

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 6, 2018

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

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the payroll warrants of February 23 and March 2, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

Judy Colby moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of February 27 and March 6, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018 and the minutes of February 27, 2018 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Judy Colby made a statement in response to a media statement by Mark Robinson, public relations spokesman for Ralph Doering III, regarding the scheduled referendum on the MDOT traffic plan. The statement is attached.

At Marian Anderson's request, the board allowed Mr. Arsenault to speak. James Arsenault of Dresden, Vice President of the Independent Wormers Association, noted that the Wiscasset docks had been removed without the usual notification to the wormers so that they could remove their worm cars. He said that James Beam had lost 500 worms which represented two days' work because he had not been notified that the docks would be removed. When asked, the police said they had no knowledge of the notification. Arsenault asked what broke down in communications and what could be done in the future. Arsenault said each worm car has contact information for the owner and in the past notification

had been given. Police Chief Jeffrey Lange said he took responsibility and that in the future, wormers will be contacted, and a notice will be posted at the pier.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Police Chief Jeffrey Lange – Radio System Upgrade: Lange reported that Lincoln County Office of Emergency Management had received a grant to upgrade radio systems which would allow the Wiscasset Police Department to purchase radios at \$200 each. He said radio reception was poor in many spots in Wiscasset with the present radios; however, he had tried one of the new radios and had excellent reception and no interference problems anywhere in town. He asked permission to buy the radios now rather than wait until the next fiscal year. There was a consensus of the board that the purchase would be a capital expense and decision on funding for the radios now would be left to the discretion of the Town Manager and Chief of Police.

Chief Lange also displayed a “YOUR SPEED” sign he had obtained which will be used on major roads. It runs on solar panel and batteries and can record speed without displaying it.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Wiscasset Ambulance Service fees for Edgecomb/Westport Island: After discussion, Jeff Slack moved that the contract for ambulance service with Edgecomb and Westport Island be the same as the last two years of the Dresden contract with an exit clause and that both towns be responsible for uncollectibles. Vote 5-0-0.

10. New Business

a. Liquor License Policy Review: The board discussed the possibility of allowing the Town Clerk to sign the permits for renewal of liquor licenses held by the same owner for five or more years with no complaints by the police or Code Enforcement Officer. If there were any problems, the application would be referred to the select board. Bob Blagden moved to accept the new policy. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Correspondence-Photos from Cohasset Historical Society. A note had been received the Cohasset Historical Society enclosing historic photos of Wiscasset and Edgecomb they had received. The photos of Edgecomb will be sent to Edgecomb’s historical society; the Wiscasset photos may be framed and hung in appropriate places. A note of thanks will be sent.

11. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson reported that the preliminary injunction motion and the motion filed to dismiss the claims DOT made against the Town of Wiscasset will be posted on the website. Hard copies will be available.

The budget committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 8, has been rescheduled, because of the expected storm, for Monday, March 12, at 6 p.m.

12. Other Business

Bob Blagden said his mail had been opened and he asked that staff be careful about opening mail addressed to the selectmen. Anderson has spoken to the staff about the matter.

13. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Statement made by Judy Colby at the March 6, 2018 Board of Selectmen meeting:

First I want to say that I gave all the board members a copy of the referenced press release and the article in the Lincoln County News by J. W. Oliver. I made the board members aware that I will be making this statement tonight.

On Monday February 25th Mark Robinson, the public relations spokesman for Ralph Doering III released a media statement regarding the Wiscasset referendum question that omits the accepting additional funds from outside sources to help pay for legal fees in the MDOT matter. These funds would be coming from the Doering family and a separate group of citizens calling itself Citizens for Sensible Solutions. Also in the statement to the media Mr. Robinson attacked me personally which I want to take this time to respond.

Portions of his statement read as follows:

“The surprise move to schedule a town referendum was introduced during a select board meeting last Tuesday by chair Judith Colby, a self-proclaimed ardent supporter of MDOT’s proposal to eradicate historically parking features on Main Street. Colby also led the effort in 2017 to abolish the town’s historic preservation ordinance, a drive that voters soundly rejected. A majority of the select board has expressed strong support for keeping downtown parking and for fighting MDOT’s claims that it is exempt from town ordinances. Robinson said the proposed referendum language borders on deception.”

He further states:

“ You’ve got to hand it to the chair, that was a slick parliamentary maneuver, “Robinson said. “By introducing a referendum she delays discussion of the legal donations. By controlling the language, she kills discussion of the legal donations. She’s in the minority on the board, but if she gets that misleading language she hopes to override voter’s previous rejection of the project, pave over town history and get her project. For her and her allies, everything depends on keeping voters from knowing that they don’t have to pay for the lawsuit. They’re banking on the fear of legal costs.”

Wow, I never realized that I had that much power that I could control the vote of the citizens of the town and the information the citizens receive! The fact that you feel you have to try to discredit me makes me wonder what I’ve done to you or Mr. Doering to be afraid of me. Is it because you don’t like it when people speak out against what you and those backing Mr. Doering want for the town? Let me make something very clear Mr. Robinson, Mr. Doering and to everyone, I will not be bullied, intimidated or bought! You may have others in your back pocket, but I will never be one of them. I take my position as selectman very seriously.

Mr. Robinson I believe that the citizens of this town have the right to decide on whether to continue the lawsuit. This vote in my opinion is long overdue and should have been done in November when the idea of a law suit was brought before the board. I feel the select board did a great disservice to all the taxpayers of the town by listening to a select few and not including the entire town in the decision making process.

Mr. Robinson, regarding the financial assistance from outside sources, I do hope it goes to the voters. Even though the select board has the authority to accept financial assistance, I feel the decision shouldn't be made by the select board but by the voters of the town. I made a statement that I thought the idea of taking money from outside resources sounded fishy and it still does to me, but again that's my opinion. I question why you and Mr. Doering are in such a rush for the town's people to accept this money. Could it be because you have a hidden motive? Could it be that it will in some way help Mr. Doering's law suit against MDOT? I will share with you my opinion. Maybe I look at things differently than most, but in my experience most people don't give that type of money without wanting something in return. I question if the town votes to stop the law suit would the money still be available to pay the balance of the legal bill with no strings attached?

Mr. Robinson I have no hidden agenda which you seem to imply in the media release. I have spent my years as a selectman doing what I thought was right for the citizens of the town. Have I made some decisions that looking back may have been wrong, probably, I'm not perfect but I do what I feel is right. So, I suggest this type of bullying must stop. Discrediting me or questioning my motives is not what is best for the town that Mr. Doering says he cares about and personal attacks will only cause more division and resentment in the town. Let's all take a minute and step back and let the people have their say on April 17th and then I'm sure the discussion of legal costs will take center stage.

Before I close I want to thank J. W. Oliver the editor of the Lincoln County News for the editorial on February 28th. The article is worth reading. He is right, it's time to "Be Nice".