

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
April 7, 2020 (via teleconferencing)

Present: Chairman Judy Colby, Vice Chairman Benjamin Rines, Jr. Kim Andersson, Kathy Martin-Savage. Jeff Slack, Town Manager John O'Connell and Administrative Assistance Kathy Onorato

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

Call to Order- Chairman Judith Colby called the meeting at 5:04 via Cisco Webex remote conferencing.

1. Pledge of Allegiance-none

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

**a. Jeff Slack moved to accept the payroll warrants of March 20 and 28, 2020. Motion passed, 5-0.**

**b. Jeff Slack moved to approve the accounts payable warrants of March 24 and April 7, 2020. Motion passed, 5-0.**

3. Approval of Minutes

**a. Jeff Slack moved to accept the minutes of March 17, 2020, March 26, 2020 and March 31, 2020. Motion passed, 4-0-1 (Judy Colby abstained since she was absent on March 17)**

4. Special Presentations or Awards-None

5. Committee Appointments

**a. Katharine Martin Savage made motion, seconded by Kimberly Andersson to appoint Katie Bryant to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Motion passed, 5-0.**

6. Public Hearing-None

7. Public Comment-None-None

8. Department head or committee chair-None

9. Unfinished Business-None

## 10. New Business

- a. EMS request for CPR device- EMS Director Dennis Simmons submitted a written request for approval of a CPR device he deems critical during to his department, especially during spread of COVID-19. The machine would assist chest compressions, which would reduce the number of personnel required for cardiac arrest response. His memo indicated the cost a refurbished machine would cost approximately \$10,000, Town Manager told the board Dennis has been seeking donations toward the equipment and currently \$3,000 had been raised.

**Jeff Slack made a motion, seconded by Ben Rines, to take what funding is necessary from contingency to purchase the CPR device. Motion passed, 5-0**

Katharine Martin Savage asked the Town Manager to thank Dennis for his fundraising efforts.

- b. Request from Friends of Wiscasset to donate funds to General Assistance-The Town Manager received a letter from Terry Heller, Wiscasset GoFundME coordinator, seeking the Board's approval to pledge the majority of the funds raised to the Town's General Assistance program.

**Ben Rines made a motion, seconded by Katharine Martin Savage, to gratefully accept any donations from the Friends of Wiscasset's GoFundMe fundraising efforts. Motion passed, 5-0.**

- c. New Business License-Mark Pearson, DBA Southern States Classic, 263 Bath Road

**Jeff Slack made a motion, seconded by Katharine Martin Savage, to approve the new business license for Mark Pearson, DBA Southern States Classic. Motion passed 5-0**

## 11. Town Manager's Report

- a. Coronavirus precautions/staffing – O'Connell told the Board that the last three weeks have been challenging times. Priority is the public health and public safety of residents and staff. He said to encourage social distancing, access to the municipal building is limited; Transfer Station hours have been reduced to limit socializing. Essential employees, which includes Wastewater, Police Department, EMS, Public Works, and Administration, are encouraged to wear masks

- b. Sheriff's Department COVID-19 response update – The Board was given a letter from Lincoln County Sheriff Todd B. Brackett. The letter outlined Lincoln County's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The letter references the need to keep public safety services at full capacity. He has begun deputizing officers from area police departments in the event his staff becomes exposed or ill and are unable to work.

**Judy Colby made a motion, seconded by Jeff Slack to allow Wiscasset Police Department Officers to be deputized as needed. Motion passed 5-0.**

- c. Town Office floors – O'Connell reported the floors on first floor at the Police/EMS side of the building, and sections of the Municipal offices have been remediated of asbestos and have had new flooring laid. Offices are now back in place and operational.

### 13. Other Board Business

Board members expressed concerns about reported inappropriate behavior by a committee member. The Board will be looking into the ordinances and what options it has in dealing with the situation.

The Board discussed the Town Manager Search process, which has been on hold since the Covid-19 outbreak. O'Connell suggested he present to the board the names of those applicants, whom the search committee suggested for interviews. Those selected for interviews would be notified that the interviews would take place once the civil emergency has been lifted.

O'Connell said he would do his best to stay past June 7, until the Town can hold its Town Meeting and Elections.

The Board also authorized the Town Manager to seek some interim contractual help the Treasurer's duties. First O'Connell will reach out to the Town's previous Treasurer Vernice Boyce, who has been coming in monthly, to see if she has additional time for the Town of Wiscasset.

The Board will meet in Executive Session on April 9, 2020 to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

### 14. Adjournment

**Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. Motion passed, 5-0-0.**