

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Present: Kim Andersson, Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., and Interim Town Manager John O'Connell

Call to Order

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order and introduced John O'Connell. **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to appoint John O'Connell as the Interim Town Manager. Vote 5-0-0.**

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of January 25, and February 1, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of January 29 and February 5, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of January 22, 2019 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

Kim Andersson asked that notification be sent out when items are removed from the agenda.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the committee appointments of Frank Sprague to the Waterfront Committee and Peter McRae to the Planning Board. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Cheryl Rust thanked the Public Works crew for their excellent job in shoveling and plowing sidewalks and streets.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Parks and Recreation Director – 4th of July Discussion: Lisa Thompson said that in recent years the 4th of July activities had been lacking in the organization needed to continue to be a successfully event. She had had a hard time finding volunteers for last year's July 4th parade, and because it was unclear who chose the Grand Marshal, none was chosen. She said up until 2014, the Administration Department was

in charge of the 4th of July events. She proposed that a 4th of July Committee be appointed from all departments to organize the event and find volunteers as was done for years beginning in the 1980s. John O'Donnell will advertise for committee members.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Department of Environmental Protection Permit Approval: The Town has received approval from the Department of Environmental Protection to install water supply and wastewater lines adjacent to the coastal wetland in order to install permanent restroom facilities at the Main Street pier. The board discussed the cost of installation and maintenance. Judy Colby recommended not proceeding with the plans until the downtown project was completed. Complaints about the port-a-potties were brought up as well as the cost. Jim Kochan recommended that the fees paid by the vendors on the pier be raised and Judy Colby asked that the fee schedule be on the next agenda. Information on fees from comparable towns will be obtained. Judy Colby said that the board would look at the numbers for the restroom facilities and costs would be taken to the voters for approval.

10. New Business

a. LincolnHealth Presentation – Jim Donovan: Donovan provided an overview of Lincoln Health issues and described the facilities in Boothbay Harbor and Damariscotta providing in- and out-patient as well as continuing care. The slide presentation included illustrations of reimbursement sources and affiliation with medical schools. LincolnHealth is the largest health system in northern New England and financially the third strongest in New England after Boston and New Haven, Ct.

b. Animal Control Survey: The board was provided with the 2018 Animal Control Survey for Wiscasset provided by the Sheriff's Department.

c. Maine Service Centers Coalition – Appointment of voting Delegate/Alternate: The board decided not to participate. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to not join the coalition. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Letter of Intent – Groundwater Discharge to Municipal Sewer System by former Mason Station Powerhouse Building: Ransom Consulting, Inc., is working with the owners of the Mason Station Powerhouse Building on remediation efforts which include the disposal of rain water/groundwater that has accumulated in the structure and has been impacted by the electrical transformer release. Ransom has asked the town for permission to discharge the water into the municipal sewer system, no more than 4,800 gallons per day over a two- or three-day period. Because of concerns by the board, **Judy Colby moved to deny the release of 4,800 gallons per day over a two- or three-day period. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Sewer Lien Foreclosures: Treasurer Vernice Boyce said that the five sewer lien foreclosures had taken place and the Town now owns the property. These properties will be put on the list of items to be discussed at the February 13 meeting. The board discussed at great length the purpose of the February 13 meeting which was to discuss all foreclosed properties and to determine what action the board should take: to put the property up for sale, to keep the property for future Town use, or to determine what other action should be taken.

f. 2019 Spirit of America Consideration: The chair asked that board members submit names of persons to be nominated for the award.

g. Communications: Letters had been received from Charter Communications regarding TV surcharge increase and change in services effective February 15.

h. Quit Claim Deeds

- Scot and Wendy Connors, Map R02 Lot 017A
- Scott and Wendy Connors, Map R01 Lot 035C
- Mabel McAfee. Map R04 Lot 001

Judy Colby moved to approve the quit claims deeds listed. Vote 5-0-0.

11. Town Manager's Report

John O'Connell reported that Richard Gaeth had been appointed Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor and Dennis Simmons had been hired as EMS Director and will begin full time in March although he will work some days before that time when possible. He also reported that Doug Fowler had resigned. **Judy Colby moved to accept his resignation with deep regret. Vote 5-0-0.**

O'Connell said the budget is being finalized.

Dirk Anders from FEMA will in the office on Wednesday, February 6, with the final amounts from storm damage.

O'Connell said the Town has a draft for the final audit; the School Department has filed for an extension.

12. Other Board Business

a. Assessors Business

- Abatements: David Covey and Barry Lewis, Map R05, Lot 129-\$1,026.38: **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to approve the abatement for David Covey and Barry Lewis in the amount of \$1,026.38 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery G. Bane. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Supplemental: Nouria Energy Wiscasset, LLC, Map U17 Lot 004-B for \$2,969.71: **Ben Rines, Jr. moved to approve the supplemental for Nouria Energy Wiscasset, LLC, in the amount of \$2,969.71 as recommended by Assessors Agent Ellery G. Bane. Vote 5-0-0.**

At 7:35 p.m. **Judy Colby moved to enter executive session pursuant to MRSA §405 (6) (A) to discuss personnel matters. Vote 5-0-0.**

13. Adjournment

The Board exited executive session and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.