

WICASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
AUGUST 16, 2016

Tape recorded meeting

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

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

David Cherry moved to approve the payroll warrants of August 5 and August 12, 2016. Vote 5-0-0. David Cherry moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of August 8, August 9 and August 16, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

David Cherry moved to approve the minutes of August 2, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special presentations or awards – none

5. Committee appointments – none

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Gordon Konrath, a retired veteran, who lives near the airport, commented that there were no federal or state flags at the airport. "Wings over Wiscasset" will take place this weekend and he asked that the board look into securing flags for the airport. The Town Manager was directed to look into getting flags for the airport.

James Kochan, President of Mars and Neptune Trust, a non-profit educational, benevolent and charitable organization, presented a proposal to purchase at fair market value or lease the Wiscasset Academy building for its national headquarters. He said the Maine Art Gallery's lease for the building had expired and it had lost its non-profit status. The matter will be on the September 6 agenda.

8. Department head or committee chair

a. Historical Preservation Commission – update on the Federal Highway Administration Section 106 review meeting of 8/3/16 relating to the Option 2 downtown improvement plan: John Reinhardt, chair of the Wiscasset Historical Commission, thanked board members for attending the meeting and the DOT for meeting with his group and outlining the MDOT and federal approach to the Route 1 changes. Jib Fowler, Vice Chair of the Wiscasset Historical Commission, said everything the commission did, including the FHA Section 106 review, was dictated by the comprehensive plan. The first goal of the commission,

which was created by the comprehensive plan, was to preserve Wiscasset's historic heritage. On behalf of the commission, he has asked for consulting party status for the 106 review and that process is underway. Richard Thompson, commission member, said the meeting was non-confrontational and he was surprised to learn that the plans presented at previous meetings were not real; no planning has been done.

b. Transfer Station – Ron Lear: Lear asked for permission to keep the old trailer, which would be more valuable for its parts, rather than using it for a trade-in. **Jeff Slack moved to keep the trailer. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Public Works – Doug Fowler – award of backhoe bid: Fowler recommended that the bid be awarded to JCV, the only qualified bidder. The First is being contacted for financing..

d. Police Department – Jeffery Lange: Craig Worster has been hired as a permanent part-time reserve officer to replace Nadean Crossley who is attending the academy. Lange reported that both cruisers are on line and have been striped; the department will hold a bike rodeo on August 27 at the Community Center. A trailer showing actual speed of cars will be used for two weeks on Route 27 and Federal Street reminding drivers of schools opening. Officer Perry Hatch has taken a life skills class, a step up from the DARE program. The Prime for Life program focuses on drugs, alcohol, bullying, and cigarettes, which includes a referral program similar to restorative justice.

e. Town Planner – Ben Averill

- ATM on Creamery Pier: Averill said he had been asked to research the possibility of an ATM on the Creamery pier. There is an existing ATM at Red's Eats and the banks have not expressed an interest in installing a second ATM.
- Montsweag Dam update: Lauren Stockwell has been conducting a natural resources inventory on the property. Collection will be completed in September and a report will be forthcoming in the fall or winter.
- Broadband Internet Service: Averill recommended that the Broadband committee be revived if the goal is to increase the broadband, which he said was not cheap. He said he will continue to research ConnectME if the board wants to continue.
- Review of Animal Control Ordinance: Averill asked that the board direct the Ordinance Review Committee to review the changes to the ordinance which were requested by the Animal Control Officer to improve the process of releasing unlicensed dogs from the shelter. The matter was referred to the ORC.
- Maine Art Gallery: Jorge Pena requested permission to display a sign advertising a plein air event on August 27 and 28 at the gallery. He said the exhibit will give the community a better sense of the gallery. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the signage for the Maine Art Gallery. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Submitted Department Head monthly reports – distributed

9. Unfinished Business

a. Ernie Martin, MDOT Design Project Manager – Martin will take over from Gerry Audibert, Planning Project Manager, in the next steps moving forward with Option 2. The federal government will have the last say on the project and many approvals will be necessary before then. Martin in a slide presentation outlined the Project Purpose and Need statement, project stakeholders, project design elements, design process, highway design team process, and communication during design activities. He said the project will be safer and operational for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, will improve roadway structure and will meet the needs of the community. Judy Flanagan asked how one would join the citizens' committee; Martin recommended a committee of eight to ten members representing the business community, residents, emergency services, historic preservation and other stakeholders be set up by the Town as soon as possible.

In response to Judy Colby's question, Martin said that no changes would be possible when the informational meeting is held to consider the final plan, only tweaking. Keith Rendell, Fine Arts Gallery, said he was not happy with Option 2 and suggested that temporary lights be installed for a weekend to see if that helped with the traffic problems before making permanent changes. Martin said he would look at the possibilities. Ben Rines, Jr. suggested that the new light at Route 27 be monitored next summer to determine the effect on traffic before the new lights are installed. Kim Bolche requested that when the DOT meets with the business community, the businesses on Main Street be included in the meeting, not just the chamber members. Martin said the meeting schedule will be sent to the town for its website. Ralph Doering asked how lights would work to speed up traffic with the mandatory stops at the railroad tracks. Martin said the lights were meant to keep the pedestrians from stopping traffic. Doering also asked if the DOT could provide examples of other towns where a similar plan has been successful. Martin said he was not familiar with other similar situations. In response to Richard Thompson's question regarding a follow-up process, Martin said that after completion the project would be monitored.

Pam Logan asked at what point can the Town back out; Martin said it was past that stage in planning; however, at this point the plan is conceptual and tests with temporary lights and traffic cones will be run to make sure it works. Logan also asked about estimates for maintenance as that would affect town taxes and the Town cannot maintain the parking that it has. Martin said the Public Works Director would be able to estimate maintenance costs.

In response to John Reinhardt's questions on the purpose of a *non-binding* referendum, Marian Anderson explained that although the final decision rested with the board members, they sought the opinion of the voters before making their decision.

The chairman declared a ten-minute recess at 7:45 p.m.

b. White's Island Discussion – Steve Walker, Maine Coast Heritage Trust: Walker, Regional Project Manager for MCHT, said his organization had purchased the island with the intent to transfer ownership to the Town and then to help the Town find funds for bridge repair. In response to questions, Walker said the blank space on page 3, line 15 would be filled in; the easement includes commercial worming and clamming as it is currently being used for those purposes; the MCHT purchased the island and the mud flats (map U-2, lot 112); the 15-1/2' easement across the island has restrictions only against paving; that the viewscape is protected; the railroad is willing to renew the lease with the Town giving an easement without requiring "bells and whistles"; MCHT will work with the Town on securing funding for repair of the bridges, or the bridges can be removed; if the Town acquires the island, it can never be

put back on the tax rolls; and no residential or commercial structures will be allowed, only kiosks, outhouses, gazebos, etc. **Judy Flanagan moved that the board sign the quitclaim deed to White's Island. Judy Flanagan moved to amend the motion to include that the blank space on page 3, line 15 be filled in. Vote 5-0-0. Vote on motion as amended 4-1-0 (Colby opposed).** A management plan will be forthcoming.

c. FAA Grant Offer for Airport Improvement Program Project No. 3-23-0049-018-2016, the maximum FAA obligation under this grant is \$81,000: **David Cherry moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the grant, sign the grant application to obtain avigation easement on two parcels to clear approach to runway 25 and to approve the Obstruction Removal (Phase 1). The proposed project includes removal of vegetative obstruction at the Wiscasset Municipal Airport. The obstructions are located in the TERPS 20:1 Visual Area Surface (VAAS), 20:1 Threshold Siting Surface, and FAR Part 77 Approach Surface of Runways 7 and 25. This project includes work efforts for the removal of all obstructions to the Runway 25 surfaces, both on-airport and in two avigation easements that have recently been acquired under separate AIP grant. Vote 5-0-0.** This does not include trees on the Chewonki Campground.

d. Goal setting discussion: Reminder that a workshop meeting is scheduled for 8/23/16 at 5 p.m.

e. Schedule visits to all Town departments prior to next year's budget season: Meetings will be scheduled with police, ambulance and fire departments together at a Monday evening in September at 5 p.m. Wastewater treatment plant, transfer station, airport, and recreation department will be scheduled during the day on a Monday. Public works will be held at 5 on a Monday. The budget committee will be invited to all meetings. Dates will be confirmed with the department heads on August 19.

10 New Business

a. Tax payment from I. Park Wiscasset, LLC: Past due taxes have been paid through 2011. The Town Manager asked the board to consider if any of the properties in foreclosure should be acquired.

b. Primary School – set date and time for board to tour Primary School: The tour is scheduled for August 22 at 5 p.m.

c. 2016/2017 Homestead Exemption – see memo from Assessor's Agent Ellery Bane: The homestead exemption has been increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000; however reimbursement is not 100%.

d. Main Street Pier Application - cancelled

e. Monthly Financials: Judy Colby asked the board's preference in the form of the monthly financial report, the current one or a sample 2013 expense summary report which provides more detail. There was a consensus that both forms be supplied.

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Anderson reported that 20 members of the fire department had enrolled in the AFLAC Accident Advantage on August 3.

b. Municipal Office Employees' break room: A photo of the new break room was supplied.

c. Selectmen's Office: The phone and internet cords have been secured.

d. Dirigo Energy International email dated 8/9/16: Dirigo has asked to meet with the selectmen regarding the high voltage lines at the Maine Yankee site. The Town Manager will meet with Dirigo for clarification of its request.

e. Fire Department proposal: A proposal had been received and Anderson asked if the board wanted to meet again with the Fire Department. Judy Colby said the proposal would have to relieve the Town of any liability; David Cherry said the proposal did not preclude EMS and police employees washing their cars or the possibility of repairing their cars under the "caring for vehicles" clause. The definition of "on duty" was discussed; according to an attorney, just carrying a pager when on call did not constitute being on duty. Judy Flanagan recommended continuing meeting with the Fire Department until a consensus is reached. Another meeting will be scheduled.

Anderson displayed photos of the proposed sign in front of the municipal building. **Judy Colby moved to go ahead with Northern Signs. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Other Board Business

Judy Flanagan reminded the board and the public about the activities at the airport on the weekend.

She reported she had taken her grandson to the car seat check sponsored by the police department and found it helpful.

Flanagan asked that the board respond in some way to the complaint of speed on Lee Street which was mentioned at a previous meeting. She hoped that speeding problems could be addressed, not only on Lee Street but also on Federal Street and downtown.

Ben Rines asked that various percentages be provided when taxes are discussed on September 6. Tax bills will be sent a week to 10 days later.

13. Adjournment

David Cherry moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.