also planned. In response to Judy Flanagan’s question regarding a donation made in the past for the basketball court, Souza said Alan Hawkings was tracing it down. Flanagan also asked for better communication in the future so that the board does not hear about plans at the 11th hour. Souza reported that the high school track will be resurfaced from July 13 to 27 and the elementary school play area will be closed off during the work.

D. Federal Street weight limits

The Maine Department of Transportation which originally supported the weight limits on Federal Street is considering eliminating the restriction. Ben Rines, Jr., expressed concern for the historic district and the school should the weight limit, which has been in effect since 1973, be raised, allowing gravel trucks to use Federal Street to Route 1. There was a consensus among the board that a public hearing should be held which would allow the townspeople to express their concerns to MDOT. The state senators and representatives, school personnel, and the Water District will be invited. Susan Van Alsenoy asked that the public hearing be open to consideration of weight limits on other roads such as Bradford Road.

12. New Business

A. White’s Island: Steve Walker, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, said his organization hopes to enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the owners of White’s Island to acquire the building which would then be conveyed to the town with a conservation easement prohibiting development in order to maintain the land for public use. The board expressed support for the plan. Cost to repair the bridge and issues with the railroad crossing will be investigated.

B. Marty Fox, Sun Cats, said 154 people had signed a petition asking the town to investigate the cost and benefits of solar power on the municipal building. He introduced Sam Lavallee, Project Manager for ReVision Energy, as one company that offered a solar power system that could be used on the building. Lavallee described a plan for the use of solar energy from solar panels installed on the roof of the municipal building and the town garage. A third party would operate the panels for a minimum of six years at which time the Town could purchase the panels. He described the tax credits and savings that could be had using his system. Fox will bring other alternatives for solar power to the board for consideration.

C. Selectmen goals 2015-2016: The board was given a draft of goals which they will consider and discuss at the next selectmen’s meeting.

D. Lincoln County Animal Control Contract: Marian Anderson provided the board with a sample contract between Lincoln County and the Town of Wiscasset for animal control services. She said it was difficult to compare costs because the county charges by the hour and the former Animal Control Officer was paid a stipend. In answer to David Cherry’s question, Anderson said the county’s response time was good, as more than one person was on duty. She said funding is available**. David Cherry moved to go ahead with the contract. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. July 30th Artwalk request for band on pier: Mary Ellen Barnes requested permission for the Breakers Jazz Band to perform on the pier on July 30 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The timing overlaps the concert on the common by a half hour, but this was not seen by the selectmen to be a problem**. Jeff Slack moved to grant the request. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Report: Town Planner Jamel Torres reviewed the revised proposed Temporary Business and Business License Ordinances with the board. The definition of the town common will be added as section 1.4.3.h of the Temporary Business Ordinance. Torres will look into the appropriateness of having a decision of the elected Selectboard able to be overturned by the Appeals Board, which is an appointed body.

14. Town Manager’s Report

Anderson reported that the auditors are in the process of working on the audit and she should have preliminary end-of-year numbers by the next meeting. She will meet with the FAA at the airport on July 8, with the Investment Committee on July 9 and on July 10 with the Superintendent of Schools on planning and opportunities for partnership.

15. Other Business

Bill Barnes asked how long the airport grants were good for; the Town Manager will find out.

In an update requested by Judy Flanagan, Anderson said no applications had been received for the harbormaster position, interviews were being held for the Town Clerk position and she would find out the status of the police position. In an update on the Ambulance Service review, Anderson said deficiencies are being addressed, leadership roles are being worked on and the procedures and policies have been completed. The Town is looking for grants for ventilation of the Fire and Ambulance departments and an estimate from a contractor for renovations of the sleeping arrangements is expected.

16. Adjournment

**Jeff Slack moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.**