

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
April 3, 2018

Present: Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack, Town Manager Marian Anderson and Town's Legal Counsel Peter Murray and Sage Friedman

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. A motion was made by Ben Rines, Jr., seconded by moved Katharine Martin-Savage to approve the payroll warrants of March 23 and 30, motion passed 5-0-0.

b. A motion was made by Ben Rines, Jr., seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 27 and April, 3 2018, motion passed 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. March 20, 2018- Chairman Judy Colby noted that the start time of the March 20th meeting was incorrect and ask for a correction. She said the meeting started at 6:05 p.m. and not 7:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Ben Rines, Jr., seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to approve the minutes of March 20, 2018 as amended, motion passed 5-0.

b. March 26, 2018-A motion was made by Ben Rines, Jr., seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to approve the minutes of March 26, 2018, motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Hearings

a. April 17, 2018 Special Referendum Town Meeting- A motion was made by Ben Rines, Jr, seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage, to open the Public Hearing for the April 17, 2018 Special Referendum Town Meeting, motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Robert Blagden, seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to allow non-resident business owners in Wiscasset to speak during the Public Hearing, motion passed 5-0.

Nearly 100 people attended the Public Hearing and shared their thoughts on whether the Town should continue with lawsuit against the MDOT regarding the Downtown Project. The Town's Legal Counsel Peter Murray and Sage Friedman attended the public hearing to answer questions.

Those who opposed the lawsuit, including the Wiscasset Thinks Forward group announced they retained a law firm that will file a motion to intervene as defendants in support of the MDOT project.

Speakers spoke in support of the project saying MDOT is trying to make Main Street safer for pedestrians and motorists.

The cost of the lawsuit was also a concern to some speaking at the hearing. Some stated that its a case the Town would not likely win.

Town attorney Peter Murray said he thought the town had a strong case, but said he could not guarantee the Town would win.

Those who support the lawsuit expressed concern of losing Main Street parking and the negative impact on local businesses.

Some criticized MDOT for making changes in Option 2, including federal funding which would have required MDOT to comply with federal standards and local ordinances.

The Selectman said the question as to whether the Town would accept donations from residents and business owners to pay for the lawsuit would be brought to the voters for approval, pending the outcome of the April 17th Referendum.

At 7:55 p.m. Robert Blagden made a motion seconded by Katharine Martin-Savage to end the Public Hearing, motion passed 5-0.

5. Adjournment

At 8 p.m. a motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Judy Colby to adjourn, motion passed 5-0.