WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

 Tape recorded meeting

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Hearings – none

4. Approval of Minutes

David Cherry moved to accept the minutes as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

**Judy Flanagan moved to approve the Payroll Warrants of November 6, and November 13, 2015. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Flanagan moved to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants of November 10 and November 17, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Assessors’ Business

A. Abatements:

 Knight, Map R05, Lot 90 ($164)

 Parvin, Map R02, Lot 38B ($1,628.52)

 Titcomb/Helms, Map 01, Lot 25 ($19.68)

 Cromwell, Map R01, Lot 44P ($715.04)

 PIF Technologies, Personal Property ($70.52)

 Morrison, Map R01, Lot 44T ($1,118.48)

 Morrison, Map R01, Lot 44U ($926.60)

 Smith/Green, Map R01, Lot 44F ($649.44)

B. Supplementals:

 Parvin, Map 02, Lot 38-B2 ($649.44)

 Charest/Parvin, Map R01, Lot 38B ($1,595.72)

**Jeff Slack moved to approve the abatements and supplementals. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Special Presentations and Awards

Ben Rines, Jr., reported that he, Judy Flanagan and Town Manager Marian Anderson had attended the Spirit of America award ceremony. An award had been given to the following students for their work on repairing the canon: B. J. Blagden, Ben Chadwick, Nate Haley, Dan Delong and Chase Reed. Their teacher was also recognized. Rines thanked Bob Blagden for his help in moving the canon.

8. Appointments – none

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment

Steve Christiansen had the following concerns: 1) The town clock, which was given to the town by his great, great, great grandfather and was to be insured and kept in good repair by the town, needs repair to the wood frame on the Fort Hill side; 2) The powderhouse needs masonry work and the area should be tidied up; 3) The Boston Post Cane was supposed to be given to the oldest resident. Christiansen said Ruth Kierstead will be 100 in December and may be the oldest person in town. He suggested that in lieu of giving the cane, perhaps a certificate could be given; 4) The weathervane should be displayed where people can see it, perhaps at the waterfront; 5) The red brick school house should be maintained and would be a nice place for the Historical Society or the Chamber of Commerce; 6) The trunk from the Luther Little which is now in the vault could be displayed. He gave documents relating to the clock to the board.

Bob Blagden said that ten or fifteen years ago, the town had acquired an easement for the flight path and another for the obstruction light, and with the help of a surveyor had cleared trees as necessary and to everyone’s satisfaction. He said that it seemed as if the rules had changed and the FAA wants a lot more. He added that as long as the town cuts the easement, everyone should be satisfied.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Huntoon Hill Grange: application for blanket approval from the Board of Selectmen for Beano, Bingo and Games of Chance for 2016 . **David Cherry moved to approve the application. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. ReVision Energy Solar Proposal: Steve Hinchman of ReVision Energy, LLC, gave a brief overview of the benefits of a solar proposal to Wiscasset. Hinchman said the LLC was offering a power purchase agreement to the town whereby the town would purchase from the LLC 100% of the energy generated by the solar panels to be installed on the municipal building and public works roofs. The LLC would lease the roofs from the town and because it is a for-profit entity, it would be eligible for the 30% tax credit and depreciation which would not be available to the town. Hinchman said after six years the town could purchase the equipment and the electricity generated thereafter would be free to the town. He explained with charts and graphs the savings to the town over a period of 20 years. ReVision Energy would build, own and operate the system for the length of the contract as well as provide all maintenance and insurance.

In response to Ben Rines’ question, Hinchman said that the town would be paying approximately the same amount for electricity ($46,000) for the first six years at which point it could buy the equipment for $93,000. After that point, there would be no cost for electricity and by the 16th year, the savings in electricity costs will have made up for the cost of the equipment. Hinchman recommended that the board appoint a committee to work with ReVision to work up a proposal for the board. Approval to lease the roof will need a town vote. No vote is needed to purchase electricity from ReVision. After the sixth year, a town vote will be needed to purchase the equipment. The solar array will remain on the roof for a minimum of 20 years.

C. Blasting Ordinance: Jamel Torres reported that the Ordinance Review Committee had drafted a blasting ordinance and a blasting permit application and had revised the building permit application to include a question on blasting. He summarized the notification requirements in the ordinance within the blast zone (500 feet). Judy Flanagan asked whether the ordinance applied to the Water District and town agencies. The Town Manager said the Water District, which was not a town agency, would have to follow the ordinance. It was not known whether the party doing the recent blasting near Bath Road had consulted the town. David Cherry requested that the blast zone be increased to 1,000 feet. There was clarification that notification would be made to abutting owners as well as those within a 1000-foot radius. A request to measure the blast zone from the property line was not granted. **David Cherry moved to approve the blasting zone from 500 feet to 1000 feet from the blast site. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. New Business

A. Bid Opening - Purchase of 4 treadmills: The following bids were received:

Name Bid With Trade-in

Karen Brothers $19,386.26 $18,486.26

Workout Fitness Store 22,308.00 22,008.00

Todd Souza asked permission to sell the current treadmills privately, using the proceeds toward the cost of new treadmills without a trade-in. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to turn the bids over to the Town Manager and Recreation Director. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Municipal Review Committee Board of Directors Election Ballot: Marian Anderson recommended Catherine Conlow, Bangor City Manager, whom she knew personally and because of her knowledge of the solid waste costs. **Judy Colby moved to vote for Catherine Conlow of Bangor. Vote 5-0-0.**

The board took a five-minute recess to view remains of the Hesper and Luther Little that had been found at the landfill.

C. Hesper and Luther Little ship remains: Ed Kavanaugh described how he and Bill Phinney had found a sign from the Hesper at the landfill and later, going to retrieve it, could not locate it. The Lincoln County Historical Association was excited about the find and money was contributed to restore the sign. Now that several pieces of the ships had been located, Kavanaugh suggested that they be restored and displayed.

Jason Siegars from Westport said the town did not own the piece of the Hesper; he did. After the fire in 1978, he recovered it in the river below Maine Yankee, and after he towed it to the waterfront, it was taken by Larry Gordon who refused Siegars’ salvage rights. Siegars had been unable to persuade the only maritime attorney in the area to take his case. He had contacted the owner of the ship who had no interest in the salvaged piece, but would not put it in writing. David Cherry recommended that the matter be investigated. Marian Anderson asked if Mr. Siegars would agree to the town restoring and displaying the piece with a plaque giving him credit for salvaging it. Siegars said he would think about it. Anderson will look into the matter.

D. Food Pantry donation for winter season: Marian Anderson cited the increased need of the food pantries in town during the winter season and asked if the board were willing to make a donation. **Jeff Slack moved to donate $1,000 from contingency to each of the two food pantries. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Whiteboard signs on Town Common and Town Office: Ben Rines, Jr., said the white signs on the common and in front of the town office destroy the look of the common. Marian Anderson offered to take the signs down during the winter and investigate a more attractive way of informing the public of town events. It was also suggested that the signs advertising events be taken down immediately after the event.

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Report – none

14. Town Manager’s Report

Anderson reported that the Family Holiday Wish had closed but Toys for Tots would assist Wiscasset in distributing gifts. The last day to apply is December 14 and applications are taken only on line. David Cherry commented that the library has computers that can be used for Toys for Tots applications for those who do not have computer access. The Town Office will have information on the program. The Town and the two food pantries are working on Thanksgiving baskets and the Town will help with deliveries.

The Town Manager supplied information on the airport projects and costs from 2001 to 2013.

In an update on 26 Hodge Street, Anderson said the CEO had sent the property owner a letter reminding him that there is still work to be done and the deadline is November 23. She supplied photos showing the improvement.

An updated report on delinquent taxes was distributed.

The Town Planner has been working on the possibility of broadband for the community. One estimate for a study ranged from $47,000 to $56,000. Anderson said Wiscasset is working with other communities in Lincoln and Sagadahoc counties exploring grants for a study.

Anderson said that since 2013 the Good Shepherd Food Bank had provided transportation to the community twice a month and has asked again for $1,500 to continue this service. Anderson said if the board approved the funds, she would take them from the General Assistance account. Included in the service are deliveries to the two food pantries, a small food pantry at the high school and the backpack program. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take $1,500 from the GA account for the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Vote 5-0-0.**

Ben Rines, Jr., reported that the Lincoln County Budget Committee finished its work and had reduced the budget by 3.28% to date. He said the school board was proposing a 5% increase in its budget. He anticipated that taxes will be increasing this year.

15. Adjournment

**Judy Colby moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**