

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 4, 2016

Tape recorded meeting

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

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **David Cherry moved to approve the payroll warrants of September 23 and September 30, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **David Cherry moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of September 27 and October 4, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Judy Flanagan moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of September 20, 2016 as corrected. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

a. and b. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the appointments of John G. Merry to the Budget Committee and John Blagdon, Jr., to the Appeals Board. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings

a. To act on a request for a Special Amusement Permit for Vanessa and Richard Jordan, Wiscasset Speedway, LLC: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to open the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** Vanessa Jordan said in response to questions from the board that the track is open from April to October, nothing has changed from the previous years, but they would like the flexibility to be open other days. In past years they have requested permission to open two Sundays during the year on the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. There have been no police complaints; two officers are present on Saturday nights as well as 4 EMS staff. Noise levels have been enforced. Bill Barnes commended the owners on the good job they have done with the track. There were complaints from two Newcastle/Sheepscot residents about the noise from the track who asked that hours be curtailed and noise dampers be used. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to close the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Flanagan moved to approve the Special Amusement Permit application for Vanessa and Richard Jordan, Wiscasset Speedway, LLC. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. To discuss and hear public comment on the Special Town Meeting warrant articles to be voted by secret ballot on November 8, 2016. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to open the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** Judy Colby read the warrant article: Shall the Town vote to continue to allow the members of the Wiscasset Fire Department the use of the Wiscasset Fire Department to clean their personal vehicles. There were no questions from the board or the audience. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** No action required.

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items: Seaver Leslie, referring to the MDOT plan for Main Street traffic improvement, urged the board to not enter into the agreement with MDOT because of the financial burden the plan would put on the Town for year-around maintenance of all properties improved by the project such as traffic lights, street lighting including electric bill, as well as winter and summer maintenance of all sidewalks, benches, tables, landscaping, etc., including replacement of landscaping, signs, repaving and other capital improvements as needed. He said the taxpayers were not privy to this information when the non-binding referendum vote was taken in June. Judy Flanagan said maintenance of the improvement was discussed at the public meetings and asked that the same comments made at other meetings not be repeated.

Norm Guidoboni commented on the street improvements with cutouts in Rockland and the improvement in business that had made; and the new plan may give Wiscasset a boost.

Bill Barnes expressed concern about the 14% tax increase and urged the selectmen to take a better look at where the town is going.

Bob Blagden advised the board that their primary focus should be on how to make up for the shortfall and what cuts to make. He said the board should find an auditor that can provide the correct figure to work with. He commented that the board had spent more time talking about the firemen washing their cars than the tax rate. He urged the board to cut the budget now to make up for the shortfall

Sharon Mrozinski said with regard to maintenance under the MDOT plan that she understood maintenance would be the responsibility of the storeowners. Judy Flanagan clarified that snow removal in front of businesses would be the responsibility of the business owner and that discussion and clarification of all maintenance items will take place during the upcoming meetings. Mrozinski said she had lost all confidence after reading the MDOT agreement which leaves final decisions to the MDOT and that the taxpayers must know the costs of the project to the town considering the proposed 14% tax increase.

8. Department head or committee chair

a. Treasurer/HR Shari Fredette

- FY 2016 Carry Forwards: Marian Anderson explained the amount for contingency was added in the event of electrical repairs. Ben Rines, Jr., said the board should have had the figures months ago as it was too late now to affect this year's tax rate. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the carryforwards. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Public Works – Doug Fowler

- Update on the sand bid award: Fowler said that as Nathan Northrup was the low bidder on the sand and was qualified, the contract was awarded to him.

- Update on Beechnut Hill Road: Fowler said the deficiencies are being itemized and he will have the costs soon. Repairs should be done before the end of November. Old Bath Road and Old Stage Road will be improved next year. He is also working on the parking lot in front of the building and is considering options for the position of the barriers to block off the main parking lot.

c. EMS Director – Toby Martin

- As requested, Martin presented a policy covering uniform payroll deductions for the Wiscasset Ambulance Service when additional uniforms are required. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the policy. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Police Chief – Jeffrey Lange

- Update date on enforcement on Federal Street and school zones: Signs directing vehicles over 6000 pounds traveling southbound on Rt. 218 to turn right onto West Alna Road have been installed. Lange said from June 1 to September 30 there were 23 details for speeding in a school zone or overweight vehicles, and 35 warnings were issued since for weight and speed. Judy Flanagan recommended that the school zone sign be moved to include the Sheepscot Bay School in the 15 mph zone on Federal Street. The matter was referred to the Public Works manager. Lange is looking for grant funds for the flashing mph signs. In response to Jeff Slack's question, Doug Fowler said speed limits are set by the state but a study could be done to evaluate current conditions on Old Bath Road and other roads.

- Lange said one officer had left and he had hired Craig Wilson as a full time officer. Coffee with a Cop at will be held on Friday at Treats funded by Wiscasset Ford. These meetings will be held every quarter.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Notice of Intent to Abandon Mason Station, LLC: **David Cherry moved that the Mason Station, LLC, Point East Maritime Village Subdivision acquired by the Town through tax lien foreclosure, be abandoned, and that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to the Planning Board notifying the Board of the intent to abandon the subdivision. Vote 5-0-0.** Marian Anderson explained that the above process was necessary to facilitate sale of the property.

b. Postponed items: Judy Colby said that items postponed at the last meeting will be brought back at a future meeting: Frank Costa's car rental agreement and Town fees will be on the October 18 agenda.

c. Hesper and Luther Little project: Marian Anderson said she had received contact information for the new teacher and has permission from the superintendent to move forward with the project. Doug Fowler will give the new teacher information on the project.

10. New Business

a. Municipal Valuation Report: **Judy Colby moved to sign the Municipal Valuation Report. Voter 5-0-0.**

b. Review of Town of Wiscasset General Fund Balance Policy: Judy Colby said she preferred maintaining the current policy, David Cherry preferred changing it to keeping three months' expenses in the general fund. Jeff Slack questioned the need for the policy because the board spends what it needs to regardless of the policy. Judy Colby asked the board's opinion on changing auditors, as she felt the

board had been given misleading information by the current auditor. **Ben Rines moved to put the audit out to bid. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Act on a Business License Application for Horizon Landscaping: **Jeff Slack moved to approve the Business License Application for Horizon Landscaping. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Act on a Main Street Pier Permit for the “Y-Wouldn’t-U” band: Ben Averill said the band requested permission to play from 3 to 6 p.m. on October 9, 16, and 22. **Jeff Slack moved to approve with the \$25 fee. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager’s Report

a. Resignation of Nadean Crossely as a Wiscasset Police Officer.

b. Live Streaming Meetings: Anderson has received an inquiry about the Town accepting a donation to pay for live streaming. Ben Rines commented that the voters had voted down the article on the town warrant for live streaming; David Cherry said the public had voted against only paying for live streaming and LCTV and he didn’t see any reason to decline an offer. No money has been received to date.

c. Airport: The base of the flag pole has been installed at the airport. Notices have been sent out to abutters, and cutting on the easement areas will begin next week. The work will take approximately 30 days.

d. MDOT: Ernie Martin will meet with Wiscasset’s seniors on October 19 at 6 p.m.

e. Montsweag Dam: The inventory is nearly complete and report is being drafted.

f. Business After Hours: Thursday, October 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 at Peregrine Turbine Technologies at 29 South Point Drive, Wiscasset.

g. Wastewater Treatment : Marian Anderson and Buck Rines, plant supervisor, met with Phil Garwood from Maine DEP to discuss the possibility of Supplemental Environmental Project as discussions proceed toward a consent agreement.

h. Edgecomb: Judy Colby, Marian Anderson, Fire Chief TJ Merry, Deputy Chief John Merry, EMS Director and Toby Martin met with Edgecomb Selectman Jack Samarian and Fire Chief Roy Potter regarding implementing new communication protocols with Lincoln County Dispatch and updating mutual aid agreements.

i. Sewer Liens: Anderson, Tax Collector Molly Bonang and legal counsel Shana Mueller met to discuss the Town’s options to collect large outstanding balances due from Murray Hill Property (\$33,494.00).

j. Primary School Purchase and Sale: Anderson said the Town is negotiating details of a purchase and sale agreement from a taxable entity for the primary school building and she hopes it will be signed by December 15.

k. Wiscasset Public Advisory Downtown Committee: An invitation to serve on the committee will appear in the Wiscasset Newspaper and Lincoln County News. Application review will begin October 18, 2016.

l. Town Clerk: Election/Ballot clerk training will take place on Tuesday October 18 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room.

m. Wiscasset is Business Friendly: Signs have arrived and the board will decide on location.

12. Other Board Business: In response to Ben Rines’ question regarding funds for a secretary for the Board of Appeals, Anderson said that funds are available.

13. Adjournment

Judy Flanagan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.