WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

MARCH 16, 2015

 Tape recorded meeting

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

6 p.m. Executive Session

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to enter executive session pursuant to Title 1, MRSA, Section 406(6)(E) to consult with legal counsel. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr. moved to come out of executive session at 7:06 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

1. Call to Order

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Hearing

The public hearing opened at 7:07 p.m.

A. Consideration of a new liquor license for applicant Tony Bickford: Bickford said the Little Village Bistro will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. He is in the process of renovating the restaurant which will serve American food with an Italian influence. There were no questions or comments. The public hearing closed at 7:09 p.m. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the liquor license application. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2015 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**A. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of March 6 and 13, 2015. Vote 5-0-0**

**Jeff Slack moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of March 10 and 17, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Approval of Abatements and Supplemental – none

7. Special Presentations or Awards – none

8. Appointments – none

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment

Marty Fox said he is a member of a group interested in helping the town with energy savings and securing a grant for an energy audit of Town buildings. The Town Manager said the Town and schools have conducted energy audits , have had some work done and is reviewing its boiler and maintenance contracts. She offered to share information on the Town’s energy-savings efforts with Mr. Fox.

Steve Mehrl said Superior Court would be streaming the hearing regarding Wiscasset vs. Mason Station on April 10 from 9:50 to 10:40.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Wiscasset Rod and Gun Club: Denis Hebert, an Executive Board member of the Rod and Gun Club, read a letter in response to the petition submitted to the select board at its last meeting from neighbors of the club complaining about noise. Hebert said it was determined that on the dates in question Weaponcraft LLC had rented the club to conduct tactical training. Because the training was more than expected, the club had unanimously voted to not renew the agreement with Weaponcraft LLC. Hebert added that the rules of the club prohibit automatic firearms and limit shooting to the hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. He added that the range has been used by law enforcement and security agencies and individuals for over thirty years. The letter included the rules for the Wiscasset Rod and Gun Club Range.

Ben Rines, Jr., thanked Hebert for the rapid response. Several members of the gun club board spoke as well as Dan O’Connell, who presented the petition at the previous meeting, expressing his appreciation for the response.

12. New Business

A. Attorneys Peter Murray and Sarah McDaniel to discuss the Town’s next steps with the Maine Yankee spent fuel storage facility: This item was postponed to the April 7 meeting.

B. Audit Report: Chris Backman, RHR Smith & Company, presented a draft audit showing the fund balance had increased during the year from $1.1 million to $1.4 million. The town’s goal is to have a fund balance of $1.8 million, which represents three months’ budget. In response to Pam Dunning’s question, Backman said the fund balance could not be used in place of a tax anticipation note because that is not the function of the fund balance; the fund balance is not liquid. He also advised that reducing expenses is the way to increase the fund balance, not raising taxes. The board accepted the draft report. The Town Manager said an earlier date for receipt of the audit was anticipated for this fiscal year.

C. Update on Federal Street Water Main Project: Marian Anderson reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, Wiscasset Water District and the Public Works Manager had met regarding the Federal Street project. The draft report was submitted to the board; the project has not yet gone out to bid. Anderson said traffic interruptions on Federal Street are anticipated during the summer.

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Report – Jamel Torres

A. Update on Floodplain Management Ordinance: Torres reported that three of the four Ordinance Review Committee members had met and although there was not a quorum, the individual members had recommended approval of the draft ordinance. Torres pointed out the changes to Page 4 regarding the application fee and to Page 14 indicating variances would be heard by the Board of Appeal, both changes consistent with Wiscasset ordinances. A public hearing will be scheduled for April 7 at 7 p.m.

B. Update on Historic Preservation Ordinance: Torres said that, as requested by the board, the incentives in Section 4.3 were removed from the ordinance. This ordinance will also be scheduled for the April 7 public hearing.

14. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson presented her recommended budget to the board and thanked the staff for their help. The Budget Committee will receive their notebooks on Thursday, March 19. She pointed out the summary sheet outlining the increases in the budget. In spite of a 3.9% increase in the County tax and an increase in Worker’s Comp costs, the total increase of the budget was only $53,282. A joint meeting of the select board and Budget Committee will take place on April 4 and will include lunch. She asked the board to indicate if a meeting with department heads whose budgets haven’t changed was necessary. She said capital requests and community organization requests are listed, but she has not taken a position on them.

15. Adjournment

**Tim Merry moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**