

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MAY 19, 2020

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

Press: Phil DiVece, Wiscasset Newspaper, and Charlotte Boynton, Lincoln County News

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance – none

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the payroll warrants of May 8 and May 15, 2020. vote 5-0-0.**

b. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of May 12 and May 19, 2020. Vote 5-0-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

a. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of May 5 and May 12, 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. Department Head monthly reports: The board commended the employees for doing their jobs under difficult circumstances. John O'Connell said the decision was made to not open the public bathrooms on the pier as it would be a risk to the employees; two port-potties will be available on the piers. Several rude calls or comments were received about the transfer station.

9. Unfinished business

a. Annual Town Meeting and Elections: John O'Connell said he had not received the promised guidelines from the State regarding the town meeting. He said absentee ballots for the primary election on July 14 will be available from the town office to limit spreading Kovid-19, as small outbreaks have been popping up due to complacency.

Kim Andersson asked what guidance the town was waiting for, as she hoped the town elections could be held on July 14 when the primary election will be held. Jeff Slack agreed that the elections could be held on the date of the primary election. Ben Rines, Jr., noted the lack of guidelines for nomination papers if and when the election date is set. Judy Colby suggested waiting another month or two inasmuch as the board had not completed the budget and there would have to be sufficient time for nomination papers to be returned. There was extensive discussion about the necessary time period for nomination papers to be filed, completing the budget, setting a date for the town meeting and election taking into account the statutory limits, adequate time for printing ballots and approval of the budget in order to set the tax commitment. Town Clerk Linda Perry will prepare for the board information on the time limits for nomination papers and other deadlines that must be met if the town meeting and election are held on September 8. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to hold the town meeting and election on September 8. Vote 3-2-0** (Andersson and Slack opposed).

b. MDOT Update: O'Connell said the work on Water Street should be finished this week, and the sidewalks look great.

10. New Business

a. Fourth of July parade and fireworks: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to cancel the parade and have the fireworks later in the year.** The cost of fireworks will be left in the budget and O'Connell will notify the Central Maine Pyrotechnics that the July 4th fireworks are cancelled but may be scheduled later in the year. **Vote 5-0-0.** O'Connell said that the American Legion has asked that no one attend the ceremony on Memorial Day, as it will be recorded. No speeches will be given, but a wreath will be laid at the site.

b. Future Board and Committee Meetings. O'Connell said that Zoom meetings appear to be the only option for the foreseeable future, as there is no adequate site where 20 or more participants could gather with adequate air circulation and it would be difficult to sanitize the meeting room. He said the Planning Board is scheduling a zoom meeting in June. O'Connell said that it had been suggested that possibly the hangars at the airport could be used for a meeting. Kim Andersson will be organizing a remote Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting.

c. Bid Opening-Fire/EMS Radios: O'Connell said the bid from RCM for \$30,291.23 was the only bid received. He will review the bid which includes equipment, installation, and training with the department heads. The bid is within the expected range. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve awarding the bid subject to review by department heads. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Monthly Financials:

- H.M. Payson statement of account: John O'Connell said the account had improved and he will be discussing with the Investment Committee whether to withdraw funds or to borrow. He said Maine's senators are looking at funds for governments and municipalities and are hoping for funds this summer. He said he hoped the Maine Municipal Bond Bank would allow loans with a moderate interest rate.

e. Municipal Quitclaim Deed

- Denise Carver, 3 Danforth Street
- Stephen L. and Sukitta Heald, 23 Page Avenue

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to execute the Quitclaim Deeds for Denise Carver at 3 Danforth Street and for Stephen L. and Sukitta Heald at 23 Page Avenue. Vote 5-0-0.

f. Dresden EMS Contract-Dennis Simmons: The EMS contract with Dresden will run from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. There will be a one-time fee of \$25,053 payable within 30 days or on receipt of the contract. In response to a question, Dennis Simmons said the contract will cover the cost of operating plus uncollectibles, so both parties will know what the cost is. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to accept the contract with the Town of Dresden for a one-time fee of \$25,053 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

a. Town Office operations and reopening process: O'Connell said the town was cautiously opening facilities, starting with the Transfer Station, which is now taking brush and demolition materials, metal, newspapers, and cardboard in addition to bags deposited in the hopper. The municipal building counter was opened on May 14 by appointment only and only one person will be allowed at a time. Sanitizing is being done regularly and diligently. The rec center is not open, as the Governor has delayed opening gyms and cleaning would be almost impossible. The locker rooms and public bathrooms are closed. O'Connell will be making decisions on a weekly basis based on guidance from the governor, the state, and newspapers. In response to Judy Colby's question, O'Connell said the guidelines are not laws and the town cannot enforce quarantining or social distancing, it can only educate the public.

b. Airport Repairs bid: There were two bids: Hager-\$172,457, and Sealcoating-\$224,074. David Nadeau of Stantec reviewed the bids and found no deficiencies; he recommended the lower of the two (Hager).

c. Family members of the late John Reinhardt have donated a tree in his memory. A cherry tree was chosen and has been planted near the Ledges.

d. O'Connell asked the board to appoint Mr. Kavanaugh to complete a term on the Water District board. **Jeff Slack moved to extend Kavanaugh's term to the next municipal election. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Other Board Business

John O'Connell reported that he, Police Chief Hesseltine and Kathy Onorato are interviewing candidates for the Police Department secretary.

O'Connell reported that the town had received a \$30,000 grant from the CARES stimulus package. The funds can be drawn any time in the next four years.

Judy Colby moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(A). Vote 5-0-0. At 6:14 Judy Colby moved to come out of Executive Session. Vote 5-0-0.

13. Adjournment

Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.