WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Preliminary Minutes Tape recorded meeting

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

Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(C) to discuss acquisition of real property.

Judy Flanagan moved to go into executive session. Vote 4-0-0. The board entered executive session at 5:02 and exited at 5:55.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Ben Rines, Jr., called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Hearing: Adoption of the 2015-2016 General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices A-D

**Judy Flanagan moved to open the public hearing. Vote 4-0-0**. She commented that it would be tough to live on the maximum amount allowed under the G. A. ordinance. The town will not be reimbursed for any amount given out over the maximum**. David Cherry moved to adjourn the public hearing. Vote 4-0-0. Judy Flanagan moved to adopt them( the appendices), reluctantly. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the minutes as amended. Vote 4-0-0.**

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**A. Judy Flanagan moved to accept the payroll warrants of September 4 and September 11, 2015. Vote 4-0-0.**

**B. Judy Flanagan moved to accept the accounts payable warrants of August 25, September 8 and September 15, 2015. Vote 4-0-0.**

6. Assessors’ Business

A. Approval of 2015/2016 Tax Commitment: Marian Anderson referred to a chart showing the projected mill rates with and without taking money from the fund balance. She said there were minimal increases in the Town and school budgets this year and the Town collected almost $11 million in new value due to the Rynel expansion, CMP valuation increase, the new NAPA store plus minor commercial developments. The current fund balance is $900,000 which does not reflect the $108,000 expected from the State. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take $100,000 out of the undesignated fund balance and apply that to lower this year’s tax rate. Vote 4-0-0.**

7. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Recognition of town employees who assisted with the Wiscasset Elementary School playground: The chairman read the certificate recognizing employees who worked above and beyond expectations in completing the Wiscasset Elementary School playground. Certificates were awarded to William Thayer, Ray Bellefleur, Steve Christianson, Matthew Huber, Mark Jones, Ken Cooper, Cedric McGuire, Troy Gramrat, Josh Cramley, Robert McDonald, Todd Souza, and Doug Fowler. Todd Souza thanked those who had worked on the playground which resulted in a savings of $9,000.

8. Appointments – none

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment – none

11. Unfinished Business

A. Federal Street Update: Ben Rines, Jr., reported that the Town had contacted the MDOT Commissioner to express its gratitude for his decision on not lifting the weight limits on Federal Street and to repeat its desire to meet with him to discuss the situation. The commissioner will meet with selectmen around the first of October to discuss fines and other matters.

B. Mason Station Foreclosure update: Rines reported that the board had met in executive session with realtor Sherri Dunbar and will meet again in executive session with town counsel to discuss further issues regarding the Mason Station.

12. New Business

A. Main Street Pier Application for Allen and Mary Trescot: **Jeff Slack moved to accept the application. Vote 4-0-0.**

B. Shellfish Committee’s request for a drone to patrol the flats, Richard Forrest: Forrest, Shellfish Committee, described the negative impact poachers on the clam flats were having on legitimate clammers and the difficulty in apprehending them. He asked the selectmen whether they would consider spending $2,000 to be taken from the shellfish budget for a drone to patrol the flats. He had contacted the airport and found that there is an exception to the prohibition of drones within five miles of the airport for local government agencies. Drones can go up to 400 feet. Alternatives to using the drones, for instance reporting by cell phone to the warden, is ineffective because the warden could be miles from Wiscasset. Taking $2,000 from the shellfish budget would affect the funds now used for seed clams and the upweller. The board recommended that the committee wait until the next budget process. Forrest was congratulated on the time and energy he had spent on crushing and spreading clam shells on the flats to help the natural growth on the clam flats.

C. Open Winter Sand Bids: The following bid was received:

Harry Crooker $7.50/cu. yd. (town pick up) $11.95/cu. yd. (delivered)

Road Commissioner Doug Fowler said the bid was a dollar increase over last year’s price and he recommended having the sand delivered as it requires less Town manpower**. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the winter sand bid from Crooker Construction for the figures presented. Vote 4-0-0.**

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Temporary Business and Business License Ordinance Amendments and update on Town Common-Town Planner Jamel Torres: Torres said the Ordinance Review Committee had amended the Temporary Business Ordinance to include the description of the town common and other town-maintained properties. Ben Rines, Jr., objected to the inclusion of an appeals section in these ordinances which would allow decisions of the elected Selectboard to be appealed to an appointed board of appeals. Judy Flanagan questioned the need for the Selectboard to approve a temporary business license for more than 15 days or on the Town common when approval could be done by the Code Enforcement Officer. Marian Anderson said there were occasions when the CEO did not feel comfortable making a decision and had asked the board for guidance. David Cherry also advocated for appeals being taken to the appeals board rather than Superior Court.

Ben Rines, Jr., asked that the Sign Ordinance address signs for out of town activities and real estate signs on the town common.

David Cherry moved to vote on them (Temporary Business and Business License Ordinance) tonight. Vote 3-1-0 (Rines opposed).

14. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson reported she and Kathy Onorato would be training on the TRIO software in Bangor the following day. In response to Ben Rines’ question, in case of emergency she could be reached by phone if office staff is unable to assist.

The selectmen are invited to an anniversary celebration dinner at the Senior Center at 5 p.m. on September 30. Anderson will confirm the agenda.

Anderson reported that on Thursday she and Joe McCole, interim EMS director, will be meeting with the EMS in Topsham (which has a similar system to Wiscasset’s with a director and volunteers) to see what has worked well in Topsham.

In response to Judy Flanagan’s question, Jamel Torres reported that the Historic Preservation Committee has not yet met pending the appointment of two additional members.

Ben Rines said his goal of reducing taxes had been met and asked that his goal of having congressional representatives appear before the board be accomplished in the next month to talk about nuclear waste and the airport.

15. Adjournment

Jeff Slack moved to adjourn. Vote 4-0-0.