

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
April 21, 2020

Preliminary Minutes

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

Media present: Phil DiVece, Wiscasset Newspaper; and Charlotte Boynton, Lincoln County News

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. via Cisco Webex remote conferencing.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of April 3, 10, and 17, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of April 14 and 21, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.** When safe to do so, Ben Rines, Jr., Jeff Slack and Kim Andersson will sign the warrants in the office.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of April 7, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Special Presentations or Awards – none

5. Committee appointments – none

6. Public hearing – none

7. Public Comment – none

8. Department head or committee chair:

a. Ben Rines, Jr., said the Town Clerk's report contradicts the motion taken on March 31 to postpone nominations and elections. He said that he was informed by the Town Clerk that nomination papers were due on April 9<sup>th</sup> disregarding the board's vote. John O'Connell said that following the executive order from the Governor, towns are given until January 2021 to hold town meetings. Papers already turned in will be valid and anyone wishing to take out papers for the select board will have 100 days in which to do so before the date of the annual town meeting. This should be communicated to the public by the newspapers. Kim Andersson urged better communication between the Town Manager and Town Clerk. No date for a town meeting was set; more information may be available from the State by the middle of May. John O'Connell said an email from the Governor indicated that the primary election

may be held on July 14 and a Town meeting could be held the same day. He added that a schedule could be put together and brought to the board. The matter will be on the next agenda.

EMS Director Dennis Simmons said he thought restrictions would be easing up before May 15, although social distancing will stay in place through the summer. If restrictions are lifted too soon, the virus in his opinion will spread. He said that it has been quiet on the medical side: EMS calls are down as well as hospital and Emergency Room visits because people are afraid to go out. When restrictions are lifted, he advised that access to the office should be done through the meetingroom with exiting through the front door which would allow social distancing. He said supplies were in good shape and a direct payment of \$6400 had been received from the governor. He added that he has had no problem filing the schedule. The board thanked him for his efforts.

Kim Andersson commended Airport Manager Rick Tetrev, who had collected \$5,004 for a back lease payment discovered through an FAA audit.

b. Town Clerk Linda Perry – Request for the appointment of Election Clerks- see memo: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the election clerks. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 9. Unfinished Business

a. Citizens' Petition: Kim Andersson moved to place the citizens' petition on the next ballot. Vote 5-0-0. The petition calls for an ordinance repealing Section 10, the Historic Preservation Ordinance, and the historic overlay map of the Town of Wiscasset Zoning Ordinance thereby ratifying the procedures used for such repeal.

#### 10. New Business

##### a. New Business Licenses

- Daniel Dyer, DBA Barnhouse Grill & Pub, 690 Bath Road: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the business license.** The difference between the impact fee which is needed to connect to the sewer system being charged to the Barnhouse Grill & Pub and the conditional sewer agreement which deals with possible effects on the sewer system, which is being charged to the Bath Ale Works was explained. Vote 4-1-0 (Rines opposed).
- Pepper Powers, DBA Bath Ale Works, LLC, 691 Bath Road: **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the business license for Bath Ale Works.** It was explained that the conditional sewer agreement protects the Town from damage to the sewer system should something unexpected occur. The possible effects of a brewery on the sewer system is unknown at this point because this is the first brewery in town. **Vote 5-0-0.**

##### b. Monthly Financials

- Year to date expense report: John O'Connell said revenues are steady except for the rec center which are lower than projected because of the closure. He said department heads have been told to be cautious and they are doing what they can to be prudent.
- H.M. Payson Statement of Accounts: The Endowment account is down approximately 10%; the other is down less than 10%. Ben Rines, Jr., commented that the Town had lost \$2,000,000 in the last two months. Jeff Slack said that because the Town had gotten out of oil several years ago, its portfolio will come back sooner than others. Judy Colby said that postponing budget

talks will give the town time to deal with things a little more intelligently and to decide whether to take money from Payson or let the accounts grow

#### 11. Town Manager's Report

a. Transfer Station Recycling: O'Connell said the Transfer Station had returned to regular hours and although it will not be taking recyclables, it will be taking metal, brush, and construction and demolition materials while maintaining social distancing. Jeff Slack asked the Town Manager to thank the transfer station workers who had faced abuse from the public. Judy Colby asked that all employees be commended for the work that they do. In response to Ben Rines, Jr.'s questions, O'Connell said that there is no market at present for recyclables and the transfer stations are not taking recyclables at this time. Kim Andersson said recyclables could be put into the hopper along with other trash which would then be recycled by Fiberite using a new technology. She will clarify this with Fiberite.

b. Virus update: O'Connell said he was concerned about the next few weeks. If restrictions are relaxed too soon, there could be a second wave of Covid-19 cases. State revenue will be down which will affect revenue sharing. He said constant disinfecting was necessary due to the poor traffic flow and air circulation, and allowing more people into the office would result in more cleaning. Judy Colby asked if the board wanted to meet once a week in order to keep up with things as they develop and updates could be handled such as the agreement with the DOT about handing over the project to the Town and Public Works formatting and salary scale. It was agreed that the board would meet on Tuesday, April 28 at 4:30 for a quick update.

#### 12. Other Board Business – none

#### 13. Adjournment

**Jeff Slack moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**