

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

Preliminary Minutes

Present: Kim Andersson, Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., 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

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of September 7 and 14, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of September 11 and 18, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. Adoption of the 2018-2019 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D: **Kim Andersson moved to go into the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** Marian Anderson briefly discussed the maximum changes in the appendices. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to come out of the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adopt the 2018-2019 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Bob Blagden referred to a newspaper article in which he felt he was misquoted dealing with the school. He said he had no idea what the school spent, only what was raised but was talking about the municipal budget and the percentage of tax dollars raised going to the town as opposed to the school.

Leslie Roberts thanked the board for its action at the previous meeting relative to the trees. She recommended having people knowledgeable about trees be consulted and their information be brought forward to the MDOT.

Bill Barnes related his difficulties in obtaining a burn permit. He said there was no fire danger but someone in the office refused to give him a permit. He said he was humiliated and hoped the board would address the issue.

Cecilio Juntura, owner of the Taste of Maine, described his difficulties with Al Cohen and was advised it was a civil matter and not a matter for the select board.

John Reinhardt, 26 Lee Street, thanked the board for slowing the traffic on Lee Street, but was concerned about the speed of vehicles on Route 1 trying to make the green light, particularly in the early morning. He asked the board to consider methods of slowing the traffic, such as a flashing yellow light, before someone is injured.

#### 8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head Monthly Reports: Judy Colby commended Wendy Williams on the EMS report. She was also impressed with the Town Clerk's report. Kim Andersson commended the Parks and Recreation department for exceeding their budgeted revenues. Town Treasurer Vernice Boyce, in response to Andersson's question, said that many of the unpaid property tax liens were past the statute of limitations and should be written off. Boyce was asked to have the unpaid personal property tax information for the board by the second meeting in October.

b. Special Olympics Fundraiser – Chief Lawrence Hesselstine: Craig Worcester, standing in for the chief, provided information on the Harley raffle put on by the Special Olympics of Maine. Tickets are on sale all over the state, Drawing is on October 12 and brings in \$20,000 for the organization. The Torch Ride takes place in Waldoboro. The chief is working on bringing the ride to Wiscasset next year.

c. Review proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance – Ordinance Review Committee: Karl Olson said changes to the draft have been made including changing the zoning map. In response to Judy Colby's questions, Susan Blagden said the wording regarding financial hardship was taken directly from the State law; Marian Anderson added that the wording was the same as in the town's Board of Appeals statute. Colby said the ordinance should be reviewed by an attorney. Reinhardt said the committee was trying to make the ordinance legal and it was a work in progress. Jim Kochan commended the ORC and HPO, pointed out an error in numbering, and disagreed with striking a definition of a word that does not appear in the ordinance. He also advocated sticking with the state language. Karl Olson said words had been removed from the definitions because they did not appear in the ordinance. He added that the ORC approved the ordinance.

John Reinhardt said among the calls the commission had received were those asking that the size of the historic district be changed. There are historic homes not in the district. Also, the powder house is not in the district. Susan Blagden said the current map shows the proposed historic district as well as the National Historic District and the map would be voted on separate from the ordinance. Reinhardt said he needs input from the town.

d. Planning Board: Planning Board Chair Ray Soule said that at its last meeting, the Planning Board voted to petition the selectmen for a planner. He said he did not think the town needed a full-time planner and the voters had twice turned down the budget for a planner. He said, however, that after laying out for applicants exactly what was needed, applicants still did not come in with the right information.

Deb Pooler said working without a planner would be similar to the selectmen working without a Town Manager. She said several businesses had not come to Wiscasset because of the difficulties encountered without a planner and without new business there will be no growth in town. She added that applicants bring incomplete applications to the planning board, requiring additional meetings,

which did not happen when the town had a planner. She compared Wiscasset to other nearby towns where development is taking place.

Al Cohen said the board is made up of volunteers and needs the help of a full-time planner. He agreed that the position did not need to be full-time. He added that the ORC also needed the help of a planner. Applicants come with incomplete applications because there is no one to help them, and the approval process takes twice as long as it normally would if applications would be screened by a planner. He described problems he had with the application process. Cohen added the town needs a planner to apply for grants to help the town with economic development.

Kim Andersson said she had attended Planning Board meetings and witnessed an applicant appearing several times because the application was not complete. She said it wasn't fair to blame it on the applicant; the town should provide help for the applicants. She made several suggestions such as giving the applicants a check list or putting the applications on line.

Kim Dolce said if people were going into business, they shouldn't need someone to hold their hand through the application process. She suggested that the process should be revamped. She asked if the town hires a planner, what is the town ready to give up for the cost of a planner.

Pam Logan said when there was no CEO the town manager stepped in, and she asked why the town manager couldn't step in for the planner. She said since the people had voted at one point for a planner, the town should one. She also suggested streamlining procedures.

Kathy Martin-Savage agreed that the town needed help even if it would be only part-time. She suggested that changing the title and job description might make a difference. Judy Colby agreed that things are slipping through the cracks that previously were done by the planner and the town needs something to bring in businesses.

## 9. Unfinished Business

a. Annual License for Sale of Consumer Fireworks – Allen Cohen, applicant: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to postpone to a future meeting. Vote 5-0-0.** Colby said the town, on advice of counsel had requested further information from the applicant. Ben Rines, Jr., said, referring to the discussion on a planner, that the problems with the fireworks application was due to a planner dropping the ball.

b. Ambulance Service discussion: Marian Anderson said she needed direction from the board regarding the future of the ambulance service. She referred to information she had given the board showing the board's actions between March and July 2018, ending with a motion to place the question on the ballot in November. Judy Colby said she had looked at the numbers and it appeared keeping the ambulance service would cost only \$15,000 more than going with CLC, the equipment was bought with taxpayers' money and because there was a previous vote to keep the ambulance service, she moved to continue with the ambulance service of our own and instruct the town manager to develop a job description for a director. Kim Andersson said that a presentation was supposed to have been made giving people the benefits of each option so that the public would have all the facts. She volunteered to put together a cost benefit analysis. In response to Bill Barnes' question, Judy Colby said if the choice were CLC, they would provide 24-hour EMS service to Wiscasset and Westport, would lease the ambulance space and equipment, together with several other conditions of the offer. She said that in 2015, there was a substantial vote (464-81) to keep the police and ambulance service. In response to Ben Rines, Jr.'s question, the Town Manager said there was adequate time to put the question on the November ballot.

In response to comments from the audience regarding the change in positions by the board, Marian Anderson said that one board is not bound by another board's decision. The motion failed with Blagden, Rines, Martin-Savage and Andersson opposing. The question to be put on the ballot will read, "Shall the Town vote to discontinue Wiscasset Emergency Medical Service and utilize Central Lincoln County Ambulance Service?" At the public presentation, the town (selectmen), CLC and the current EMS will participate. **Kim Andersson moved to put the question on the ballot. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

a. Bid Openings

Transfer Station Lift Truck

Bidder	Brand	Price	Trade-in	Balance
Nitco	Hyster	\$27,555.70	\$3,500	\$24,055.70
New England Industrial Truck	Unicarrier	30,742.69	500	30,242.69
Taylor New England	Caterpillar	35,811.48	3,500	32,311.48
Taylor New England	Mitsubishi	32,630.13	3,500	29,130.13
W. E. Matthews	Toyota	27,461.00	4,400	23,061.00

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to authorize the Town Manager and Transfer Station Supervisor to review the bids and award the Transfer Station Lift Truck to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

Winter Sand bid

Bidder	
Nathan Northrup	3000-3500 cu. yd @ \$5.25/cu. yd. (loaded on town trucks) 3000-3500 cu. yd. @ \$14.75 cu.yd. (delivered 18 miles)

**Ben Rines, Jr., moved to authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Director to review the bids and award the Winter Sand Bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Municipal Quit Claim Deeds

- Kenneth and Gisele Cinq-Mars, 11 Deer Ridge: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to grant the quit claim deed. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Set date for Special Town Meeting: The board will meet with the Budget Committee before setting the meeting date for the special town meeting to deal with the \$123,837.53 in overdrafts to be taken from the fund balance.

- d. Spirit of America Award: Anderson said nominations for the award are due no later than October 1 and she asked that recommendations be given to her before that date.
- e. Healthy Lincoln County: Kate Marone summarized the work being done in Lincoln County related to youth use of drugs and alcohol. She described the survey her group had conducted and shared the results from the survey.
- f. Municipal Valuation Report: Anderson said the report is required within 30 days of commitment. **Judy Colby moved to accept the 2018 municipal valuation report. Vote 5-0-0.**
- g. Maine Yankee Settlement Agreement: Anderson said that Peter Murray had advised discussing the settlement agreement with Maine Yankee before the settlement agreement ends with the April 2022 tax year and she asked when the board would like to start discussions. Anderson will get the financial information before discussion begin.
- h. Monthly Financials: Town Treasurer Vernice Boyce said no funds have yet been taken from the TAN.
- i. Maine Municipal Association – Voting Delegate Credential: **Judy Colby moved to delegate the town manager to vote for the board with Vernice Boyce as alternate. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 11. Town Manager's Report

Anderson said she had received calls about political signs on town property and asked the board for direction. Kathy Martin-Savage recommended taking them down.

Anderson asked to be excused from the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting or that the meeting be rescheduled. The board rescheduled the meeting to November 13.

Anderson had met with the owners of the former primary school, discussed multi-generational living and will be providing them with information.

Anderson and Kathy Onorato will be attending training in Bangor on Thursday and can be reached by cell phone.

#### 12. Other Board Business

In response to Kim Andersson's question, Marian Anderson said the three-masted schooner was still coming to Wiscasset. Anderson said Dick Forrest may have more information.

Kathy Martin-Savage said the Downtown Committee had met the previous Friday and will be meeting again on Friday, September 21.

#### 13. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**