

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 12, 2019

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

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Ben Rines, Jr., moved that at the end of the meeting the selectmen adjourn the meeting in memory of David Nichols and express the board's condolences to his family. Vote 5-0-0.

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of February 22 and March 1 and 8, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of February 26, March 5 and 12, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2019

a. Ben Rines, Jr., questioned the minutes relative to his vote at the previous meeting on the motion to give John O'Connell the authority to meet with Doug Baston and to authorize him to make the decision whether to join with Alna on PUC funding from CMP. A transcription of that part of the meeting will be provided at the next meeting. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to table the minutes. Vote 5-0-0.** Ben Rines, Jr., stated that he regrets taking the vote regarding John O'Connell's meeting with Doug Baston.

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

- a. Anne Leslie, Conservation Committee
- b. Richard E. Litz, Board of Appeals

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the appointments as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings

a. Liquor Licenses

- Carla Chapman, DBA The Cubby Hole
- Tony Bickford, DBA Little Village Bistro

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to open the public hearing. Vote 5-0-0. There was no discussion. No problems have been reported by the Police Chief or the CEO. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to close the public hearing.**

Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the Liquor License applications of Carla Chapman, DBA The Cubby Hole; and Tony Bickford, DBA Little Village Bistro. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Public Comment

Richard Forrest thanked the town for allowing the sloop Providence to anchor at the dock while repairs were being made. The repair employed boat builders, mechanics, welders, and machinists and provided \$100,000 of business to the area. The Providence will leave for its home port in Alexandria, Virginia in April.

Bill Maloney said he was cancelling his petition for a Community Development Specialist because it was not the right time due to the town's current financial situation. He said the town needs a part time planner, but it will be possible to work with the Lincoln County planner. That may require some reimbursement but there will be no cost for insurance and retirement. He volunteered to work with Maryellen Barnes on his proposal.

Kim Dolce said she knew of people who would have liked to attend the March 11 public hearing on the Dollar General store but were unaware that it was taking place. She said when the original newspaper articles on the Dollar General store appeared there were many negative comments. She asked if notices of public hearings could be posted in the post office, on Facebook and on the town website in addition to the notices currently appearing in the newspapers. She added that Dollar General could run Mom and Pop stores out of business, could take business away from Shaw's. Kathy Martin-Savage said that in today's world, there are not enough people around to invest and put in something different in that location. The town will get revenue from Dollar General taxes, which is on the plus side. Judy Colby said the town had tried to attract other businesses without success.

Dennis Simmons, the recently hired Ambulance Director, introduced himself and said everyone was welcome to visit him at the ambulance department. Judy Colby welcomed him to Wiscasset.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

9. Unfinished Business

a. Budget Workshop Schedule: John O'Connell said the draft of the budget was almost final and the board would adopt the budget warrant on April 2. A meeting with the Budget Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 at 6 p.m.

b. Clean-up Grant RFP: The RFP has been reviewed, small typos have been corrected and minor changes made. The RFP will be on the March 19 agenda for a vote to approve the \$400,000 grant.

c. CMP Corridor Update – John Carroll, CMP: Carroll said CMP is making progress in public reviews and a PUC decision will be made in two to three weeks. He listed the market and environmental benefits of the proposal: lower future electricity costs, lower future natural gas costs and consumption, general resource replacement and diversification, reduction of regional CO2 emissions and growth in employment and Maine's GDP spurred by lower energy costs for business and consumers. Project development benefits are increased direct, indirect and induced local employment; increased construction-related spending; increased local property taxes; expanded fiber optic access in rural areas; and expanded snowmobile and recreational trail opportunities. Carroll explained the Settlement

Agreement which will provide rate-payer relief, community benefits, technology and policy, and additional infrastructure and environmental benefits.

In response to Kathy Martin-Savage's question, Carroll said the excess fiber optic capacity used for the project will provide broadband to communities through Maine up to Montreal.

In response to Ben Rines, Jr.'s question, Carroll described the process for intervenors, which could be large agencies, communities or individuals. He said the \$262 million would come from CMP or Massachusetts or Hydro-Quebec, none from the residents of Maine.

In response to Kim Andersson's question, Carroll said that the part of the project which will go through Wiscasset will be reviewed as a land use.

Marty Fox of Wiscasset, Elizabeth Hamilton of Brunswick, Steve McCarthy of Rome and others spoke against the plan.

10. New Business

a. Sewer Abatement application – Roland P. Lacombe (Monkey C, Monkey Do, 698 Bath Road: LaCombe applied for an abatement because although the water had been turned off, he had received a bill of \$2,802.72. The matter was tabled until the March 19 meeting.

b. Browntail Moth Survey – State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: for information only. Kim Andersson asked that information will be posted in the office and on the town website.

c. Quit Claim Deed

•Joe S. Rodrigues, Map U11, Lot 013: **Judy Colby moved to approve the quit claim deed. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Termination of Use Agreement with Lincoln County Fire Chiefs' Association: No action was necessary, although it will impact the Fire Department budget.

e. C & C Realty Management, LLC – Request for Tax Exempt Status: Jessica Stover, representing C&C Realty Management requested that Wiscasset exempt Deer Ridge Farm from real estate and personal property taxes. She said Deer Ridge is federally subsidized residential rental housing which is owned by a nonprofit housing corporation. Judy Colby said the matter was in the hands of the attorney and she would notify C&C when an opinion has been received.

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Demolition of 56 Hodge Street: O'Connell said that a Certification of Appropriateness had been received and the building was demolished.

b. Update on Avigation Easement: A conference has been scheduled for March 19.

c. Update on 4th of July Committee: O'Connell said he had four volunteers for the committee: Corey Richards, Susan Robson, Josh Turner and Judy Flanagan.

d. Wastewater Treatment Plant: The manager of the Wastewater Treatment Plant said of the four pumps, one had been replaced and the other three needed replacing. He said there was \$70,000 in the impact account, and \$14,000 was needed for the pumps. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to authorize the expenditure. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Assessors Business

a. Tax Collector Recommended Abatements:

Scott Connors, Map R01, Lot 035-CO2, \$1,391.25 (2013-2017)
Sam Patterson, Map R07, Lot 039-19 \$281.03 (2016-2017)
Gilbert Rines, Map R05, Lot 051-A2, \$651.31 (2010-2017)
Carroll Jones, Map R03, Lot 054-003-001, \$666.97 (2016-2017)

Bob Blagden moved to approve the abatements of Scott Connors, Map R01, Lot 035-CO2, \$1,391.25 (2013-2017); Sam Patterson, Map R07, Lot 039-19 \$281.03 (2016-2017) Gilbert Rines, Map R05, Lot 051-A2, \$651.31 (2010-2017); Carroll Jones, Map R03, Lot 054-003-001, \$666.97 (2016-2017). Vote 5-0-0.

b. Assessors' Agent Recommended Abatements

Carroll M. Jones, Map R03, Lot 43-2-, \$347.99
Dennis Gauthier, Map R04, Lot 11-C, \$152.49
Scott Connors, Map R01, Lot 035-CO2, \$318.67
Gilbert Rines, Map R05, Lot 51-A2, \$98.80

The abatements were tabled.

13. Other Board Business

Bob Blagden asked why there were Private Property signs on Chewonki Neck Road without town authority. He also asked why the airport was using the Recreation Department truck which was declared unsafe. He said the town should be reimbursed for the damage to the brick sign in front of the Town Office. Damage to the sidewalk by the State should be repaired by the State. O'Connell said damaged signs downtown are being replaced. In response to a question about the parking lot on Railroad Avenue, Colby said the DOT will fix the wall.

Kim Dolce asked that the signage on Railroad Avenue be lowered as it is too high to be in the line of sight of drivers.

There was no executive session. The Public Works Director position will be offered to Ted Snowdon at a lower rate than the previous employee's rate and adjusted if appropriate after six months. Discussion regarding combining the Public Works Director and the Transfer Station Manager will be held during budget talks.

14. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Vote 5-0-0

