WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

APRIL 5, 2016

 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

A. Special Amusement Permit for Twisted Iron Customs, Mike Benner: Judy Colby moved to open the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Mike Benner said all proceeds go to charity and that the events would probably take place once a month. There have been no complaints. Judy Flanagan moved to close the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Jeff Slack moved to approve the permit for May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, and October 22, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. February 11, 2016: Ben Rines, Jr. commented on the lateness of the minutes.

B. February 25, 2016: The chairman had revised the draft minutes.

C. March 15, 2015: **Jeff Slack moved to accept the minutes of February 11, the revised draft minutes February 25 and the minutes of March 15. Vote 5-0-0.** The chairman noted that the board has not yet received the minutes of March 10.

5. Approval of Treasurer’s Warrants

A. Payroll Warrants**: Judy Colby moved to approve the payroll warrants of March 18, March 25 and April 1, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Accounts Payable Warrants: **Judy Colby moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 22, March 29 and April 5, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Assessors’ Business

A. Abatements

 ●Reconsideration of Christopher Morrison’s previously approved abatement application: Ben Rines, Jr. said information had been received from Sue Varney, former Assessors’ Agent, which explained the process and location of forms needed for joining two lots for tax purposes. Rines asked Assessors’ Agent Ellery Bane if the figures on the abatement approved at the last meeting were correct and if the decision was sound; Bane confirmed that they were. In response to Rines’ question on the reaction of the County Commissioners if the board were to deny the abatement at this time, Bane said the board would have a difficult argument to make. Judy Flanagan confirmed with Bane that the board could reconsider the abatement request in the following year. **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to reaffirm the decision regarding this abatement three weeks ago.** Judy Flanagan and Judy Colby were in agreement that the abatement should be revisited next year. David Cherry confirmed with Bane that there would be no prejudice in revisiting the abatement in the following year. **Vote 5-0-0.**

 ● Douglas Fitts, Map 05, Lot 126 ($1,239.84): The applicant said his land was under a conservation easement that prohibited development and tree growth. In addition, he said there is no normal access to the property; it is through the neighbor’s property. While there is a water view, there is no access. Assessors’ Agent Ellery Bane was not aware that tree growth was prohibited; his recommendation was made based on the highest and best use of the lot with deductions for the conservation easement. He saw no reason to take off $300,000. Mr. Fitts said if the board approved the assessor’s recommendation, he would not appeal that decision, but would apply for abatement the following year. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the abatement as recommended**. Bane recommended that Fitts meet with him during the summer, as a further adjustment may be possible if all factors were considered. **Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Special Presentations or Awards – none

8. Appointments

**Judy Colby moved to accept the appointments of Anthony J. Gatti, Jr. to the Wiscasset Planning Board, Scott James to the Wiscasset Shellfish Committee, Frederick J. Quivey to the Wiscasset Budget Committee and David Gagnon to the Waterfront Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment

Christopher Morrison retracted his request for a road sign made over a year ago. He said he followed up on his March 15, 2015 request five times and received no action. He said the people of Wiscasset deserve better treatment and he would order his own sign. He was advised to contact the selectmen with complaints that are not acted upon.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Sign Quit Claim Deed – Nicholas Grover**: Jeff Slack moved to sign the quit claim deed for Nicholas Grover. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Review Liquor License Policy Language: The policy had been amended as requested to require selectmen’s approval annually for liquor licenses.

12. New Business

A. Set resident and non-resident fees and charges for hauling licenses: The fees were not changed.

B. Temporary Business License for Nita Lunch/Westport Catering: In response to David Cherry’s question on the waterfront location, Judy Flanagan said the Recreation Department or Road Commissioner usually decides on the location**. Judy Flanagan moved to grant the request for Nita Greenleaf for July 4.** She added that they would find out what pier she would be on. **Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Review of ordinance language for Waterfront and Airport Committee non-resident participation: The Ordinance Review Committee recommended that both the Waterfront and Airport Committees allow one non-resident committee member. Judy Colby and Ben Rines approved non-resident member participation but without voting rights. David Cherry and Judy Flanagan disagreed, saying the non-resident members could be valuable assets providing knowledge and experience to these advisory committees, and their votes on committee matters would not affect the budget or taxes. Budget Committee Chairman Cliff Hendricks noted that there are many non-residents on the town staff –, school superintendent and town manager. Non-resident town clerk, road commissioner, town treasurer were also mentioned who have an influence on the town budget. Town Planner Ben Averill will review other towns’ ordinances for further information. Jeff Slack recommended that the ordinance change be on the town ballot without a recommendation from the selectmen. Judy Flanagan pointed out that all board and committee members, resident or non-resident, are appointed by the selectmen**. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to place these two separate ordinances on the annual town warrant for a vote of the townspeople. Vote 5-0-0.** A motion on the selectmen’s recommendation was postponed until the public hearing on April 19.

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Reports

A. Fire Department, Chief T. J. Merry – Use agreement between the Town of Wiscasset Fire Department and the Lincoln County Fire Chief’s Association: The new agreement had been reviewed by the Town Manager, but she made no recommendation as she was unfamiliar with the history of the matter. Ben Rines, Jr., objected to the third paragraph. Merry explained that the Association decides what capital needs will be scheduled and then determines what its share is. The difference between this contract and the previous contract is that the proposed contract protects the assets of both the Town and the Association. A signature line for the LCFCA will be added. There was confusion over the renewal section of the contract, which would need to be clarified. Inasmuch as the contract expires on June 30, it was recommended that the amended contract be reviewed by the town attorney before it is brought back to the board for approval at its next meeting.

In response to Judy Flanagan’s question on the availability of someone to issue fire permits, Merry said he is available by cell phone and is in the process of putting the ambulance chief on the warden list so he can write permits along with all Merry’s officers. The front office staff is required to have training before they can issue permits. An on line-two day permit is available for $7.

Chief Merry said the one perk that the firemen had was the ability to wash their vehicles at the fire station and this had been taken away. He asked if it could be reinstated. Marian Anderson said it is town policy to not allow the personal use of town equipment i.e. washing personal vehicles; however, it had been a tradition. Judy Flanagan said the Water District opposed the washing of private vehicles because there is no charge for the water used by the Town and if the fire department was allowed to wash their vehicles, other departments would want the same benefit. Jeff Slack moved to allow the fire department to wash their cars. Vote 2-3-0 (Cherry, Flanagan and Rines opposed).

14. Town Manager’s Report

A. Certified Business Friendly Community, State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development: Marian Anderson announced that Wiscasset had been certified as a Maine Community that is “Open for Business.” A certificate and two CBFC signs will be presented in the near future.

B. MDOT future open house and Public Hearing: There was a consensus that the open house and public hearing take place on Wednesday, April 27 from 3 to 5 p.m.

C. Town sign design update: The vote was 3-2 for the bottom example of the town sign (without the blue outline).

D. Maine Yankee-Siting process for the spent nuclear fuel: A public comment session regarding the commission’s report will be held in Boston on June 2. Comments may be sent to Susan Collins. Ben Rines, Jr. expressed an interest in attending. He recommended that these meetings take place at the towns where the spent nuclear fuel is located.

E. Sidewalk Project Funding: Because the town had expressed interest in giving the sidewalk a brick appearance similar to that on the Washington Street sidewalk, the project manager for the DOT improvements, said the cost of stamping the asphalt would be $27,260. He said the town would have to approve funding for this cost; currently the town has no funding obligation for this project. There was a consensus to not have the stamped asphalt sidewalks.

F. The Public Works Director will look into the condition of the tree by the parking lot on Water Street.

G. Marian Anderson asked the board how many proposals they wanted to entertain for solar power as she has had inquiries from more than one provider. It was suggested that a non-binding referendum be put on the warrant approving not more than $40,000 to explore the various possibilities.

H. The Town Manager reminded the board that a decision on the dedication of the Town Report was due soon. HHHH

Other Business

Judy Flanagan said the home page for the Town website was not up to date. She said an LCTV board member had thanked the selectmen for including the funding of LCTV on the warrant. In response to her question on the sewer lien progress, Marian Anderson said the Tax Collector is preparing a list of sewer and tax liens. Flanagan also asked about the lights at the school and Rec Center crossings and was advised that Doug Fowler would be at the next meeting to address that subject.

15. Adjournment

**Judy Flanagan moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**