

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 18, 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

Judy Colby announced changes to the evening's agenda: The car rental at the airport and the DOT downtown project will not be discussed. The meeting on November 1 will be devoted entirely to the DOT downtown project, venue to be announced. It will be well publicized via postcards and everyone will be able to speak after hearing what the attorney advises.

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. David Cherry moved to approve the payroll warrants of October 7 and 14, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of October 11 and of October 18 upon review by Judy Colby and Judy Flanagan. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. David Cherry moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

b. David Cherry moved to approve the October 4, 2016 minutes as corrected. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

Judy Flanagan announced that Wiscasset had received the Lincoln County Spirit of America silver distinction award for helping and encouraging volunteerism. The award recognized the Church of the Nazarene food pantry and the Help Yourself Shelf at St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

5. Committee Appointments

a. Celeste Edwards, Historic Preservation Commission: The applicant was not present. Judy Flanagan recommended that applicants for committee appointments be interviewed before appointment by the board. Susan Blagden, Historic Preservation Commission member, asked that the application be tabled. The applicant needs to appear before the commission as she is in violation of the requirements for a certificate of appropriateness and the appointment to the commission would be inappropriate at this time. Judy Flanagan and Jeff Slack volunteered to meet with prospective applicants and the appropriate committee chairs or designees before applications are considered by the Select Board. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to postpone the application to a later date. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Wally Staples, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, thanked the board and informed them that 72% of the people who come to the food pantry each Sunday are from Wiscasset, the church has served 9000 meals so far and are now receiving food from Shaw's and Hannaford's in Boothbay, most of which goes to town residents, a large number of which are teenagers. He thanked the town for its contributions to the Good Shepherd Food Bank which provides transportation from the food bank to his church and the Help Yourself Shelf. Norm Guidiboni commented on the well-run Episcopal Church's food pantry, and suggested that the town contribute to not only the transportation of the food to the food pantries, but also toward the food itself. Judy Flanagan said the Feed our Scholars program at the high school allowed students to choose food to eat at school or to take home for the weekend and she thanked Staples for his work in feeding the hungry.

Bill Sutter, spokesperson for the newly formed Wiscasset Taxpayers Alliance (WTA), submitted a letter to the board and Wiscasset Taxpayers relative to the 14% tax increase and the costs to Wiscasset of going forward with the Main Street project which he estimated could amount to \$50,000 annually.

Gordon Konrath congratulated the Town on its new flag pole at the airport. He also referred to the complaints about the recent 14% tax hike and recommended that the town start looking for other sources of revenue such as a fee from the 200 businesses in town and, since Wiscasset is a tourist town, a surcharge in eateries and hostleries.

Kim Dolche, a new property-owner, said the quality of life and manageable property taxes were reasons she chose Wiscasset; however, she said, increased taxes will discourage future buyers. She urged curtailing spending. She said the warrant articles should show the impact on the tax rate because voters approve articles based on the selectboard's recommendation. She asked the board to reconsider purchasing the lighted sign which will be a reminder of wanton spending.

9. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Police Chief Jeffery Lange – Speed enforcement Federal Street and school zones: Lange said that between September 1 and October 16 there had been 33 details, 57 warnings, 1 summons for criminal speed and 1 weight warning. He has obtained a "No thru trucks" lighted sign for Federal Street; and he has sent letters to local lumber and construction companies to make them aware of the weight restriction. He asked the board to look at the 6,000 pound weight limit, as an F250 Super Duty truck would exceed that weight and he felt it was unethical to allow those trucks when others were given warnings. Ben Rines, Jr., said the speed limit was established by the DOT and suggested Lange contact that agency with his concerns. Lange will continue to give only warnings until the weight limit issue is resolved. Marian Anderson will look into recent discussions with the DOT regarding the weight limit on Federal Street. Lange said the DOT will correct the fault in the stop light at Routes 1 and 27.

b. Airport Manager, Frank Costa: Costa announced that the 35-foot fiberglass flag pole had been installed, and he introduced retired naval commander, Richard Tetrev who works at the airport. Tetrev presented to the town a flag which was given to him when he was executive officer at the Brunswick Naval Air Station. The flag was flown in Brunswick on June 6, 1994, the 50th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. He read both the citation when the flag was given to him and one dedicating it to the Town of Wiscasset. The flag and the citation will be displayed at the Wiscasset airport. A new flag

will be hoisted on Saturday at 10:30 and the public was invited. Judy Flanagan said events like this and the good people who volunteer remind us why we do this.

c. Parks and Recreation Director Todd Souza – Update on Community Center roof: Souza announced that the low bid for the roof was \$187,000 (\$212,000 was approved) and the work has been completed. The last payment has been withheld pending correction of a few items; however, charges (\$1432) for the vapor barrier which was not in the contract were paid from the operational budget and Souza hopes to repay that when the town is reimbursed for that work. The project has been inspected by Carlisle, the manufacturer of the roof, and a fifteen year warranty is in place.

d. Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor – William Rines – Pump station at Mason Station and raising manhole covers: Rines will turn on the pump station at the Mason Station lot which the Town has acquired for non-payment of taxes. The pump station will be in the town's name; he estimated a cost of \$80-90 monthly for the light and alarm. Rines reported that DOT is planning to repave Federal Street and Route 1, and manhole covers will have to be raised, the cost of which is not in the budget.

e. Code Enforcement Officer Stan Waltz – Update on tree cutting project near Town bus garage: Waltz will report to the board when information is received from DEP and State Forestry.

f. Department Head September reports: attached to agenda

9. Unfinished Business

a. Review and finalize Selectmen goals: Ben Rines, Jr., referred to the Financial Goal to increase undesignated fund balance by 3% as unrealistic. The chairman said sale of the primary school and Mason Station properties would help to meet that goal. The percentage will be omitted.

Under Organization Goals, Judy Flanagan suggested that better communication between the schools and the Budget Committee be changed to better communication with both the schools and the Budget Committee. She added that nothing had been decided with regard to the Boston Post Cane, but it was a reminder to the board.

Under Capital Improvement, Flanagan said that from the meetings with department heads, it was evident that the computers need updating and that should be a priority.

The goals were accepted with changes.

b. Review of Town Fees: Fees from the various departments were given to the board for recommendations on changes during the upcoming planning process. The Town provides the ability for those registering vehicles to have their insurance cards faxed to them if they have lost or forgotten to bring their cards with them. This is currently done at no cost. A motion by David Cherry to charge \$1 for an incoming fax failed with Colby, Rines, and Slack opposing. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to not process applications without all relevant materials. Vote 3-2-0** (Cherry and Flanagan opposed).

c. Schedule site visit to Maine Art Gallery: The board will meet at the Art Gallery on Monday, November 7 at 5 p.m. Lack of winterization of the building is a concern of the gallery if year-round operation is a possibility. The meeting is public.

d. Murray Hill Properties – Sewer fees update: Marian Anderson said \$33,000 in sewer fees is past due, and Mr. Moore has inquired about arranging payment. She will explore with the Water District how a large payment would be handled, as the Water District, which has a contract with the Town, collects the fees, and deducts overdue water fees first before distributing the balance to the town for its sewer fees. Bob Blagden said if a check for past due sewer fees is made payable to the Town, the Water District cannot cash it. He added that the Board spent too much time talking about the \$1 faxing fee and not enough about the big items. The agreement with the Water District will be reviewed.

10. New Business

a. 2016/2017 Budget Calendar: Marian Anderson pointed out the dates on the calendar that cannot be changed in order to meet deadlines for the Town Meeting. There will be a month between distribution of the budget books and the first Saturday budget meeting with the Budget Committee and Departments. The dates may be changed if necessary. Todd Souza said the time line is irrelevant to him unless he has guidelines for income-producing projects, which have associated costs, and what capital improvements are anticipated. Anderson suggested a meeting with department heads on capital improvements before the books are distributed. There was discussion on how to fund capital improvement projects and what guidelines to give department heads in developing budgets. **Judy Colby moved to institute a flat line budget. Vote 3-2-0** (Flanagan and Slack opposed). The police and ambulance department heads expressed concern over a flat line budget because there were omissions in the current year's budget, such as not budgeting for tires or ammunition or a change in direction of the department. A meeting was scheduled for Saturday, November 12 at 8 a.m. with all departments to discuss capital improvements and flat line budgets.

b. Registrar's Hours for November 8, 2016 Election: A memo from Town Clerk Linda Perry requesting normal hours of operation which would not require additional hours between 5 and 9 p.m. was approved by consensus.

c. Bid Opening – Broadband expansion: Bids were received from Axiom (\$25,000) and from Lincolnville Telephone Company (\$2,800,000). The board was advised to contact ConnectME for more information and grant possibilities.

d. Monthly Financials: Judy Flanagan asked that the reports be dated. In response to David Cherry's questions, it was explained that the Celebrations budget had been overspent percentagewise for the year because of the 4th of July celebration, and the Capital Improvements budget included paving and roof expenses.

e. H. M. Payson Statement of Accounts: The Investment Committee will meet Thursday, October 20, at 5 p.m.

11. Town Manager's Report

Budget Priorities: Anderson asked whether letters from non-profit organizations would be processed as they were last year. Judy Colby said the Board was doing a disservice to taxpayers in not airing the board meetings on LCTV or other access, particularly for the house-bound; \$3000 or \$5000 for LCTV access will not make or break the Town. David Cherry agreed, saying not making the meetings public via streaming or LCTV makes a mockery of open government; he asked if there had been any word from an anonymous donor who had inquired about providing funds for airing the board meetings. Anderson

said she will have an opportunity to inquire in the next few weeks. Ben Rines, Jr. reminded the board that the townspeople had turned down funding for LCTV. Colby said approximately \$40,000 in franchise fees from Time Warner could be used. Gordon Konrath said the board is taking away the voters' ability to make a decision on items the board discusses at meetings by taking away their ability to identify the budget and costs; the only guidance they have is the vote of the select board and Budget Committee listed on the ballot. Judy Flanagan said that Whitefield has a monthly one-sheet newsletter on town activities that perhaps Wiscasset could think about.

Wiscasset High School National Honor Society: There was a consensus to allow the Honor Society to paint the cannon stand and spruce up the war memorial before Veterans Day.

Town's Siren – Fort Hill Road: It has been confirmed that the siren is the property of the Town and the board will consider whether it should be taken down.

Cupboard Collective Contract. The \$1,500 included in the 2016/2017 General Assistance budget will be paid upon receipt of the invoice from the Good Shepard food bank.

Main Street Pier ATM: Anderson said all four banks contacted have declined the opportunity to install an ATM on the pier. A private ATM was considered and the matter will be referred to the Waterfront Committee.

Airport: Contractor Gary Pomeroy will begin phase 2 removal of the logging project soon. Removal of vegetation is only on the Town airport property; none on the campground. Dave Nadeau of Stantec will continue to meet with the contractor to monitor the project and phase 2 should be complete in approximately 30 days.

Proposed 2017 State Valuation: No action was required on notification that Maine Revenue Services has valued the town at \$447,800,000.

Wastewater Treatment: Anderson and Buck Rines continue to work with Phil Garwood from Maine DEP on the consent agreement. The Town has asked that the fine be modified; the final agreement has not been received.

Wiscasset is Business Friendly signs: The board will consider possible locations.

Downtown Advisory Committee: Completed applications have been provided to the board, and applications will be distributed at the senior center. The whole board will process the applications. Applications have been given to businesses that are not part of the downtown business group.

12. Other Board Business

Judy Flanagan commented favorably on the scarecrow event which was held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. Jeff Slack thanked Todd Souza for his efforts with the event.

13. Adjournment

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.