WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

NOVEMBER 4, 2015

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The chairman welcomed Judith Colby to the board.

3. Public Hearings – None

4. Approval of Minutes

**Jeff Slack moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2015 as amended. Vote 4-0-1** (Colby abstained).

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**David Cherry moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of October 23 and 30, 2015. Vote 4-0-1** (Colby abstained). **Judy Flanagan moved to approve the Accounts Payable warrants of October 27 and November 3, 2015. Vote 4-0-1** (Colby abstained).

6. Assessors’ Business – none

7. Special Presentations or Awards – none

8. Appointments

**Jeff Slack moved to approve the appointment of Wendy Donavan to the Historic Preservation Commission. Vote 5-0-0.**

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment – none

11. Unfinished Business

A. Map R08, Lot 5B sale: The Town’s real estate agent Sherri Dunbar has received an offer of $80,000 for this property, which has $60,200 due in taxes. **Jeff Slack moved to accept the offer and to authorize the Town Manager to sign for the board. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Delinquent taxpayers-next steps/Poverty Abatement requests: Ben Rines, Jr. summarized the board actions to date. A discussion followed on the process for moving forward on tax acquired properties. The chairman recommended taking action on both vacant and non-resident-owned properties. Judith Colby asked that the discussion be postponed until the next meeting when she would have had a chance to look at the policy. Judy Flanagan recommended looking at the length of time a property had been in default before taking action**. Ben Rines, Jr., moved that by the first meeting in January the Town Manager will have gone through the process of notifying the owners of vacant land that if all delinquent taxes are not received by the first of the year, the board will be in a position to take possession of the properties and dispose of them.**  Town Manager Marian Anderson said the delinquent property owners have had a thirty-day notice of unpaid taxes , a notice of tax lien (18 months), a 45-day foreclosure notice, and two additional notices. **Vote 4-1-0** (Cherry opposed).

12. New Business

Jeff Slack reported receiving a phone call from the Mains regarding a neighboring property which had not been cleaned up as ordered by the CEO and still had fire extinguishers and propane tanks that had not been removed. Marian Anderson reported that the Code Enforcement Officer had inspected the property and while some items on the property were allowed, more needed to be removed and the owner was given until the end of November. She added that eight tons of debris had been removed from the property.

13. Department Head or Committee Chair report – none

14. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson said it had been reported that people without transfer station stickers or those who had moved out of town and still had stickers were using the transfer station. Suggestions to increase compliance were discussed, such as issuing stickers annually and changing the color.

Anderson reported that the contract with the County for animal control was working well.

The Town is still trying to fill the Harbormaster’s position. Jeff Slack will contact Richard Forrest to see if he is interested.

The heat is on at the primary school and it is being inspected three times a week.

The Lincoln County Budget Committee will meet November 12 at 6 p.m. Ben Rines, Jr. represents the selectboard and other members are invited to attend.

In an update, Steve Walker, Maine Coast Area Trust, had written the board, advising that they hoped to acquire White’s Island and close the acquisition by the end of the year.

Anderson said there has been some interest in the solar energy proposals and questions about next steps have been sent to ReVision Energy whose responses will be on the next agenda.

The board has been invited to join with the Boothbay selectmen in a discussion about the change in disposal of waste after 2018 when the current contract expires. Anderson will be attending.

Anderson said the Salvation Army had provided a container for the transfer station to replace the Planet Aid container that was removed.

The crosswalk lights will be installed in the spring. Judy Flanagan pointed out that the crosswalks need repainting.

The meeting with the DOT has been postponed to the first part of December. The DOT has graded Route 144 and will be sent a letter thanking them for their quick response.

Judy Flanagan reported on items in the minutes of the select board 50 years ago when the board voted to not let the worm diggers use the town walk, to donate $100 to the town baseball team, to purchase a radio for the police car and to sell a tax acquired property.

**Judy Flanagan moved that the Town Manager have materials prepared for the board double-sided when appropriate. Vote 3-2-0** (Rines and Slack opposed).

15. Adjournment

**Jeff Slack moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**