

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX COLLECTORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JUNE 4, 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

Kathy Martin-Savage asked to dedicate the meeting to Bob Blagden whose term on the board is ending. She thanked him for his service to the board and the town and presented him with a gift and flowers for Mrs. Blagden. Judy Colby also thanked him for his service and said he would be missed; Ben Rines, Jr. said it was a pleasure working with him.

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of May 24 and 31, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of May 28 and June 4, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2019 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations and Awards – none

5. Committee Appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the appointment of Phil DiVece to the Historic Preservation Commission. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Freda Gordon introduced her daughter Elizabeth, a high school student, who spoke on the benefits of the Girl Scout program to the scouts and to the town. She asked that the Scout Hall not be closed.

Michelle Blagden, a Girl Scout leader for eight years of 6th and 7th grade girls, who spoke on the advantages of the scout program and listed the many activities of the scouts which benefit the town and needy families at Christmas. She said the scouts clean up the trash downtown, visit nursing homes at Christmas and donate to the animal shelter. She also asked that the Scout Hall not be closed.

Harbormaster Ray Soule said there are seven moorings at the dump site which could be sold individually for from \$250 to \$400. The matter will be on the next agenda.

8. Assessors' Business – Ellery Bane, Assessors' Agent

a. Bane said that six lots which had been foreclosed by the town had been sold by the previous owner. A title search revealed that the new owners did not actually own the properties which were under foreclosure. The properties were assessed, and bills were sent in error to the new owners. Bane asked approval for abatements for these properties. **Judy Colby moved to approve the following abatements recommended by Assessors' Agent Ellery Bane:**

- **Mathew A. Harkins, Map R01, Lot 37-D \$930.58 (2018 tax)**
- **Ronald Gonyou, Jr., Map R01, Lot 37-D, \$771.04 (2017 tax)**
- **Ronald Gonyou, Jr., Map R01, Lot 37-D, \$769.99 (2016 tax)**
- **Ronald Gonyou, Jr., Map R01, Lot 37-F, \$1,096.76 (2018 tax)**
- **Ronald Gonyou, Jr., Map R01, Lot 37-F, \$1,174.38 (2017 tax)**
- **Ronald Gonyou, Jr., Map R01, Lot 37-F, \$368.59 (2016 tax)**

Vote 5-0-0.

b. Supplementals: **Bob Blagden moved to approve the following tax supplementals as recommended by Assessors' Agent Ellery Bane:**

- **Mathew A. Harkins, Map R01, Lot 37-D, \$803.51 (2018)**
- **Mathew A. Harkins, Map R01, Lot 37-D, \$771.04 (2017)**
- **Mathew A. Harkins, Map R01, Lot 37-D, \$769.99 (2016)**

Vote 5-0-0.

9. Department Head or Committee Chair:

a. Code Enforcement Officer, Bruce Mullins - Albert and Starr Pinkham-Request for extension for compliance: Mullins said the Pinkhams have several unregistered vehicles on their property without an Automobile Junkyard/Graveyard permit. A notice to bring the property into compliance by May 17, 2019 was sent, and the Pinkhams have asked for an extension because Mr. Pinkham was in the hospital and unable to comply. Mullins said the problem has been going on for years. Ben Rines, Jr. said that 19 years ago, the Pinkhams' violation was turned over to an attorney and they were subsequently found in violation of a court order. After discussion, **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to instruct the Town Manager to have the Town Attorney do whatever is necessary to bring the property into compliance. Vote 3-1-1** (Martin-Savage opposed; Blagden abstained). O'Connell said he would contact the attorney for legal advice and the DEP for any possible assistance and will report back to the board.

b. Public Works Director Ted Snowden – Scout Hall Update: Snowden said the problems at the Scout Hall have been corrected. The Girl Scouts use the upstairs currently, the Boy Scouts in the past have used the downstairs; however, there are no Boy Scouts using the hall now. There were questions regarding who notifies the Town that the hall is being used, who gets permission to use the hall, who has keys, and who is covered on insurance. Kim Andersson asked that an inventory of all Town-owned buildings and the use of each be made. Kim Dolce presented a letter to the board from Wendy Donovan who summarized the use of the Scout Hall by many groups in the Midcoast and its value to the various troops for spa days, babysitting classes, Gold and Silver award training as well as meetings and its use by adults for leadership training, and first aid courses.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Fourth of July Parade Update – Kim Andersson: The theme for the parade will be Yankee Doodle Dandy. There will be the same parade categories as last year with ribbons for first, second and third prizes. This year there will be three cash prizes for the overall best entries – First -\$100, second - \$75 and third - \$50. If funds cannot come out of the events category, there will be fund raisers. Names for the grand marshal were discussed. Breakfast at the Fire Department at 6 a.m. is being discussed and Andersson asked that the Chief of Police and the Town Manager clear the parade route with MDOT. Ben Rines, Jr., said the ultimate choice of the grand marshal is the board's. Wiscasset Ford will be contacted for a convertible for the grand marshal.

b. Tax Acquired Property Update-Vernice Boyce: The Treasurer provided the board with a list of five tax acquired properties with her recommendation on their disposition:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
2066	Adams, Shannon	Mobile home	\$11,400	Put out to bid
2621	Wahlstrom, Gage	Mobile home	9,800	Put out to bid
2055	Dutton, David	Mobile home	36,500	Deceased, leave until Mother's place fore-closes in March 2020
727	Jones, Susan	House and .77 acres	123,500	Realtor (taxpayer in Nursing home)
117	Powell Colleen	shed and 2.42 acres	29,000	List with realtor

Boyce provided a brief history of each account. The board was in favor of the recommendation on account's 2066, 2621 and 117. She said the mobile home (Account 2055) was on property which will foreclose in March 2020 and in addition there is a reverse mortgage on the mother's property. Boyce recommended that this account be referred to an attorney. Account 727 will also be referred to an attorney because house is occupied by squatters not on the deed.

c. Audit Update – Fred Brewer: Brewer said cash on hand the previous year (2017) was \$1.7 million and in 2018 \$1.2 million. The accounts receivable were \$1.3 million and taxes due \$1.4 million. He said the total cash expenses are approximately \$14 million and there is only one month of cash on hand. He summarized the fund balance - restricted \$1,437,721.55; assigned \$75,293.92; unassigned \$333,632.12. He asked that the representation letter be signed acknowledging receipt of the information. Judy Colby asked when the current audit would be ready, and Boyce said the town side of the audit will be completed before commitment. **Judy Colby moved that O'Connell sign the letter. Vote 5-0-0.** In response to a question on the fund balance, Brewer said two months would be recommended.

d. Hesper and Luther Little Project update – Bill Gemmill: Gemmill said \$625 had been raised for the permanent display of the Hesper artifacts now at the landfill; \$2,000 is needed and has been pledged. There are two wooden pieces 18 feet long and cast-iron davits, bollards and cleats. The site selected will be the side of the harbor master's shed facing the yacht club and the artifacts will be in a wooden case. The Maine State Prison workshop will construct the display case, the Town of Wiscasset will transport the iron pieces to Machinery Services for sandblasting. The sandblasting will be free, only the cost of the sand will be needed. He asked the board for use of Town personnel, truck and two trailers to move the wooden pieces to the Maine State Prison and to move the iron pieces to Ken Boudin. **Kim Andersson moved to authorize the town to move the cast iron pieces to the Maine State Prison and**

the wooden pieces to the sandblaster and reimburse the sandblaster for the cost of the sand. Susan Blagden asked that the Historic Preservation Commission review the project before approval. Kim Andersson asked that the Waterfront Committee also review the plans. Gemmill said the project will create more reason to come to town. Judy Colby said that she would like to see the MDOT project completed and then make plans for the waterfront. The Certificate of Appropriateness will be necessary as well as determining the cost of the sand. The sandblasting and transporting can be done while waiting for the MDOT completion of the Route 1 project. **Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Sewer Rate Increase – Set effective date: O’Connell said that the billing dates are staggered with three-month bills sent out in three consecutive months. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to set the date of July 1, 2019 for the increase of books 1, 2 and 3. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved effective June 5 to increase the camper fees to \$25, and the septage fee to 15¢. Vote 4-1-0** (Andersson opposed)

11. New Business

a. New Business Licenses

- Laura Bryer, DBA Coastal Clean by Laura B
- Jessica Deshiro and Gabe McCoy, DBA Mammy’s Bakery
- Carolyn Adams, DBA Stage Left Photography
- Lincoln County Dental, LLC

Kim Andersson asked what the procedure was regarding business licenses, as one of the businesses is already open. John O’Connell said he is working on a cover sheet for the process of applying for a business license including all approvals needed. Bob Blagden said the town was remiss in checking on taxes paid before issuing the license. Kim Dolce volunteered to help with designing a form. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the business licenses. Vote 5-0-0.** In response to a question from Dick McLane, O’Connell said a copy of his application with date of approval will be available from the office.

b. Scholarship expenditure approval for 2019 General John and Mrs. Jeannette French scholarship and the 2019 Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to expend \$500 from the Lawrence B. Haggett Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$1,000 from the General John and Mrs. Jeannette French Scholarship to two Wiscasset High School students who meet the scholarship’s criteria. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Quit Claim Deeds:

- Eddy, LLC, Map U11, Lot 001C
- Travis Whitney, Map R07, Lot 0039-014
- Kenneth Chapman, Map U18, Lot 005D
- Samuel and Ruth Leighton, Map U07, Lot 0039-009

Judy Colby moved to approve the above quit claim deeds. Vote 5-0-0

d. Sewer Abatement Request – Samuel Patterson: The abatement request was not received in the specified time for an abatement. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to deny the abatement. Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Review of Waterfront Pier Policy: O’Connell has begun reviewing the policy and has recognized some changes that need to be made such as application dates, safety concerns, parking, and he recommended that the policy changes be made in the fall. He will be discussing safety concerns, signs, etc. with the

Waterfront Committee. He suggested that if the committee does not want a vendor to return, notification should be made at the end of the season rather than after an application is received in the spring. Susan Robson said the committee is beginning next week on a draft of the pier policy and will have a draft for the Town Manager by November.

There was discussion regarding the Pier Beer application, which was received by the Select Board, although the vendor did not have a liquor license, and confusion over whether the Waterfront Committee had denied the application. Judy Colby said the Waterfront Committee had neither accepted or denied the application and the Select Board could not proceed without a liquor license. Jim Kochan said he had concerns about liquor at the pier, particularly when the food vendors will close by 8 p.m. and to serve beer after that time would be contrary to state law. He also had concerns about the nearby residents and their security. John O'Connell will talk with the applicant to clarify any misunderstanding. Ben Rines, Jr., said a public hearing on the liquor license will be required.

12. Town Manager's Report

a. Emergency repairs to Pump Station #9 and Scum Pump for Wastewater Treatment Plant. O'Connell said the repairs were authorized under the Policy allowing exemption from the bid process in emergency situations.

b. Brownfields Qualified Environmental Professional recommendation: O'Connell said after the interviews on May 15, he recommended Ransom Consulting Engineers be granted the contract for cleanup of the Mason Station Ash Ponds. He said the engineers were familiar with Mason Station and were less expensive. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to accept the proposal from Ransom Consulting Engineers for cleaning ash ponds at Mason Station.** O'Connell said there is a grant for \$400,000 and Ransom will help the town in obtaining further grants for the balance of the project. **Vote 5-0-0.**

c. MDOT Project Update: No report. The scheduled meeting was cancelled and was rescheduled for June 5.

d. Recycling Changes – see Flyer: O'Connell said because of the increase in tipping costs, recycling can reduce the costs from \$125/ton to \$75/ton by separating out recyclable items. The recyclables will go to the county and will avoid the tipping costs. The change will start as of July 1. In response to a question regarding an increase in county taxes if the recyclables are picked up by the county, O'Connell said it shouldn't cost more because the transportation costs wouldn't increase. **Judy Colby moved to authorize July 1, 2019 as the start date for the new recycling program.** Ben Rines, Jr., asked about the penalty of \$2 per bag, O'Connell said the charge would probably not take place for six months. Rines said the new rules will really slow down the process at the transfer station. **Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Marijuana Moratorium Expiration: to be addressed later.

f. O'Connell said after the June 11 election, the chairman will be appointed. He also said the office would close at noon on June 27 to close the fiscal year.

O'Connell said that Claudia Sortwell had asked that spaces on the pier be reserved for the farmers' market on the days when the market operates – Thursdays from 3 to 6. O'Connell will check whether she expects the town to put up cones reserving the spaces, or whether the vendors will put them up.

O'Connell said that respect for Town employees is lacking and he does not expect employees to put up with verbal or physical abuse. He said there is no reason employees should be targets and he expects employees to have a safe environment and respect. He will advise the board of any incidents that occur in the future.

An organizational meeting will be held on June 13 at 5 p.m.

13. Other Board Business

At 8:40 p.m., **Judy Colby** moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A). **Vote 5-0-0.**

At 8:50, **Ben Rines, Jr.**, moved to exit executive session. **Vote 5-0-0.** **Kathy Martin-Savage** moved to hire **John O'Connell** as permanent Town Manager for one year with an option for a second year. **Vote 5-0-0.**

John O'Connell thanked the board. Ben Rines, Jr., said he was glad John was on board and the Town was moving in the right direction.

14. Adjournment

At 9 p.m., **Ben Rines, Jr.**, moved to adjourn the meeting. **Vote 5-0-0.**