

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
JULY 18, 2017

Tape recorded meeting

Present: Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Kathy Martin-Savage, 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. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the payroll warrants of June 30, July 7 and July 14, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of June 30, July 11 and July 18, 2017. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Bob Blagden moved to approve the minutes of June 27, 2017 with corrections. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

- a. John Reinhardt – Historic Preservation Commission
- b. Albert Konrath – Historic Preservation Commission
- c. Kimberly Anderson - Budget Committee

**Jeff Slack moved to appoint John Reinhardt and Albert Konrath to the Historic Preservation Commission as full members for three years and Kimberly Anderson to the Budget Committee for three years. Vote 4-0-1 (Blagden abstained )**

6. Public Hearings

a. To act on a request for a Special Amusement Permit for the Friends of the Library (fund raiser on September 3, 2017 at 191 Indian Road). **Jeff Slack moved to approve the Special Amusement Permit for the Friends of the Library. Vote 4-0-1 (Savage abstained).**

7. Public Comment

Linda Pope, President of Wiscasset Art Gallery, a local non-profit organization that leases the Old Academy from the Town of Wiscasset, reported on the activities taking place at the Old Academy. Following a repainting of the gallery, the organization's first show was devoted to Youth Art. The gallery subsequently staged a retrospective of works by Virginia "Sally" Brun and hosted a two-day drawing

class. Upcoming events are a watercolor workshop by Beryl Bayer, participation in the Art Walks and an exhibit of local artists organized by Virginia Forrest.

Marty Fox, a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, spoke in favor of reinstating the salary of the planner, Ben Averill, as swiftly as possible to protect the assets of the town.

Albert Konrath commented that the selectmen's meetings are not ADA compliant inasmuch as there is no public address system allowing the public to hear what is being said by the board or the public. He asked for the second time for a P.A. system for meetings.

Bill Barnes said he hoped the board would not reinstate the town planner, as it was defeated on the ballot, or if voted on, do so only in November.

#### 8. Department Head or Committee Chair

##### a. See Department Head submitted Reports

b. Fire Chief T. J. Merry reported that more training would take place in order to bring the firefighters up to the required hours. Merry said he had read in the newspaper about combining the Fire Department and EMS and asked the board members if they were in favor of that. He said he had not been invited to any meeting to discuss the subject. Colby said there had been mention of a combination, but the board has not discussed it, and would not unless brought to the board by either the EMS or Fire Department. Cross training has been discussed. The Fire Chief and EMS Director will meet with the Town Manager to discuss this matter.

c. Wiscasset Police Department - Resignation of Reserve Officer Michael Smith. Chief Lange reported that Michael Smith had resigned from the Police Department and retired from police work. Diane Hammond who has been working part time has also resigned for a full-time position elsewhere. **Judy Colby moved to accept the resignations with regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Waterfront Committee – Off-season dockage for commercial fishermen: Richard Forrest reported that fisherman pay an annual docking fee of \$200 for the normal boating season from May 31 to October 1; however, the recreational floats stay in the water until December. He asked if the commercial fisherman could use the floats during the off season (October 1 to date when the floats are pulled out of the water and from the time the floats are put back in the water until the boating season starts on Memorial Day. The Waterfront Committee recommends a fee of \$100 to use the floats in the off season. There are six commercial fishermen, five of whom are Wiscasset residents or own property in Wiscasset. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to charge \$100 for residents and \$200 for non-residents to use the floats during the off season. Vote 3-2-0** (Colby and Martin-Savage opposed). There was a consensus to pull the floats out of the water for insurance-required inspection and then put back in the water after drying out. Susan Robson recommended that the floats stay in the water until January 1.

#### 9. Unfinished Business

a. CMP Option to Purchase – update – no action. Correspondence indicates CMP intends to exercise its option to purchase.

b. Property Tax Update – Letters were sent to owners whose properties were in foreclosure giving them 90 days to pay taxes due. Total due was \$137,400 and \$81,395 was collected. No response was received from the owners of four properties. Anderson will verify the occupancy of those properties and bring back the next steps the board will take.

10. New Business

a. Bid Opening – Tax Anticipation Note – The following bids for a \$1,857,987 TAN were received

The First	1.29%
Bath Savings Institution	1.34%
Camden National Bank	1.56%
Androscoggin Bank	1.39% for lump sum, 1.47% as needed

**Judy Colby moved: (1) That under and pursuant to Title 30-A, Section 5771 of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended and supplemented, there be and hereby is authorized the issuance of a \$1,857,987 principal amount Tax Anticipation Note of the Town in anticipation of the receipt of taxes for the municipal fiscal year which commenced July 1, 2017, and ends June 30, 2018.**

**(2) That said Note shall be dated on or about July 18, 2017, shall mature on June 30, 2018, shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, shall bear interest at the rate of 1.29% per annum on a 30/360 day basis, and shall be payable on or before June 30, 2018, and otherwise be in such form and bear such details as the signers may determine.**

**(3) That said Note is hereby sold and awarded to The First National Bank.**

**(4) That said Note is hereby designated qualified tax exempt obligations of the Town for the 2017 calendar year pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1996.**

**(5) That all things heretofore done and all action heretofore taken by the Town, its municipal officers and agents in the authorization of said Note are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed and the Treasurer and Chairman are each hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of this voting, including delivering said Note against payment therefor. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Request from Friends of the Library to place signs on the Town Commons for a fundraising event on September 3, 2017: Michele Peele asked permission to place “Burma Shave” type signs on the common from the court house to the post office for two weeks from August 15 to September 4. **Jeff Slack moved to approve the request of the Friends of the Library to place signs on the Town Common advertising a fundraising event on September 3, 2017. Vote 4-0-1** (Martin-Savage abstained). Peele asked that the Public Works crew be notified of the board’s approval so the signs will not be removed.

c. Lincoln County Animal Shelter Contract: **Jeff Slack moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the 2017-2018 contract with Lincoln County Animal Shelter. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Petition for open Town Meeting to reinstate the Planning Budget: Colby said the petition requests an open town meeting, and according to MMA, the board has to follow the request. The disadvantages of an open town meeting, i.e. not everyone will be able to attend, a small majority at the meeting may speak for the town, were weighed by the board against the MMA's position, the opinion that people did not understand the June ballot question and the wording on the petition which calls for an open town meeting. Former selectman Judy Flanagan said the board had a legal opinion from MMA and the intent of the open town meeting was to allow discussion. Chamber of Commerce President Monique McRae said the Chamber had supported the former planner whose position mimicked the Chamber's and they would have had no trouble getting even more signatures on the petition, many from voters who didn't understand the question about the planning budget. Kim Dolce said it was incredibly dangerous and irresponsible to speculate on what people thought or how many signatures they might have gotten on a petition. **Judy Colby moved to have Marian Anderson contact our legal department in reference to the petition and come back with their legal opinion in writing at our next meeting. Vote 4-1-0 (Slack opposed).**

e. Facilities Use Agreement with the American Red Cross: Marian Anderson said the town had been approached by Lincoln County to explore the possibility of making the Wiscasset Community Center an actual emergency shelter. She said the town currently opens a warming station and a shelter, but it does not get reimbursed for that. By designating an actual shelter, the town would be reimbursed. Anderson said she would like to have more information before a decision was made, but would like the board's approval to investigate further. **Jeff Slack moved that Anderson sign the agreement after she has done the background check.** Anderson said she would meet with the EMA Director, Fire Chief and Community Center Director before signing the agreement. **Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 11. Town Manager's Report

Marian Anderson reported that the homestead exemption reimbursement did not increase to 62.5%, as expected, resulting in a the town receiving \$44,000 less than expected from the State to cover the Town's loss of property tax revenue because of the increase in the exemption.

The Town has received a request from CEI, that Deer Ridge Farm be classified as exempt from real estate and personal property taxes as of April 1, 2017. This would result in a loss of approximately \$49,000 in tax revenue and \$1,917,600 in taxable valuation loss. She recommended that the auditor or town attorney review the application and the corporation's financial records before a decision is made.

Anderson provided the board with new meeting dates for the School Committee. She added that the new subsidy numbers were released and the schools will receive an increase of \$167, 516 in state funding. A projection of the number of students for the coming year was also received (526) .

The Wastewater Treatment Plant review is complete and the evaluation has been sent to the DEP for review.

The Water District Project update was supplied to the board.

Anderson reminded the board of the need to discuss the replacement of Ambulance #87, a 2003 wheel coach with 135,231 miles. She asked if the board was still interested in replacing the remount rather than purchasing a new one. Deputy Chief Wendy Williams explained that a remount would be a viable

option, as it would stay with the same style as the other vehicles. In 2019 the style will change to a vehicle that will be larger and will not fit in the current station. She said a remount is expected to be available in December. There was a consensus that Anderson explore the matter and report to the board.

#### 12. Other Board Business

**a. Abatement: Adam Bowen (Map 04, Lot 002-9 for \$110.39): Jeff Slack moved to approve the abatement for Adam Bowen, Map 04, Lot 002-9 in the amount of \$110.39 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery G. Bane. Vote 5-0-0.**

Kathy Martin-Savage asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Bob McDonald and his wife, Dave Sawyer and others who took charge of organizing the parade and to Norm's for their donation of cars for the parade. Jeff Slack asked that certificates be given to those mentioned.

In response to Ben Rines, Jr.'s question, Anderson said year-end numbers would be available August 1, as the last warrant was signed that day.

Ben Rines, Jr., was thanked for the new table arrangement.

#### 13. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**