

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
NOVEMBER 6, 2018, 6 P.M.

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

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the payroll warrants of October 19 and 26, and November 2, 2018. Vote 5-0-0.

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of October 23 and 30 and November 6, 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

a. New Police Officers Swearing-in Ceremony: Cory Hubert, School Resource Officer, and Jonathan Barnes, Patrol Officer, were sworn in by Treasurer Vernice Boyce.

5. Committee Appointments – none

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Judy Flanagan commended the Wiscasset Family Wishes program volunteers who organize and support gifts for families in need. Applications may be picked up at the Town Office and are due back on November 15. Each child is given two wishes and two wants. For information call Judy Flanagan at 882-7056 or the Town Office.

Jim Kochan said the town should address the need for loading zones on Main Street but as of November 1 nothing had been done. He is vacating his business on Main Street and will be moving to his building on Fort Hill Street, as it is impossible for him to do business without a loading zone. He said the DOT had promised prior to March a loading zone on the southbound lane on Main Street but that was not in the current plans. He said he no longer has a vested interest in the town but encouraged the board to act on this issue. He said there will be six vacant businesses on Main Street when he moves. Kochan said loading zones are now planned for three locations: in front of the former Chinese restaurant and in front of and behind Red's Eats. Marian Anderson said at the meeting with the commissioner loading zones were discussed but nothing was changed. Kochan also said the planned bollards are not

removable which will present a problem for plowing snow. He asked if there was a strategy for leaving the snow on the street. Kathy Martin-Savage agreed that there will be a problem with snow removal and lack of loading zones and asked the Town Manager to call the DOT regarding these issues.

8. Department head or committee chair

a. Chief TJ Merry – Fire Station door opener issues: Postponed to November 13 meeting.

b. Waterfront Committee – Boardwalk project update.: Susan Robson said the committee had been asked to connect the two piers and after investigation, the committee had developed a model with a 650-foot walkway from the Creamery Pier to the recreational pier. Dick Forrest said that the walkway would go along the low tide line where sandworms are harvested but no other activity is under DMR control. Dick Forrest said if a grant for half the cost could be obtained, the town could bond for \$500,000 for 20 years which would cost each taxpayer \$17 per year for 20 years. He asked if the board wanted the committee to continue with the project. The property is owned by the State. Kim Andersson asked that if the project was possible, funding should be researched. Bob Blagden asked if the town would incur some liability by blocking access to the water. Anderson said the town has the deeds, so it can be determined if property lines go to low water. Judy Colby asked if the walkway would hinder views. If approved, funding would be on next year's warrant. The DEP has not been consulted on the permitting process. Marian Anderson will have the deed information by the next meeting. A feasibility study will require a town meeting to approve funds. The feasibility study will contain a budget and cost estimates for the 2019 warrant. Bob Blagden said there were concerns about access and views, and recommended contacting MMA for recommendations.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Personal Property/Real Estate Tax Update: Discussion on the delinquent Personal Property taxes was postponed until the next meeting. Town Treasurer Vernice Boyce discussed with the board the list of delinquent/foreclosed Real Estate taxes due, pointing out several properties with a large amount of unpaid taxes, some of which have or had in the past an agreement for repayment of past due taxes. Boyce said the wording in the agreement could be clearer as it had been misunderstood in the past, and it was suggested that a new agreement be drafted. The board asked Boyce to contact the property owners whose agreements had lapsed and work out a payment plan with them, concentrating on delinquent agreements, and to foreclose if there is no agreement. Marian Anderson said it would be difficult to waive interest for one taxpayer as part of the agreement and not waive it for back taxes for property on which an agreement was not made, although clarification should be sought. A draft agreement will be brought to the board for approval. In some cases, if a homestead exemption had been applied for, no taxes would be due.

b. Holiday lights in the village: Marian Anderson said there had been comments on the colored holiday lights on Main Street in the past and asked whether they should be all white. Steve Christiansen said he had researched Town Reports and found nothing to indicate that the lights had to be white. Ben Rines, Jr., said for forty years the lights had been white. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to have white lights except for the tree on the common. Vote 3-0-2** (Blagden and Andersson abstained). The motion did not include lights on the waterfront put up by the Chamber of Commerce.

c. MDOT update on LED Luminaire in the Downtown: A memo had been received from Ernest Martin regarding the light fixture and the concern for damage to the chimney with no side panels. In addition, the chimney will reflect light laterally and upward making it not Dark Skies compliant. Martin will approve fixtures without the chimneys as submitted, unless directed otherwise by the board.

d. Sunken Vessel Update – Next court date November 26, 2018

10. New Business

a. Pole Permits: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to grant the pole permits for Cushman Point Road and Bradford Road. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Maine Yankee Covenant Amendment-Request for Consent: Anderson said counsel had recommended signing the consent. Kim Andersson asked for more time to review the amendment, as it asks to eliminate soil testing since further monitoring of the water is unnecessary. She asked that further explanation be sought before signing the agreement. The amendment request will be on the next agenda.

c. Sherri Dunbar – Gazebo on the Common: Dunbar said the platform stage on the common needs replacement and a permanent gazebo on the same footprint has been suggested which could provide lighting and protection from rain. She said seed money has been secured and she will seek approval of the Historic Preservation Commission. She said she needed the board's approval to start work on the idea so that it would be ready for the 2019 concert season. **Bob Blagden moved to allow a gazebo on the common. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Huntoon Hill Grange blanket approval to operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for the year 2019 (required yearly by Maine State Police): **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the blanket approval request of Huntoon Hill Grange to operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Resignation of Wendy Donavan from the Historic Preservation Commission: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to accept the resignation of Wendy Donavan from the Historic Preservation Commission with regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. MDOT Resurfacing Project: MDOT notified the board that bids will be advertised for a resurfacing project on Route 1 in 2020.

g. Central Maine Power-New England Clean Energy Connect: See memos. Kathy Martin-Savage said that Doug Bastion of Alna has registered with the PUC as an intervenor so that all information will be sent to him. A representative from CMP will meet with the board in December.

h. Quit Claim Deeds: Kenneth and Gisele Cinq-Mars (Map R06, Lot 007-C): **Kim Andersson moved to grant the quit claim deed as presented. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Winter Parking Ban effective November 15, 2018-April 15, 2018 (signs posted)

- b. Restroom project downtown: Anderson said that the DEP has inspected the site and pipes will be placed in the railroad right-of-way.
- c. A joint meeting with the School Board will be scheduled.
- d. Peter Murray has asked if the board will be using his services the next fiscal year on the Maine Yankee agreement, and if so, he will get cost estimates from his consultants. Marian Anderson will have him provide cost estimates.

12. Other Board Business

a. Assessors Abatement: Nicholas Hinkley (Map R05 Lot 037-E-ON), \$14.06; Stacy Biddle and Miles Brewer (Map 05 Lot 037-EI), \$106.60, Robert Greenleaf and Carrie Prive (Map R07 Lot 39-017) \$689.77. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the abatements for Nicholas Hinkley for \$14.06, Stacy Biddle and Miles Brewer for \$106.60, and Robert Greenleaf and Carrie Prive for \$689.77. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Ben Rines, Jr., submitted his Freedom of Access Training document. He asked about the sign on Pleasant Street directing traffic around the island, which Anderson said would be replaced. In response to a further question, Anderson said the junkyard permit issue was resolved; there was a natural buffer and some of the cars will be removed. In response to Rines' question, Anderson said a request from David Soule's law office for an easement to put a water line under the town parking lot behind Treat's had been sent to counsel.

In response to Bob Blagden's question, Anderson said the town was keeping track of the damage to the signs in the vicinity of the telephone booth for replacement purposes.

Anderson said the parking lot will be striped.

Judy Flanagan said George Flanders would be happy that a gazebo will be back on the common.

Executive Session to consider a Poverty Abatement Application: At 8:22 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to the provisions of Title 36 §841(2) MRSA, to consider request for abatement of taxes for reason of poverty. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to approve poverty abatement #2. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.