

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JANUARY 8, 2019

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 December 21 and 29, 2018 and January 4, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of December 26, 2018; January 2 and 8, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

After a discussion about the location on the agenda of a letter to the chair, Kim Andersson stated for the record that she did not believe the letter to the chair should have been under Other Board Business rather than Public Comment. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes as written. Vote 4-1-0. (Andersson opposed).**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the appointments of Debra Pooler and Lester Morse to the Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Steve Christiansen corrected a statement he made at the previous meeting on the parking issue: he said the sign at the parking lot read 8 hours, not 2 hours. He added that his statements made at the Select Board meetings were as a private citizen, not as a representative of the Public Works Department. He asked about the status of the sunken boat and was advised that the case will be brought up on January 14 for disposition.

Kim Dolce asked that minutes and agendas of the various committees on the Town's website be brought up to date and the meetings be on line. She suggested that perhaps a high school student could assist as part of community service.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair – none

9. Unfinished Business

a. Comp plan update next steps. Maryellen Barnes, Lincoln County Planning, suggested that the update begin with a small group to review the 2008 Comp Plan and highlight data, assessments and maps that need to be updated, and see how the Town has implemented actions in the plan. Marian Anderson said she had sent letters to members of the previous Comp Plan Committee and it was suggested the downtown businesses and Chamber of Commerce be included. Barnes will send information on the purpose of the committee to the Town Manager.

b. Delinquent Property Tax – memo from Phil Saucier, Bernstein Shur: Anderson said the letter had provided answers to the board’s questions and that after reviewing the Town’s policy, Saucier would make recommendations.

c. Boardwalk Project – Deed Information: In response to the board’s questions on the ownership of the land over which the boardwalk would extend, deeds had been included in the board’s packet. The deeds showed that except for the Haggett property which extends to the low water mark and the Le Garage property which extends to the river, the Town owns the property between the railroad tracks and the water where the boardwalk would be built. The information will be given to the Waterfront Committee for its deliberation.

d. Schedule Workshop date to update Tax Acquired Property Policy: The board discussed the need for a workshop and possible dates. The purpose of the workshop would be to discuss the use of the land installment contracts, and the disposition of tax-acquired properties. Treasurer Vernice Boyce said that 30-day notices would be sent out soon and it would be advisable to wait until the 30 days had expired before scheduling a workshop. Items to be discussed at the workshop include the direction of the town regarding foreclosures, whether the board has sufficient information (i.e. number of children, owner-occupied, retired, making payments, etc.) to make decisions on foreclosures, whether to sell the property if there is no response to the 30-day notice by February 11, or not to sell the property if the town is interested in keeping the property. Boyce said that after the property is foreclosed, the Town cannot accept payments without an installment contract. Homestead exemptions will be removed for out of town owners whose property is being foreclosed. Nothing will be done on the foreclosed properties until after the workshop, which will be held on Wednesday, February 13, at 5 p.m.

e. 2019 Fireworks Display Agreement: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the 2019 Fireworks Display Contract with Central Maine Pyrotechnics. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

a. Sewer Abatement Application-Donna Morris for \$440: Marian Anderson said the Board’s policy requires abatements must be applied for within 30 days of billing. Morris had paid the water bill but not the sewer bill and the time for applying for an abatement had passed. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved that the board not approve the abatement. Vote 5-0-0.** Anderson said that sewer meters are available upon request.

b. Quit Claim Deeds – Robert and Misty Gagnon (Map R07, Lot 024 & Map R07, Lot 025B): **Judy Colby moved to issue the Quit Claim Deeds to Robert and Misty Gagnon. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Discussion School Fund Balance – see memo: Marian Anderson said she, Vernice Boyce and Kim Andersson had met at the school with the superintendent regarding the school’s fund balance. Vernice Boyce had summarized the status of the fund balance: the school’s undesignated fund balance was \$1,052,637 and by statute the schools may have only 3% (\$288,932) of the prior year’s budget of \$9,031,063. The excess (\$763,705) will require a town vote to use. The extra funds were due to receiving more tuition revenue than was budgeted. Kathy Martin-Savage thanked Vernice Boyce for her work with the school on the budget.

d. Pole Permit – 322 Willow Lane: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the pole permit at 322 Willow Lane. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager’s Report

Anderson reported a donation of \$100 to EMS from Myles L. Mace.

Correspondence: Thank you letters from New Hope for Women, Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine and Healthy Kids had been received as well as a letter from Kim Dolce regarding parking for downtown residents during the winter and the informal parking plan that is in place.

Downtown parking lot problems and the current parking ordinance were discussed. Steve Christiansen said the signs were not consistent and the use of the parking lots was being abused. Chief Hesseltine said he and the Public Works department could work on the problem and he would review the parking ordinance. Permit parking was suggested. Jim Kochan stressed the need for a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing will be advertised in the newspapers and flyers will be put on the windshields of the cars parked in the lots. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to hold the next Select Board meeting and public hearing on parking on January 22, 2019 at 6 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Broadband Survey online: Maryellen Barnes said that Wiscasset, Edgecomb, Somerville, Westport Island, Dresden, Whitefield and Jefferson had joined in a ConnectME community Broad band Planning Project committee to plan and implement solutions to improve internet connectivity in the seven Lincoln County communities. Online surveys and printed copies are being distributed and the Wiscasset committee will be meeting with key employers. Carla Dickstein spoke on the need in the next few years for broadband and fiber that would be essential for Wiscasset and particularly for companies such as Peregrine Turbine Technology.

d. Rescue Firetruck update-Chief T. J. Merry reports as of 12/31/2018 the truck is still in Bangor and it will be a few more weeks before it is diagnosed.

12. Other Board Business

Marian Anderson read her letter of resignation as Town Manager effective as of February 8, 2019. She thanked Judy Colby for her leadership and support. Judy Colby thanked Anderson **and moved to accept the resignation with deep regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

In response to Bob Blagden’s question, Anderson said the repair of the retaining wall at the new parking lot on Railroad Avenue will be done by Pike Industries.

Judy Colby asked and received permission from the board to contact Don Gerrish for assistance in finding an interim town manager.

13. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.