WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

Tape recorded minutes

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

Absent: Bill Barnes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America

3. Approval of Minutes

**Tim Merry moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**Tim Merry moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of February 6 and 13. Vote 4-0-0. Tim Merry moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of February 10 and 17. Vote 4-0-0.**

5. Approval of Abatements and Supplementals – none

6. Special Presentations and Awards – none

7. Appointments – none

8. Resignations – none

9. Public Comment

Dan O’Connell, Gibbs Road, submitted a petition signed by more than 30 residents, requesting the selectmen establish limits on noise from automatic gunfire coming from the Wiscasset Gun Club. He said the facility had changed from a sportsman’s club to a firing range that is being rented by the police and other groups. He played two minutes of a recording made from his deck one and one-half miles from the range. He said over one weekend the club was rented to 24 people firing 1800 rounds each. Pam Dunning said the board would review the petition, and following discussions with the Code Enforcement, the Ordinance Review Committee and the gun club, the item would be put on the March 17 agenda.

Mary Rose Pray said money from recyclables retrieved from the single stream bin at the Transfer Station had provided funds for shirts and jackets for employees, and box tops recovered were saved for the school to be used to obtain school supplies. The practice had been discontinued because of safety concerns; however, a suggestion by the Town Manager that the employees use grabbers to retrieve the items might enable the practice to continue without danger to the employees. The employees are currently not retrieving recyclables but Pray hoped that the practice would be resumed.

Steve Mehrl said the Mason Station case would be heard in Superior Court in April and the entire proceeding would be streamed on the internet at [www.courts.me.gov.mainecourtssupreme/stream](http://www.courts.me.gov.mainecourtssupreme/stream). In addition, Mehrl recommended that the Town use its experience in property management in dealing with the primary school and in the next six or eight months investigate possible zoning change, environmental assessment of the property and other matters necessary for sale of the property.

10. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Town Planner Jamel Torres:

1. Proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance: Torres introduced the Historic Preservation Ordinance draft that the ORC was presenting for Selectboard and eventually town approval. He outlined the purpose and intent of the ordinance as well as the establishment of a historic preservation commission and its duties. Karl Olson, Ordinance Review Committee chair, spoke on the ORC’s work on the ordinance and John Reinhart, a member of the original Historic Preservation Ordinance committee, outlined the history and importance of the ordinance. In order to appear on the June warrant, the ordinance will be scheduled for the next selectmen’s agenda and a public hearing will be held on April 7.

2. Sign Ordinance Compliance: Torres said a draft inventory of signs and draft letters of non-compliance by a previous code enforcement officer had been located. The photos will be compared with the ordinance regulations, and owners of non-compliant signs will be notified. Directional signs were discussed. Business signs put up by the State are under a 3-5 year contract; however, the small black and white signs erected by town permit will be checked to determine if the businesses are still in operation.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Request to change spelling of Rumerill Road: Don Jones had asked that the name be changed to Rumrill Road, the correct spelling of the family’s name after whom the road was named. Nancy Wyman, a resident of Rumerill Road since 1993 said she was not in favor of changing the spelling; it would entail changing deeds, property maps, and bank accounts, and she said there would be costs in making the changes to documents should a change in ownership occur. Don Oyster who has lived on the street since 1999 said if the name were changed, it would affect taxes and notification to the state, and he asked who would pay for the cost of refiling deeds. Don Jones spoke briefly on his reason for requesting the change in spelling. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to leave the spelling of Rumerill Road as it is currently spelled. Vote 4-0-0.**

12. New Business

A. School Department Update - Primary School, Improvements at Wiscasset High School, Budget Update: Steve Smith, School Committee Chair, said a three-year contract had been offered to a candidate for superintendent who was the unanimous choice of the search committee. In-depth work on the budget has begun and Smith estimated savings would exceed original estimates by $120,000.

He added that $100,000 had been added back into the budget for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program, which will include a three-room complex with lab and classrooms. At the February 26 meeting, the name of the school will be discussed. Smith said he has had an inquiry about purchasing the primary school and is putting together information on the building for prospective buyers. The school will be vacated by September 1. The teachers are working toward the move to the middle school. The parents of the primary school students are fund raising for a playground for the smaller children and looking at matching fund grants. The school board is examining the possibility of bringing Head Start back to Wiscasset with a state subsidy so that the program would be open to all children. No changes are anticipated this year in the setup of the high school building for grades 7 through 12. In response to Steve Mehrl’s question regarding responsibility for the sale of the primary school building, Marian Anderson said the legal process is being investigated.

B. Awarding Bid to provide Property Tax Assessment Services: Marian Anderson said had compared the two bids received and recommended the RJD Appraisal bid for a three-year contract of $68,420 (44 days @ $515 per day). **Jeff Slack moved to authorize the Town Manager to award the assessing business to RJD Appraisal. Vote 4-0-0.**

C. Approve a Municipal Quit Claim Deed **: Jeff Slack moved to approve the Municipal Quit Claim Deed for property located on Hale Pond Road (Map R01, Lot 044R). Vote 4-0-0.**

13. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson asked that the board to confirm that she was authorized to sign the letter to Maine Yankee authorizing their use of the airport in an emergency. There was a consensus that the letter be sent.

In spite of the numerous snow storms to date, the Town Manager reported that there was $16,000 left in the salt budget and $10,800 in the overtime budget.

14. Adjournment

**Tim Merry moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 4-0-0.**