

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 17, 2020

Preliminary Minutes

Present: Kim Andersson, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Town Manager John O'Connell

Absent: Chair Judy Colby

Vice-chair Ben Rines, Jr., called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Town Manager John O'Connell presented an update on the precautionary measures being taken by the Town including the closure of schools and recreation center. The town office will have reduced hours and restricted areas to reduce contact with the public. Notice of the changes, closures, etc. have been given to the newspapers and are on the town's website.

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take Item 8 out of order. Vote 4-0-0.

8. Department head or committee chair

a. EMS Director Dennis Simmons-proposed Dresden and Westport Island contracts: Simmons discussed with the board the current ambulance contracts with Dresden and Westport Island, the actual costs and recommended contract for both towns whose current contracts expire this year. **Jeff Slack moved to present the proposed contracts to Dresden and Westport Island. Vote 4-0-0.** There was discussion of the disposition of the current contract.

b. Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Mullins – Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC): Mullins said he had spoken to the ORC regarding adopting a building code for Wiscasset that would allow him to approve or deny certificates of occupancy for residential buildings based upon the building code. Wiscasset currently has no building code. Towns with populations over 4,000 must adopt the MUBEC. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve adding to the warrant the adoption of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and approval of Certificates of Occupancy for new residential buildings. Vote 4-0-0.**

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to take 10c out of order. Vote 4-0-0.

10. New Business

c. Used ladder truck – Fire Chief Robert Bickford: Bob Bickford said the oldest truck in the department is now 31 years old and maintenance costs have been increasing. He has been offered the opportunity to purchase from Cape Elizabeth a 100-foot 1993 ladder truck without a water tank which would be less likely to fail than the current truck. The 1993 truck was refurbished seven years ago, cleaned and painted, and updated efficiency lighting was installed. The asking price is \$30,000 and the truck should last seven to ten years. Tools, radio and other equipment would be included. The truck is available immediately and is certified and ready to go. In response to a question, Bickford said that in addition to

reaching up to buildings, the ladder also has a horizontal reach ability. The current truck could be sold for possibly \$5,000. The purchase of the truck will be on the warrant in June.

e. Wastewater Treatment Plant -Sewer Agreement for breweries: Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager Rob Lalli asked the board's permission to use a form titled "Town of Wiscasset Sewer System Conditional Discharge Agreement" for commercial establishments such as breweries. Because there is the possibility of two breweries being operational before an ordinance change regulating breweries could be enacted, Lalli asked for approval of the agreement as a stop-gap measure. The form has been reviewed by Jim Crowley, DEP. Lalli said the ordinances are insufficient to address discharges which may be harmful to the WWTP. Al Cohen, a member of the Ordinance Review Committee and Planning Board, said there was a suggestion at the ORC meeting that a signature line for the WWTP manager be added to the Business Permit application and that the requested agreement be signed before Planning Board approval was given. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the Town of Wiscasset Sewer System Conditional Discharge Agreement. Vote 4-0-0.**

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to accept the payroll warrants of March 6 and 13, 2020. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 10 and 17, 2020. Vote 4-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of March 3, 2020. Vote 4-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

a. Legislative Sentiment: Ben Rines, Jr., said letters had been received from State Senator Dana Dow and State Representative Jeffrey Hanley congratulating the Family Holiday Wishes Committee on their Spirit of America Foundation Award.

b. Chief Lawrence Hesseltine – Office recognition: Postponed

5. Committee Appointments

a. **Jeff Slack moved to appoint Colleen Gilliam to the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Vote 4-0-0.**

6. Public Hearing

a. 2020 License for the Sale of Consumer Fireworks – Postponed

7. Public Comment

Susan Robson asked if the Creamery railroad car had the board's blessing to return to the pier. There was no objection.

Don Davis, 21 Middle Street, said he had been cited by the Code Enforcement Officer because a flag (with lettering) he was flying on his property was an illegal flag. He had met with the Historic Preservation Committee who said it had no jurisdiction in the matter. He had met with the Ordinance Review Committee and was told the ORC didn't have the authorization to change the wording of the sign ordinance. Therefore, he was asking the selectboard to address the issue. Ben Rines, Jr., recommended that the matter be referred to the Appeals Board. Kathy Martin-Savage said the matter should be referred to the ORC with a recommendation. Kim Andersson said a temporary political sign is allowed and asked if that clause would apply. John O'Connell said with the moratorium on meetings, it was doubtful a change could be made and approved before the June warrant. CEO Bruce Mullins said that political signs are governed by the State. Davis said he would send a letter to the Appeals Board. In response to Slack's question regarding meeting by phone or email, O'Connell said the legislature is working on methods for meetings to be held remotely.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Ordinance Review Committee suggested revisions for June warrant
- Glossary
 - Article II Business Laws
 - Article VII subdivision

Ben Rines, Jr., moved, on the recommendation of the Ordinance Review Committee, to place the Glossary, Article II Building Laws, and Article VII Subdivision on the June warrant. Vote 4-0-0.

10. New Business

a. Request to Use Town Property -First Congregational Church- The church requested use of the pier for an Easter Sunrise Service in conjunction with St. Philip's Episcopal Church on April 12 and use of the common for an Easter Egg hunt on the same day from 11 a.m. to noon.. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to grant the request of the First Congregational Church to use the pier and the common on Easter. Vote 4-0-0.**

b. Monthly Financials

c. Used ladder truck – see above

d. Request for tax payment deadline extension-Gordon James, 524 Gardiner Road. The Town Manager recommended not granting the request. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to deny the request. Vote 4-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Coronavirus – available information: O'Connell said that some business will have to be taken care of and he hoped the legislature and the governor will come up with a solution regarding meetings.

b. Budget Update – The Budget Committee meeting will be held on Thursday and will be televised.

c. Town Manager Search Update – No interviews are being scheduled.

d. County Tax Assessment – This year's tax assessment is \$654,247.28; last year's was \$624,975.37.

e. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding – The Town has been informed by Senator Susan Collins that no decision has been made on the decision related to the closing of the nuclear power plant

f. Ordinance Review Committee recommendations – The recommendations have been acted upon.

12 Assessor's Business

a. Personal Property Abatement (Current year)

- Steele's Landscaping, Inc., Acct. #130 for \$85.57: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the Personal Property tax abatement for Steele's Landscaping in the amount of \$85.57 as recommended by the Assessors' Agent Ellery G. Bane. Vote 4-0-0.**

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b. Personal Property Abatement (2016-2018): **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the Personal Property tax abatement for Steele's Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$245.19. Vote 4-0-0.**

13. Other Board Business

It was announced that a petition to repeal the Historic Preservation Ordinance had been turned into the office.

14. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.