

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
NOVEMBER 15, 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 noted the following changes to the agenda: Item 8.e will be taken up under Item 4, Item 10.a will be omitted and Item 9.d will include only the development of the process and decision on the number of members to be appointed to the Wiscasset Public Advisory Committee.

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. David Cherry moved to approve the payroll warrants of November 4 and November 11, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

b. David Cherry moved to approve the accounts payable warrant of November 8 and, subject to review by the chair and vice chair, the warrant of November 15, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of November 1 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

Toby Martin, EMS Director, read the commendation of achievement award which was presented to Lincoln County Communications Dispatchers Sonya Lilly, Emily Snow; Two Bridges Regional Jail Officer Dillon Quimby, Sgt. Darrel Groh, Cpl. Caleb Holbry, Officer Sean Robinson; Wiscasset Ambulance Service Deputy Wendy Williams, EMT Michael Williams, EMT Jacob Williams; Wiscasset Fire Department Chief T. J. Merry, Firefighter James Pray and Firefighter Dan Averill. He cited an emergency at the Two Bridges Regional Jail at which the extra effort made by the emergency workers saved a life. Plaques and citation bars for the appropriate departments were presented. Judy Colby congratulated all recipients.

5. Committee appointments – none

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Norm Guidiboni expressed appreciation of the new sign. He asked that the Selectboard put on the June warrant support in the amount of \$4500 for the food pantries, which would include \$1500 for transportation from the Good Shepherd Food Bank. This year's contribution was included in the General Assistance line item.

In response to a question regarding funding for non-profits, Judy Colby said organizations submit letters requesting funds to the Town which are then considered by the select board during budget discussions for inclusion in the town warrant.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head October reports – no discussion

b. Police Chief – Disposal of surplus property, Federal Street weight limits update and Harbormaster training update: Chief Jeffrey Lange asked permission to trade in non-reliable rifles acquired from Maine Yankee for new rifles. Several other guns owned by the Police Department not purchased with taxpayers' money will also be traded in to make up the difference in cost of the new guns. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to declare the guns acquired from Maine Yankee as surplus. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines moved to authorize the Chief to sell the rifles and use the funds to purchase new guns. Vote 5-0-0.**

Lange reported that the DOT will review the weight limit on Federal Street after the downtown improvements are complete, which will be years in the future, or the Town may request in a letter that the State re-evaluate the weight limit. There is nothing in the ordinance which refers to the weight of commercial vehicles only; it refers just to vehicles (over 6,000 pounds) which is not the intent of the board. **Judy Flanagan moved to ask the Ordinance Review Committee to review amending the ordinance on Federal Street to indicate just commercial vehicles.** As long as there is a legitimate reason for the truck to be on Federal Street, it would not be in violation. Lange said that trucks are using Churchill Street, rather than Federal Street, as a way to avoid the light at Routes 27 and 1. Ben Rines, Jr., recommended checking with the DOT on changes. **Vote 5-0-0.** Churchill Street will be on the next agenda.

The Road Commissioner reported that winter parking ban signs were put up that day (November 15) and although the ordinance says no vehicle shall obstruct snow removal, there is no date specified in the ordinance for the winter parking ban and no fine is listed. Vehicles will be towed at owner's expense. **Judy Colby moved that the Ordinance Review Committee clarify the ordinance as to the dates of the parking ban.** Ben Averill said the subject will be on the next Ordinance Review Committee agenda. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Lange asked whether the board had decided to send a police officer to the harbormaster class at Maine Maritime Academy, as he would like to make reservations as soon as possible. The decision on transferring the harbormaster position to the Police Department was discussed. If the change were made, the officer would be a full time community officer and in addition to harbormaster duties would enforce downtown parking and the shellfish ordinance. The Harbormaster is aware of the ongoing discussions; the decision on the future of the position has not been decided. Lange said he has \$150 in his budget for the class; the Harbormaster budget had only \$50 in its budget. **Judy Colby moved to take the fee out of contingency. Vote 5-0-0.**

Lange reported he had applied for a \$10,000 grant to obtain two portable pole-mounted radar units to monitor speed, the data from which could be downloaded. Judy Flanagan confirmed with the chief that the school zone signs do not include the Sheepscot Valley Children's House. The Road Commissioner said the DOT would have to be involved in the decision to change the zone.

c. Transfer Station-Retirement of Les Wentworth, next steps: Wentworth, who has worked for the Town for 15 years, had submitted a letter of resignation. Marian Anderson said there had been discussions in the past, when a vacancy occurred, about combining the Transfer Station and Public Works

departments. She asked the board about filling the vacancy before advertising the position. The supervisor position is not a union position, but if the departments were combined, one supervisor would fill the union position. Ben Rines, Jr., said combining the departments was too much responsibility for one supervisor. **Rines moved to fill the position. Vote 5-0-0.** Judy Flanagan said the board should thank the Public Works union for its letter allowing the town to hire part-time people now. Judy Colby said the board accepted Les Wentworth's letter of resignation with regret and wished him the best. A certificate of appreciation will be presented at the December 6 meeting.

d. Airport Manager – Hangar Lease update – Information only, no action required.

e. EMS Director Toby Martin-Liquidation of radios, staffing: Martin requested that older pagers and radios be declared surplus so they could be liquidated or disposed of. **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to declare the pagers surplus. Vote 5-0-0.**

Martin referred to a letter in his report from a family member who asked to be taken to Midcoast Hospital, when CLC was covering for Wiscasset. The mutual aid service denied the request and took the patient to Miles. (Wiscasset Ambulance Service will transport patients to their choice of either Miles or Midcoast Hospital.) Martin said having CLC as Mutual Aid does not serve the citizens of Wiscasset. He had not realized that mutual aid could determine where patients were taken. Currently Wiscasset Ambulance takes 85% of the patients to Midcoast, 15% to Miles. He has contacted Boothbay about being the first line of mutual aid and although Boothbay will help, it is 20 minutes away. Bath Fire will come to Wiscasset for multiple casualties but will not be the first responder. Bath Fire charges Wiscasset \$275 for each mutual aid call and they also charge the patient. Martin estimated there would be 1000 calls this year. Options are to operate as is, recognizing that there will be 120 calls for mutual aid. The average call for reimbursement is \$486 which equals almost \$60,000 in revenue that Wiscasset is losing, not counting charges for Bath Fire. Martin asked permission to add a third person January 1. For 17 weeks, the third person would be working a ten hour day from 8 to 6 and there would be someone on call in the community if a second call came in. This would be an increase expense of \$33,000. Martin said he could take the expense out of the reimbursement that now is going to mutual aid departments. Judy Colby moved to give the chief permission to hire a third person and use the money out of his revenue. Vote 4-1-0 (Slack opposed). The actual data will be looked at during the budget process.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Energy Community Alliance: Marge L. Kilkelly, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Senator Angus S. King, Jr.: Kilkelly asked approval to move forward on a proposal together with other communities on consent-based storage, community involvement, prioritization of initial shut down sites, and proposed legislation for an annual appropriation \$100,000,000. The board supported her plan to work with other communities in organizations such as the Energy Community Alliance, FUSRAP and a UMass program which is exploring economic development on post shut-down communities. Aside from communication, Kilkelly said, preparing for infrastructure changes that would be necessary for the removal of the stored waste would be an important step.

b. MDOT: Downtown Improvement Project Letter of Intent: Shana Mueller, Benstein Shur, said the letter the board received from DOT Director, Bureau of Project Development, William Pulver outlined the DOT intents, what they are going to do next. Signing the letter acknowledges receipt and an understanding of what it means. Mueller said it does not obligate the Town to do anything. Following the meeting two weeks ago, Mueller spoke with DOT counsel and made it very clear that a serious concern of the town was ongoing maintenance, especially with a recent tax increase, and DOT has found

a way to have the State be responsible for maintenance. The intention and thought is that the cost of maintaining parking lots and sidewalks to the extent that the Public Works Department already does would not impose an additional maintenance cost and should not be a factor. She said the DOT heard the message and responded well.

Mueller said moving forward with the DOT in a positive and collaborative way through the committee is likely to provide the best opportunity for the town. She would have concerns if the board backed away from working with the DOT, which might jeopardize the way in which the DOT would proceed. DOT is aware of concerns raised and they are eager to have the committee formed so it can work on refining parts of the plan, as there is some give and take in the plans. **Jeff Slack moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the letter. Vote 4-1-0 (Rines opposed).**

c. Murray Hill Properties, Inc. Unpaid sewer fees next step: **Ben Rines moved to authorize the Town's legal counsel to pursue collection proceedings relating to unpaid sewer fees against Murray Hill Properties, Inc. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Formation and appointment of community members to the Wiscasset Public Advisory Committee: The board discussed the number of members and the makeup of the committee; there was a consensus that the committee would consist of seven members with others in a consulting role such as the Fire and Police departments, the Town Manager, Town Planner and representatives from Alna and Edgecomb. **Judy Colby moved that two board members interview each applicant privately and bring suggestions to the board for approval. Vote 4-1-0 (Slack opposed).**

10. New Business

a. Removed from agenda

b. Monthly Financials

- Year-to-date department financial report: Jeff Slack asked to have the financial reports electronically. Ben Rines, Jr. had a question regarding his paycheck and will meet with the Treasurer to resolve the problem.
- H. M. Payson Statement of Accounts

c. Business License Application for Perch Pilates: **David Cherry moved to approve the Business License Application for Perch Pilates. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Request from The Friends of Castle Tucker to weed and prune a section of White's Island: **David Cherry moved to approve the request to weed and prune a section of White's Island subject to final title to the Town. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Set fee for Blasting Permit per Town of Wiscasset Ordinance, Article IX, Section 10 .5.2.7: CEO Stan Waltz recommended a \$50 fee for a blasting permit, similar to that being charged in surrounding towns. He also suggested a \$50 fee for Shoreland permits. **David Cherry moved to set the fee for a blasting permit at \$50. Vote 5-0-0. David Cherry moved to set the fee for Shoreland zone permits at \$50. Vote 4-1-0 (Slack opposed).**

f. Municipal Quitclaim Deed (David G. Laemmle, Map U1, Lot 19, taxes paid in full): **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to sign the quit claim deed. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

Marian Anderson said the new website is ready but there is a problem with going live; it should be on line by the end of the month.

Anderson said she had received compliments from the public about the electronic sign and asked the board for any comments or suggestions. It was suggested that the timing be changed to show the time of meetings for longer periods.

Anderson suggested the capital improvement meeting be rescheduled for January, as the numbers from H.M. Payson will not be available until December.

A visit to the red brick schoolhouse will be delayed until spring.

12. Other Board Business

Judy Flanagan thanked the American Legion, the scouts and the veterans for participating in the Veterans' Day celebration.

Judy Colby read Judy Flanagan's letter of resignation effective November 16, 2016. Judy Colby thanked Judy Flanagan for all the work she had done for the board and said she would be sorely missed. She understood and wished her well from the Town of Wiscasset. **Ben Rines moved to accept the letter of resignation with profound sadness and regret. Vote 4-0-1 (Flanagan abstained). Ben Rines, Jr. moved to authorize the manager and Town Clerk to establish a date for election the nearest Tuesday that we can do it. Vote 4-0-1 (Flanagan abstained).**

Because Judy Flanagan will no longer be able to interview candidates for the advisory committee, there was further discussion on the process, the number of committee members and how they would be chosen. **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to rescind the previous motion (consensus) for a seven-member committee and go to nine. Vote 5-0-0.** The following members were chosen by a majority vote of the board: Sue Robson, Steve Christianson, Jamie Sonia, Seaver Leslie, Cynthia Davis, William Maloney and Lonnie Kennedy Patterson.

Executive Session regarding a personnel matter: **Judy Colby moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA §406A to discuss a personnel matter. Vote 5-0-0.** The board entered executive session at 8:55 p.m. At 9:20 p.m. Judy Colby moved to exit executive session. No action was taken.

13. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn at 9:24 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.