

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MINUTES, MAY 16, 2017

Tape recorded meeting

Present: Vice Chair David Cherry, Chair Judy Colby, Larry Gordon, 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 May 5 and 12, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**
- b. **David Cherry moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of May 9 and 16, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. The May 2, 2017 minutes were not available.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

a. Town Report Dedication: Ben Rines, Jr., announced the Town Report had been dedicated to Bill Barnes, a life-long resident of Wiscasset, graduate of Wiscasset High School, who worked for local businesses and served on Town committees and boards. Judy Colby announced that this year's Town Report was also dedicated to Todd Souza, who is leaving as the Director of the Wiscasset Community Center. Souza has served on the Wiscasset Fire Department, coached at the Wiscasset High School, was named Mountain Valley Baseball Coach of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.

5. Committee Appointments

- a. Lindsey Carnes, Public Safety Advisory Council – application was withdrawn

6. Public Hearings

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to open the public hearing on the warrant articles for the upcoming Town Meeting. Vote 5-0-0.

Article 4 – informational vote. Ben Rines, Jr., and Judy Colby encouraged a “yes” vote. **Jeff Slack moved to accept the Town Warrant as written.**

It was suggested that Article 66 note that it was brought by petition. Jim Billings, MDOT, stated that he disagreed with factual assertions in the petition: As a state agency DOT makes decisions on the source of money and the fact that federal money is not being used on the Route 1 improvements does not mean the state is losing federal money. He added that the DOT did not view the project as a risk to the

taxpayers of Wiscasset, but rather as an opportunity for the town to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in sidewalk reconstruction cost and have the ability to charge for parking which will offset maintenance and plowing costs. The creamery wharf is still part of the project because additional parking has been designated. MDOT will run and pay for the traffic lights and pay all capital construction cost for paving and sidewalks. He said the Town will be asked to contribute to the cost of restrooms or other amenities. Because of the additional width of sidewalks, more plowing or shoveling will be necessary but because of additional width, mechanized equipment can be used. In response to Larry Gordon's question, Billings said that stop light technology has improved since lights were used in the past, and in addition to upkeep and maintenance, the MDOT will control the programming designed for 15% decrease in delays. Ben Rines noted that the light on Route 27 will mess up all of Midcoast Maine. **Ben Rines moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Vote on motion 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Ed Kavanaugh thanked the town for its contribution to the Museum in the Street in the past and announced that the Museum will have a GPS-guided mobile app (WiscassetMITS) to view existing and additional panels, which are narrated by Margo Rafter Strong. There will be a link to the Chamber of Commerce.

8. Department head or committee chair

a. Ben Averill, Town Planner: Chamber of Commerce request to close a portion of Middle Street on July 27, 2017 from 4 pm to 8 pm for the July Art Walk. Lucia Proby, Chair of the Art Walk, asked the town to close approximately 50 feet of Middle Street between Treats and the Golden Wok for a five-piece marimba ensemble. She said the police and EMS had no problem with the request and that feedback from the residents would be solicited. **Larry Gordon moved to grant the request. Vote 5-0-0.** Toby Martin suggested an "after action" report be given in September.

b. Discussion on grants for waterfront (shore and harbor grants) and White's Island access. Ben Averill asked if waterfront access and broadband access as well as fixing the bridges to the island were still priorities for the board. He said there were several non-profits which could work with the Town on repair of the bridges. He asked if the board was interested in reforming the broadband committee to study the feasibility of expanding broadband in town working with Connect/Me. He suggested five to seven members for a committee which would be necessary to obtain grants. He said grants would require a match from the town. **David Cherry moved to have the Town Planner form an exploratory broadband advisory committee consisting of five to seven persons. Vote 4-1-0** (Gordon opposed).

c. Town Clerk Linda Perry – Registrar's hours: Although the Registrar of Voters in municipalities with populations of more than 2, 500 must be open an additional two hours on one of the last five business days before an election, Linda Perry requested approval from the board to change the hours for the registrar to be consistent with the normal hours of operation on those five days and not require additional hours between 5-9 p.m. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the request. Vote 4-1-0** (Cherry opposed).

d. See submitted Department Head Reports

9. Unfinished Business

a. Parking adjacent to Post Office – **Larry Gordon moved to limit parking on the East side of Fort Hill Street from Route 1 to the Legion Hall and on the west side of Fort Hill Street to 15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Police Chief Jeffrey Lange said he could not enforce the parking as requested because the spaces according to State law are not the required distance from the intersection (25 ft.) and the crosswalk (20 ft.) **Vote 2-3-0** (Cherry, Colby and Slack opposed). Larry Gordon also complained about the overweight vehicles on Federal Street. Lange said the ordinance needs to be changed to clarify that commercial vehicles over a certain weight are not allowed on Federal Street. He said as the law now stands even his cruiser would be in violation. Signage will be added on Route 1 to prohibit right or left turns onto Federal Street. Lange said the DOT will be looking at Federal Street after the Route 1 project is complete. In response to Gordon’s question about the contract for police and EMS coverage at the race track, Marian Anderson said work on the contract is in progress.

b. Review Shellfish Fees: **Jeff Slack moved to increase the fees 30% as follows: Resident Commercial, \$195; Non-resident Commercial, \$390; Resident Recreational, \$20; Non-resident Recreational, \$40.** The increase will be referred to the Ordinance Review Committee for change and the required town meeting unless it is otherwise determined that the Selectboard can change the fees without an ordinance change. **Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

a. Scholarships: Awarding of the monies for the 2017 General John and Mrs. Jeannette French scholarship and the 2017 Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship. **David Cherry moved to expend \$500 from the Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$1,000 from the General John and Mrs. Jeanette French scholarship to two Wiscasset High School students who meet the scholarships’ criteria (names to be published after Class Night).** **Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Monthly Financial:

- Department year to date expense report – H. M. Payson report will be available at the next meeting.
- School Finances update: A calculation showing the amount the town currently owes the School Department was discussed. Marian Anderson said that the school’s auditor had found that the Town owes the School Department \$374,307. Judy Colby said that amount must be in some fund balance somewhere. Jeff Slack said all invoices were paid the first year and Town does not owe that money. The Town’s auditor had disputed the number. Anderson said a review of past audits may answer questions on the disputed amount.

c. Bid Opening – EMS Personal Protection Equipment: The following bids were received:

Bergeron Protective Clothing	\$1,024.40, \$534.91 (pricing per set of gear)
IPS	\$40,000 (25 sets at \$1,600 each)
Fire Tech	\$33,561.66 (22 sets)

David Cherry moved to authorize the Town Manager and EMS Director to review the submitted bids and award the EMS Personal Protection Equipment bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.

d. Applications for Catered Functions by Qualified Catering Organization-Trillium Events, Inc.

- Pflaud Wedding at Marianmade Farm-June 4, 2017
- Curtis Wedding at Marianmade Farm – June 17, 2017
- Scopetske Wedding at Marianmade Farm – July 15, 2017

- Fromyer Wedding at Marianmade Farm – July 29, 2017
- Schafer Wedding at Marianmade Farm – August 12, 2017
- Haves Wedding at Marianmade Farm – September 9, 2017
- Casper Wedding at Marianmade Farm – October 7, 2017

Jeff Slack moved to approve the applications for Catered Function by Qualified Catering Organization submitted by Trillium Events, Inc. and the application from The Bar Association, LLC. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Town Manager’s Report

Hesper & Luther Little: Maine Sunday Telegram reporter Meredith Goad (620-2228) would like to speak with a Wiscasset resident for information on the present location of parts of the two ships.

Water District Project Schedule: The downtown project is expected to start after July 10 and the fees have been paid. Doug Fowler will attend monthly project meetings. The public rate hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Water District.

Old Salt Shed: Maine Municipal Association insurance has recommended that the salt shed be demolished or repaired. Estimate for repair is \$7,000 and funds are in the current year’s budget. **Judy Colby moved to authorize \$7,000 for the repairs on the old salt shed. Vote 5-0-0.**

Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Evaluation: Three bids were received and the Town Manager and Superintendent recommend awarding the project to Wright Pierce in the amount of \$12,900. **Jeff Slack moved to affirm the awarding of the Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Evaluation to Wright Pierce in the amount of \$12,900. Vote 5-0-0.**

Auditor: Anderson reported that Jeff Slack, Larry Gordon and she had met with the three auditing firms that had submitted proposals. They did not meet with the current auditing firm. After checking references, two recommendations were made: to award a one-year contract to current auditor or award a three-year contract to William H. Brewer. **Jeff Slack moved to award the contract to William H. Brewer. Vote 5-0-0.**

Update on Wiscasset Water District rate increase and the Public Advocate’s Office: In response to questions on the Water District public hearing, Anderson said the Town can petition the PUC to review the Water Department’s request on behalf of the Town. Signatures of 98 Water District customers on the petition are required. She said the problem with the increase is the timing: it occurs in 2017 when the Town budget has already been set. **Jeff Slack moved to have the Town Manager explore getting signatures and going forward. Vote 5-0-0.** Complaints or concerns regarding current Water District work should be forwarded to Chris Cossette at the Water District; Anderson will forward complaints she has received about work on Flood Avenue and the timing on route 27.

Anderson said the Wiscasset Municipal Landfill 2016 Annual Report had been received; a summary was in the board’s packet.

Anderson reported that there was concern about the information on committee applications being scanned and available on the website. Copies of applications will in the future be given to board members only and not available on the website.

12. Other Board Business

a. The Ratio Declaration & Reimbursement Application was signed

b. Colby thanked Diane Hammond, Toby Martin, Jeff Lange and all those who participated in the employee appreciation luncheon.

13. Adjournment

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adjourn in honor of Richard Thompson. Vote 5-0-0.