WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

OCTOBER 21, 2014

 Tape recorded meeting

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

1. Call to order

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

3. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrant

**Ben Rines moved to approve the Treasurer’s Warrants of October 14 and 21, 2014. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Bill Barnes moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2014. Vote 4-0-1.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. 2014 MMA Annual municipal report competition: Chair Pam Dunning announced that the Town of Wiscasset had received the Excellence award in the competition.

6. Public Hearing

A. Special Amusement Permit for Wiscasset Speedway, LLC: The public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. Jeff Slack recommended keeping the 10 p.m. closing time. He said if it is necessary to extend the operating hours, the applicant should request approval of the select board so that a hearing can be held and neighbors notified. Pam Dunning said the sentence in the third paragraph under **Provisions** regarding extending the end time when the need arises seemed too open. Vanessa Jordan, Wiscasset Speedway, said operating past or close to the deadline was unusual and was usually caused by weather. She said most events end at 9:30 p.m. She expressed gratitude to the board for its encouragement and expected the schedule to be the same as last year. She said a new septic system had been installed, ground work done and the back wall had been partially replaced. Two events sponsored by other organizations had been held at the track this past season. The public hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

There had been no complaints about the operation of the speedway and no changes were made to the permit. **Tim Merry moved to grant the special amusement permit. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Adoption of 2014-2015 General Assistance Ordinance Maximums: **Tim Merry moved to adopt the 2014-2015 General Assistance Ordinance Maximums for Food and Housing. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Appointments – none

8. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Steve Mehrl asked if any selectman had attended the Business Resource event on October 16 where Maine businesses and federal, state and local business agencies had an opportunity to get together. Marian Anderson said she had not been able to attend but had contacted Jamie Logan and will meet with her regarding the event.

9. Department Head or Committee Chair Report – none

10. Unfinished Business

A. Bottle Redemption Policy: Marian Anderson said insurance certificates from the Girl Scouts and St. Philip’s Church had been received and she expected certificates from the other agencies that have bottle bins at the Transfer Station. She said the bins had been moved but a permanent location has not yet been decided. The policy was discussed, but no changes were made. There was a consensus to not allow additional bins, to work on placement of the bins and that a policy was not necessary.

B. Morton Street request for “no parking” signs: Richard Barnard requested that the selectman approve a “no parking” sign on Morton Street so that he could back out of his driveway without being blocked by parked cars. Anderson said the selectmen can post “no parking” signs and she recommended that parking be prohibited on both sides of the street to give access to emergency vehicles. The request will be on the next agenda and abutters will be notified.

11. New Business

A. Finance: School Warrant Updates and Summary from July 3 to October 31 were distributed.

B. Finance: Monthly HM Payson Financial Statements were distributed. The summary as of September 30 will be given to the Budget and Investment committees. An Investment Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

C. Assessing: **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to sign the Municipal Valuation Return for Tax Year 2014. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Waste Water: A memo from Bob Faunce regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant’s location in the flood plain and the availability of grants had been received. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to support Bob Faunce in looking for grants to work on flood plain issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Town Meeting: Marian Anderson said that in order to move forward with the calendar for the budget, she needed to know when, where and how the voting will be done at the next annual town meeting. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to have a secret ballot referendum on the second Tuesday in June.** Discussion focused on the history and advantages and disadvantages of open town meetings or secret ballots and whether a non-binding referendum voted in the past was still in effect. In response to the argument that people did not have sufficient information on the issues with a secret ballot, Anderson said public participation was critical; she plans several public meetings on the budget, outreach to organizations, and a newsletter to all voters with information on the ballot issues. She plans to work closely with the budget committee and department heads. **Vote 4-1-0 (Merry opposed).** There was a consensus that voting of the town secret ballot referendum be held in the meeting room at the Wiscasset Municipal Building.

F. School Petition vote**: Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept December 9, 2014 as the date for the school petition vote. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Town Manager’s Report

Anderson apologized that the latest version of the agenda was not available for the public.

The Good Shepherd Food Bank delivers food to St. Philip’s Church, the Nazarene Church and the high school. The grant which paid for the delivery is about to expire and these organizations have asked if the Town could donate $1500 to replace the grant. Scott Hamann, Cupboard Collective Program Manager said with the grant for delivery costs, in the past year, 17,500 pounds of food were delivered to the three locations in town. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take $1500 out of contingency for the Cupboard Collective Program. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**