

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 16, 2018

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

a. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of October 5 and 12, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of October 9 and 16, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee appointments – none

6. Public Hearings

a. Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard permit renewals: **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to go into a public hearing. Vote 4-0-1 (Blagden abstained).** A letter submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Mullins recommending approval of the renewal applications for 2018-2019 was read into the record. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to close the public hearing. Vote 4-0-1 (Blagden abstained).** **Judy Colby moved to approve the Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard Permit renewals for Jim's Auto Trim, Blagden's Garage, Grover Auto & Tire, Norm's Used Cars, Inc. and Pro Body Works. Vote 4-0-1 (Blagden abstained).**

Note: Later in the meeting, the owners of the Wiscasset Diner, who had been advised that the public hearing would be held at 7 p.m., had arrived at 7 p.m. after the public hearing had ended. They said there is no fence between their property and Norm's Used Cars and prospective buyers could not obtain financing for that reason. Marian Anderson said she would ask Norm's Used Cars to voluntarily comply or renewal of the license would be brought back to the board.

b. To discuss and hear comment on the following special Town Meeting warrant article to be voted by secret ballot on November 6, 2018: "Shall the Town vote to discontinue the Wiscasset Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department and utilize Central Lincoln County Ambulance Service." **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to go into a public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.** Judy Colby said Warren Waltz, CLC Ambulance Service Director, had resigned and a letter had been received from Mark Doe, Interim Service Chief for

CLC, asking that contract negotiations with CLC be postponed with the anticipation that talks would begin in the first quarter of 2019 when a new director is in place. Although invited, no representative from CLC was present. Kim Andersson presented a video created to inform voters on the relative costs, service, and accountability of the Wiscasset Ambulance Service and CLC. The video will be on the town's website and Facebook. The costs are based on the 2018-2019 Wiscasset budget and on the CLC figures on the June 2018 proposal. Cost to Wiscasset taxpayers for Wiscasset EMS is \$178,227; for CLC the cost would be \$171,399. Under the proposed contract, CLC would provide service to Westport and Edgecomb, not Dresden. In light of CLC's letter, the board was asked to postpone the vote until 2019; however, because absentee ballots had already been sent out, the warrant article will remain on the November ballot. It was unclear what would happen to the equipment sold to CLC for \$1 if the contract were terminated after two years. Loss of local control and questions about the contract with CLC were points brought up by those in attendance. Ben Rines, Jr., said he was not ready to go forward and would vote no on the warrant article but would favor continuing negotiations. Wendy Williams (EMS) said there were alternatives to the CLC contract such as the EMS exploring a 501c3 entity, contracting with Boothbay Ambulance Service or regionalization. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to close the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Police Chief Lawrence Hesselstine – Update on Body Cameras: Chief Hesselstine said that although the Town had set aside \$5,000 for body cameras, no consideration had been given to storage and maintenance of the video files. He had researched options for body cameras and recommended that the Town contract with Axon which would supply the cameras and store and maintain the video files off site where they would be available to district attorneys in court cases. He recommended the five-year contract which would provide cameras and storage for \$5,572 the first year and \$3,519 the second through fifth year for a total commitment of \$19,648. Axon warranties and will replace body cameras without question and will replace body cameras and docks every 2½ years. New body cameras will be provided upon renewal of the contract. In response to Marian Anderson's question, Hesselstine said the department should be fully staffed by the end of the month. There was a question of privacy at the schools if cameras were used and the chief will speak to the school superintendent regarding videos in the schools. Marian Anderson expressed her appreciation for the informational presentation. The Axon contract will be paid for by the \$5,000 already appropriated and \$572 will be taken from the Police Department equipment budget.

b. Department Head Monthly Reports – See submitted reports. The Airport Rules and Regulations will be presented to the board in December. Any comments by the board should be forwarded to the Town Manager. Kim Andersson commented on the Transfer Station report which pointed out the need for people to recycle. She also commented on the increased revenue experienced by the Parks and Recreation Department.

c. Chamber of Commerce/Waterfront Committee – Request to keep waterfront public restrooms open: The restrooms were closed on October 9. The Rec Department's budget for staffing and maintenance precludes leaving the restrooms open. The staff cleans and paints the restrooms in the fall as the spring opening date is unpredictable. There is also no way to winterize the restrooms and the Water Department drains them in the fall. There was a consensus that there was no problem with closing the restrooms.

d. Town Clerk Linda Perry – Registrar’s hours: The Town Clerk had requested that the office be open normal hours before election day: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to change the required hours of operation before Election Day for the registrar to be consistent with the normal hours of operation and not require the additional hours of 5 to 9 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

9. Unfinished Business

a. Set date for Special Town Meeting to fund FY ’18 overdrafts - \$97,574.67 contracted services/legal (MDOT litigation) \$6,437.00 Benefits/Unemployment (billed from unemployment), and \$20, 480.04 Public Utilities (increase in water rates mid fiscal year). **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the article concerning overdrafts. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to schedule a special town meeting to ratify the expenditures on Monday, October 29 at 6 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

a. John Carroll – Central Maine Power: Mr. Carroll was not present. Marian Anderson will contact him to reschedule.

b. Sand/Salt Building Reimbursement: A letter had been received from the DOT Community Services Division advising that the State share for the town’s sand/salt building built in 1988 will arrive sometime this fall. The town will receive \$49,651.92. The delay was caused by the necessity to reimburse all priority 1 through 4 towns before reimbursing priority 5 towns which includes Wiscasset.

c. Proposed 2019 State Valuation: The proposed 2019 State Valuation for Wiscasset is \$462,450.00.

d. Monthly Financials: In response to Ben Rines’ question, Treasurer Vernice Boyce said the WCC roof was a carry-forward, the Fire Dept. roof was complete, and the Main Street Pier electric was ongoing. She will check on the police cruiser.

e. Notice of Price Adjustments – Charter Communications (locally known as Spectrum): Customers will be notified of November 1, 2018 price adjustments on or after October 1, 2018. Ben Rines, Jr. suggested that Spectrum be invited to meet with the select board as their service leaves something to be desired.

f. Required Freedom of Access Training for Elected Official (1 MRSA §412): Board members can attend or read and sign the certification.

11. Town Manager’s Report

Marian Anderson reported that William Rines will be retiring as Wastewater Supervisor on December 31, 2018. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the resignation with regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Other Board Business

a. Assessors Abatements

- Joseph W. and Katie M. Ruzycik (Map U12 Lot 5A) - \$391
- Brendan Mcmorrow/PUP, LLC (Map R04, Lot 002-030) - \$396.87
- Brendan Mcmorrow/PUP LLC (Map R04 Lot 010-A18) - \$459.43

- Brendan Mcmorrow/PUP LLC (Map R04 Lot 002-00 - \$209.19
- Frank Allen, Jr. (Map R02 Lot 10-C-ON - \$508.30
- Element Financial Corp. (Personal Property Account #72 - \$64.52
- Joan B. Reed (Map R05 Lot 113) - \$2,525.86

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the abatements for Joseph and Katie Ruzyckij for \$391; Brendan Mcmorrow for \$396.87, \$459.43 and \$209.29; Frank Allen, Jr. for \$508.30; Element Financial Corporation for \$64.52 and Joan B. Reed for \$2,525.86 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery Bane. Vote 5-0-0.

b. Assessors Supplementals

- Chris Mcmorrow (Map R04 Lot 010-A18 - \$459.43

Bob Blagden moved to approve the supplemental tax assessment for Chris Mcmorrow for \$459.43 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery Bane. Vote 5-0-0

c. Ben Rines, Jr., asked that the "Go Right" sign on Middle Street be replaced if possible.

13. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.