

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
AUGUST 20, 2019

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

5 p.m. Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations

At 5 p.m. **Judy Colby moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D). Vote 4-0-1. (Rines abstained). Kathy Martin-Savage moved to come out of executive session at 5:55 p.m. Vote 4-0-0. (Rines abstained)**

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 August 9 and 16, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of August 13 and 20, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or awards – none

5. Committee appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to appoint Kim Dolce to the Budget Committee. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Steve Christiansen referred to an article in the Lincoln County News regarding a sunken vessel in Wiscasset Harbor. The article quoted the District Attorney as saying that the taxpayers of Wiscasset are going to have to pay to have the 65-ton vessel removed from the harbor. Cost estimates run from \$80,000 to \$200,000. He said he did not feel comfortable learning that the taxpayers may have to foot the bill.

Kim Dolce said the State of Maine does not require insurance on vessels, but the Town should require insurance for mooring boats in the harbor. Judy Colby said the town does require insurance for mooring

boats in the harbor. She added that Dave Chabot, Maine Warden Service Customer Relations program, had indicated the program might be able to help with the removal of the boat..

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

- a. Department Head monthly reports (see submitted reports): Kim Andersson noted that the Fire Department had not submitted a report.

- b. Wiscasset EMS Director, Dennis Simmons – Dresden Contract: John O’Connell said according to the attorney, Dresden was liable for the uncollectibles. Dresden voters had approved the contract but may have not realized they were responsible for uncollectibles. Dennis Simmons said enforcing the contract regarding uncollectibles would result in a short-term gain, but not in the long term if Dresden does not renew the contract. He added that his expenses remained the same with or without the Dresden contract. Judy Colby recommended dealing with the uncollectibles at the end of the contract. Kim Andersson said the long-term gain would be greater than the short-term gain and recommended writing off the uncollectibles; however, the uncollectibles were not written off. The Treasurer was instructed to remove the receivables line item of \$6,900.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Sewer Abatement Request – Roland P. Lacombe (Monkey C Monkey Do, 698 Bath Road): Mr. Lacombe said an underground leak discovered in April resulted in a higher than normal water and sewer bill. He had paid the water bill, but because the water did not go through the sewer, he requested an abatement of the sewer charge. He submitted documentation showing the above average water use due to the leak. John O’Connell said there was no reason not to abate because the application was made in a timely manner. **Jeff Slack moved to reduce the sewer bill to 400 cubic Feet. Vote 5-0-0.**

- b. Set date and approve Special Town Meeting Warrant: John O’Connell said that the special town meeting would allow the overdraft to be approved by the voters. In response to Kim Dolce’s question, O’Connell said the total amount to be taken from the Undesignated Fund was \$11,502-78 and it was not necessary to break out the separate amounts. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to hold the special open town meeting on August 29 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building and that the board’s recommendation on the ballot was four in favor, one opposed (Andersson). Vote 4-1-0 (Andersson opposed)**

- c. Art Walk Food Vendor Licenses: Lucia Droby asked whether the permit process for the food trucks in town for the art walk could be streamlined. It was decided that at the beginning of the season the selectmen would vote on business licenses for a master list of potential vendors including liability and insurance coverage, and before each art walk, individual temporary business permits would be approved by the Code Enforcement Officer or Town Manager.

- d. Tax Anticipation Note – Acceptance of award to Bath Savings Institute: **Judy Colby moved to accept the recommendation of Bath Savings Institute to administer the Tax Anticipation Note. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

- a. Cenergy Energy Presentation – Solar Panel Proposal at Airport: Representatives of Cenergy Energy gave a presentation on the possibility of three solar panel installations at the Wiscasset Airport. The 12-year-old company is one of the top solar developers and has developed over 300 projects. The three

installations would be done in conjunction with the solar energy bill passed on June 26 which would allow a local grid to buy power within CMP’s jurisdiction. The installation will be a revenue source for owners or purchasers of power with electricity savings. The proposal includes a 20-year lease of 80 acres for the two installations. A two-year option will be necessary to obtain the necessary approvals and to make sure the sites are viable. The airport was chosen for the proposed installation because the land is not developable and is not used for anything else. It was pointed out that a quick decision was necessary before the incentive programs were used up. The town will be advised within two years if the project can go ahead. Some clearing of trees at the airport would be necessary. Financing information will be forthcoming. The proposal will be on the next meeting agenda.

b. Bid Openings

- 2019 Tree Cutting and Clearing Bid

<u>Company</u>	<u>Sugar Maple Lincoln St</u>	<u>Sugar Maple Washington St.</u>	<u>Oak Trees Flood Ave.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bart Flanagan Tree Service	\$ 600	\$ 900	\$3,800	\$5,300
Chesterfield Associates	1,950	2,400	8,600	12,950
Creek Tree Service	1,600	1,900	7,900	11,400
M. Jarrett Hawkes	1,000	1,000	9,000	11,000

Kim Andersson moved to authorize the Town Manager and Public Works Director to review the bids and award the 2019 Tree Cutting and Clearing Bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.

- Tax Acquired Property Bids

970 Gardner Road Bid \$2,500 (mobile home tenant occupied)

Jeff Slack moved to accept the bid of \$2,500 for 970 Gardiner Road. Vote 5-0-0.

c. September Meeting dates: The board will meet on September 3 and 17.

d. Set Tax Commitment Date: September 3 was set. John O’Connor will confirm the date with the auditor.

e. Sewer Abatement Request-Heidi and Daniel Grover (submitted after policy deadline): **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to deny the sewer abatement request. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Municipal Quit Claim Deeds

- Dennis Gauthier, Map R04, Lot 011C

Judy Colby moved to grant the quit claim deed. Vote 5-0-0

- Raymond Franzen, 120 Clarks Point Road

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to sign the quitclaim deed. Vote 5-0-0.

g. Bills of Sale

- Bradley and Daniel Churchill, 31 Easy Street

- Gage Wahlstrom, 31 Easy Street

Ben Rines, Jr. moved to approve the bills of sale as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

h. Monthly Financials

- Department year to date expense report
- H.M.Payson Statement of Account

i. Lincoln County Budget Committee Appointment: O'Connell advised the board members that the caucus for municipal officers for District One which includes Wiscasset, will be held on Thursday, September 19 at 6 p.m.

11. Town Manager's Report

a. FAA Airport Inspections: The FAA was pleased with the operation and maintenance of the airport.

b. RFP Request – Engineering Planning, Wastewater Treatment Plant: O'Connell asked for authorization to request proposals for engineering planning for the WWTP. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to authorize the Town Manager to send out requests for qualifications. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Paving and Winter Sand bid awards: The bid was awarded to Crooker Construction.

12. Other Board Business

a. Kim Andersson noted that no representative of the town had been on the recent Amtrak train trip. She recommended that if a town official is not available, a representative such as a chamber member or county planner be asked to represent the town on such occasions.

b. Motion: To go into executive session pursuant to the provisions of Title 36 Chapter 841(2) MRSA to consider a request for abatement of taxes for reasons of poverty. There was a consensus to not go into executive session. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to deny the poverty tax abatement. Vote 3-0-2 (Slack and Andersson opposed).**

Vernice Boyce said that many owners do not have a homestead exemption, although forms have been sent to all those who are eligible.

13. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.