

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MAY 17, 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

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take item 7 out of order. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Town Report Dedication: The Town Report was dedicated to John and Gert Blagdon, founding members of the Wiscasset Ambulance Service. Ben Rines, Jr. presented the Blagdons with a copy of the report and thanked them for their service to the town.

3. Public Hearings

A. Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Jeff Slack moved to enter the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. The chairman asked for comments on the warrant articles. There were no comments until Article 48; Kathy Martin Savage, President of Friends of Wiscasset Public Library, thanked the board for its support of the article to raise and appropriate \$62,500 for the library and urged the public's support.

Article 66: Marty Fox, Co-chairman of the Wiscasset Suncats, recommended alternate wording for the article which would require \$13,500 per year for six years for a solar energy installation (as opposed to the \$81,150 in the article) resulting in a \$280,000 savings over the life of the system.

Article 72 – non-binding opinion poll: Ted Talbert addressed the DOT traffic solution alternatives pointing out that the traffic problems existed for only two months of the year, eliminating parking on Main Street would be a disadvantage to elderly customers and off-season clientele and would have a definite negative impact on his store's ability to function. He added that traffic lights had been tried before and had not worked; slowing traffic from 55 mph to 25 mph will cause a traffic problem regardless of the on-street parking. In addition, Talbert said additional services would be required such as a parking-enforcement officer, and extra staff to take care of the landscaping, watering plants and removing snow and ice. He cited the problems and delays the DOT was encountering in improving the Route 27 intersection, a much smaller project. Paul and Sharon Mrozinski, Dennis Raleigh, Kelly Belanger, and other business owners echoed Mr. Talbert's concerns. It was pointed out that the business owners had not been consulted during the planning process and an option 4 was suggested which would address the business owners' recommendations.

Gerry Audibert, MDOT Project Manager, said the DOT was looking for the town's preference on two basic options – parking on Main Street or not. Everything else would be negotiable. He said the two

options were not designs, just concepts. Normally, a town would set up an advisory committee to work out details such as park benches, green space, etc. With Option 2 there are other things that could be discussed such as drop-off spots. He said the time was right both politically and economically and that the commissioner needs a decision. If Option 3 (do nothing) is selected, money planned for Wiscasset will be reprogrammed. Audibert had met with the Chamber of Commerce; however, not all business-owners were present. In response to questions, Audibert said the traffic lights were not negotiable as they would reduce the time and distance of pedestrian crossings.

Judy Flanagan moved to close the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. There was a five-minute recess.

B. Commercial Waste Hauler, Giles Rubbish, Inc.: Judy Colby moved to go into a public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Ron Lear, Transfer Station Manager, said there had been no problems with the applicant. **Judy Flanagan moved to adjourn the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** Jeff Slack moved to approve the **Commercial Waste Hauler permit. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Judy Flanagan moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

B. Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

C. David Cherry moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

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

B. Judy Colby moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of May 10 and 17, 2016. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Assessors' Business

A. Sign Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application: Jeff Slack moved to approve the Ratio Declaration and Reimbursement Application. Vote 5-0-0.

B. Review Lot Merger Forms-Discussion for future meeting: Judy Flanagan moved to continue to use the form originally made by Assessor Sue Varney. Vote 5-0-0.

8. Appointments

A. Introduction of new Wiscasset Police Chief Jeffrey Lange: The new chief was introduced; the swearing-in ceremony will be held on May 23 at 6 p.m.

9. Resignations – none

10. Public Comment

Todd Souza asked whether the board would consider a vote on Article 72 binding if it is not decisive. Ben Rines, Jr., said he hoped the vote would be decisive, but it would be up to the next board to make

the decision on which option to choose. Judy Flanagan said Option 2 would be in the best interests of the town.

Souza, as a department head, noted that the article allowing 3/12 of the current budget to be used in the event a budget item is not passed was not on the ballot. He cited the ambulance budget which is high and said if the article fails, there would be no funding to pay one person after the new fiscal year starts. Ben Rines, Jr., said the board would hold a meeting on June 15, the day after Town Meeting, and the next board would then act if any article failed. Souza asked that the 3/12 warrant article be on the following year's warrant, as without it, department heads are put in a difficult position in making budget decisions.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Montsweag Dam Natural Resource Inventory timeline update: Town Planner Ben Averill reported that the timeline should be received by the end of the week and an update would be available in June.

B. Discussion of Firefighters washing their personal vehicles: David Cherry said legal counsel and MMA had advised the board to not allow the washing of vehicles by firefighters because of liability issues which could not be waived. He said he admired and respected the firefighters, but did not think it appropriate for them to have a privilege that other town employees did not have. Jeff Slack said that the more firefighters who are at the station any at time would benefit the town if a fire were to occur. Kathy Martin-Savage said that Wiscasset is not the only town that allows washing of vehicles by the firefighters, that liability is not an issue because the Town is insured by MMA, and there are more important issues than washing vehicles; she suggested putting a non-binding article on the town warrant. Louis Savage agreed that it was ridiculous to not allow car washing, as it has been done for 40 years without a claim. Fire Chief T. J. Merry said he understood the question would be on the ballot. Ben Rines, Jr., said the Fire Department could have petitioned that the article be on the ballot. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the waiver given to the board by town counsel and with that waiver allow the firemen to wash their vehicles.** Judy Colby opposed because she did not want the town to be held liable in the event of an accident, and that the waiver was not considered adequate by either the MMA or the town attorney. The Town Manager said according MMA firefighters would be covered for injuries only if they were injured while on duty. **Vote 2-3-0** (Cherry, Colby and Flanagan opposed.)

C. Discussion of Main Yankee Nuclear Waste-Boston June 2, 2016 hearing, Patricia Aho, State Office Representative: Ben Rines, Jr. said at a special town meeting in November 2001 the townspeople passed the following resolution: We the citizens of Wiscasset, Maine, home to Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, respectfully request that the United States of America take immediate possession of the remaining nuclear waste at the Maine Yankee site and remove it to a safe and secure location. **Rines moved that the board adopt that resolution as its policy regarding the nuclear waste at the Maine Yankee site. Vote 5-0-0. Rines moved that the board authorize the chairman of the selectmen to deliver that message to that committee when they meet on June 2 in Boston. Vote 5-0-0.** Patricia Aho, Gail Kezer and Pamela Trinward, representing Senator Collins, Senator King and Representative Chellie Pingree respectively, were present to support the town in its efforts to have the nuclear waste removed from Wiscasset. Aho said the Department of Energy has begun its consent-based siting process and is soliciting input from people across the country on the process for approval of a site. She distributed a booklet, Integrated Waste Management Consent-based Siting, put out by the DOE, and invited all interested parties to attend the meeting in Boston. Aho said that there is the possibility that a meeting with the DOE in Wiscasset may be possible the day following the meeting in Boston.

12. New Business

A. Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant for School Budget Validation meeting May 25: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to sign the school warrant.** Superintendent Heather Wilmot said the Budget Committee voted in favor of all articles on the school warrant and the overall budget increase is 6.32%. **Vote 4-0-1** (Colby abstained).

B. Catering Permits: **Jeff Slack moved to approve catering permits for the Fish wedding, Allen wedding, Thomas wedding, Walder wedding, Kingman wedding, and Tobin wedding, all to be held at Marianmade Farm.** In response to Constance Schumann's concern regarding traffic or drinking at these occasions, Marian Anderson said that there were no problems the previous year and the police would address problems if they arose. **Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Hazard-Mitigation Plan Resolution: Marian Anderson said that Tod Hartung, Lincoln County EMA Director, requested the board sign the resolution, the final step in a year-long process. The plan benefits individual towns, making them eligible for federal support if a disaster is declared. **Jeff Slack moved to adopt the resolution. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Monthly Financials: The H.M. Payson Statement of Accounts and the Year-to-date Town expense Summary were available to the board. Rines noted that four accounts exceeded 100% of budget. Anderson said the EMS will be over budget due to salaries. The department heads whose budgets are over or close to 100% will be available for a discussion at the next meeting.

13. Department Head or Committee Chair Reports

A. Shari Fredette, Over-expended budgets: Her letter was distributed to the board.

B. Stan Waltz, CEO, Notice of Violation, Map R01, Lot 012-A: Judy Flanagan noted that the person in violation could appeal the notice of violation to the Appeals Board; however, there are currently no appointed members on the Appeals Board. Anderson said the property-owner and the CEO had been in contact and it was expected that the issue would be resolved.

C. Tire Disposal Fee increase, Transfer Station Superintendent Ron Lear: Lear asked that tire disposal fee be raised from \$1 to \$2 effective July 1. Lear said the fees for Alna and Westport will be increased from \$.75 to \$1. **Jeff Slack moved to accept the increase to \$2.00. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Wiscasset Police Department cruiser update: Chief Lange reported that the town had received a check for \$9,000 from MMA that will go toward the purchase of a 2016 Dodge Charger, which should be available in five or six weeks. The cost of the Charger is \$25,000 not including set up. In the meantime, the chief asked permission to purchase from Paris, Maine a 2008 Crown Victoria with 150,000 miles for \$1,000. The vehicle would be transportation for SRO and would be used for administrative and training purposes. Anderson said use of the Crown Victoria would keep mileage down on the other vehicles and a decision on the future use of the 2008 vehicle could be made by the new board. Airport Manager Frank Costa said that the airport did not have a vehicle at the present time and could use the Crown Victoria when the new cruiser arrives. **Judy Flanagan moved to purchase the old cruiser from Paris for \$1,000, the money to be taken from contingency. Vote 4-1-0** (Slack opposed).

14. Town Manager's Report

Marian Anderson asked and received permission to close the business office for motor vehicle licensing training on July 12.

Anderson said the town has a free one-year subscription to an online service for fire permits. Permits will still be available at the office. The cost of the subscription in following years will be \$700.

B. June meeting date changed: Ben Rines, Jr., moved that the last regularly scheduled meeting of the current board will be held on May 31 at 6 p.m. and an organization meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, at 5 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

Anderson reported that the crosswalk striping was finished and the EMS 40th year celebration is May 31, from 10 to 1 p.m.

Ben Rines, Jr. moved to consent taking \$3,000 from the French Haggett scholarship fund for scholarships. Vote 5-0-0.

Judy Colby said it was awesome to see people using the crosswalks and lights at the grand opening of the baseball season.

Judy Flanagan asked that the shellfish license fees be on the next agenda.

Ben Rines, Jr., reminded the public that copies of the Town Report were available at the town office, community center and transfer station.

15 Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.

A letter to the Wiscasset Selectmen from the Wiscasset Village Block of
Businesses. 31 May 2016

We are frightened that we are about to lose the very thing that makes our Village of Wiscasset so special to those driving through during the high summer season and to those that have made us and Wiscasset a destination over the last 40 years. We see the MDOT options and it looks to many of us like a shopping mall with stop lights and Route One running down the middle .

When tourists come to Maine many, if not most, are looking for an experience that they have not been able to find anywhere else in our country. A "Place" that is filled with 18th and 19th century homes, businesses, landmarks and history. A Village that is completely accessible by foot where you are invited and encouraged to explore and to experience the authenticity that is lost forever in most of our cities and small towns across the USA.

Most places across this country have been homogenized to the point that you have no sense of place and could be "anywhere USA" or they have entirely disappeared. There are recognizable formulas that have been used across the country by the Departments of Transportation that, no matter the state, each has the "formula for success". Success for the DOT is moving traffic thru.

Success for shop owners is beautiful surroundings, convenient parking, sidewalks, and interesting small unique shops where the owners are present, often living on premise and happy that you are here, interested in your life and what you do and anxious to share their love of being in the Village of Wiscasset and what life is like in this remote state of Maine. An hour away from franchises and shopping malls - and no stoplights. People stop or slow down for persons using the cross walks (or not), very few horns blowing, most drivers becoming civil again. They begin to slow down and relax naturally.

This is a place where you can still raise a family and run your business from your home. Most States have eliminated this possibility. People are fascinated by the sanity of this place which many of us call home - "a dream life " as we hear on a daily basis. "You are living my dream life" has been said so many times to us and we all agree.

We all made this choice to be here ...It was intentional - to raise our families, to find a way to follow our passions and to work out of our homes or close to it. We wanted to be here to be a part of something much bigger than ourselves.. A

Village... a community - the way this community has always been.

As BIG BOX stores have moved into the larger towns our Village has lost our grocer, butcher, hardware stores, laundromat and news shop amongst other things but we have survived and flourished as the world craves more authenticity and avoids the malls and lack of "Place" with stop lights at each corner..

This Place is difficult for many not expecting the back ups in summer because our Main Street happens to be Route One. But it works for us.. The drivers slow down, and notice that it is special place ,and, coming to a crawl, look for and find a parking spot and stay for a while, pleased for the break in their whirling, busy driven lives.

It is seasonal for maybe 6 to 8 weeks maximum, noon to 6PM, and we would love to see temporary seasonal fixes. We love the idea of the pedestrian curb bump outs., or things like a cross guard on Middle Street that will help to group people crossing at the same time. We have missed this solution for too many summers. Many from other towns thought the cross guards were to blame or Red's Eats but the blame is that our Main Street is now and has been for a long, long time Route One. People have always had to slow down in Wiscasset Village. When the bridge was wooden you had to slow way down or risk losing teeth if you went too fast!!! This is what memories are made of. The inconveniences of a trip or of life are most often the gift you didn't know you needed..

Install blinking speed limit signs "25 mph you are entering a historic village - slow down" and then enforce that speed limit in the village. We can use more parking and parking signs and have been working on it and begging for it for 30 years or more. Parking on Railroad Avenue makes perfect sense - as a one way street, not so much.

What we find so surprising and disappointing is MDOT's refusal to work with us on these possible fixes. We must either accept option 1 or 2 or we get nothing, We would like our thoughts to be considered Option 4 but they have declined this possibility.

A few questions to the Selectmen... What are we, the town and the Village of Wiscasset, getting out of this?? We who live and work on this commercial block see no benefits. We all do just fine without MDOT intervention. If they really want to help us they must listen to our input.. No one knows more about the Village and the impact of summer than those of us with our own businesses in the Village Center. We each take great pride in our store fronts and invest with constant upkeep, window boxes and gardens, and have never asked the town for any help.

Have you Selectmen seen any of the computer studies proving their "positive

affects" and /or "net gains"? What we need before any re design proposals are MDOT personnel and our town Selectmen, Planner and Manager standing on the sidewalks in the Village and sitting on our steps to watch how it all works without their help and how it has worked for all these years without them...

We would have loved to have been asked by MDOT and by the Selectmen before these options showed up on our warrant.. We pay enormous taxes living in the village. The maintenance expenses implied by these changes will greatly increase those taxes. We bring tourists to our Village. Many of our businesses and favorable comments have been made and published in national magazines for years. We wish you would acknowledge the economic benefits that we each bring into this Village of Wiscasset. We wish that all of you, as representative Selectmen would visit our businesses and see what we do and why we feel so strongly about this matter.

Please help us save our Village and vote for Option 3 "to do nothing "on the MDOT issues. Lets see first how successful the the new stoplight is on Rt 27 intersection. Let's save MDOT a lot of money and save Wiscasset and the Village Businesses a nightmare of a constructions mess and maintenance for evermore and send MDOT onto their next project with big smiles. And PLEASE take care of the maintenance and care issues that have been ignored in the Village business district for far too long..

The list is long but just for starters.. please repair our sidewalks and stairs which all have become very dangerous to ourselves and our clients, please replace the garbage cans where they used to be and maintain the removal of the trash daily or as needed. Replace the dead trees and pull the weeds on Main Street and please for all the tourists and travelers add another public toilet that is close to Main Street.. We used to hire local kids that were home for summers to do these simple tasks... Lets give them a reason to come back home and to take pride in their Village..

With regards and Thanks from each of us below...

Jeni Bugdoni
Ted Talbot
(SHOWCASE ANTIQUE GALLERY)

Cordelia Edlund
Wiscasset Bay Gallery

Barbara Larson

James' Antiques

James L Kocher Fine Art Antiques & Resale
K. Lauren Delee

Kelley Belanger - In the Clover 85A Main & Wisasset

Scott Bay - In the Clover

John Sideli - John Sideli Fine Art

Michael Dunn Antiques / Fine Arts

TRIFLES 35 MAIN + 55 WATER

James Antiques

ERIKA SOULE book paper scissors

INGRAM FINE ART

INGRAM FINE ART

Bus. Owner

Bus. Owner / Book Prop.

RENDALL FINE ART

Rendall Fine Art

ELLIOTT HEALY; BOOKS + ANTIQUES

PAUL KROZINSKI MARSTON HOUSE

MARSTON HOUSE

MARSTON HOUSE

Jordan Getman, MARSTON HOUSE