

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 2, 2008

Preliminary Minutes

(Tape Recorded Meeting)

Present: Bill Curtis, Phil DiVece, Bob Fairfield, Chairman David Nichols, Vice
Chairman Nicole Viele and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

1. Call to Order

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

3. Approve Minutes related to the Transfer Station Supervisor position held on October 25, 28, November 1, 3 and 6, 2008

Bill Curtis moved to approve the minutes of October 25 and 28. Vote 4-0-1 (DiVece abstained). Nicole Viele moved to approve the minutes of November 1 and 3, 2008. Vote 4-0-1 (DiVece abstained). David Nichols moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2008. Vote 3-0-2 (DiVece and Viele abstained).

Approve minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting

Phil DiVece moved to approve the minutes of November 18. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Citizen Comment

Roland Abbott, Director of the Ambulance Service, said that the generator for the municipal building had not functioned during the windstorm on November 25 when the building lost power, and as a result of a voltage surge, equipment, computers and radios were damaged and the remote for the overhead doors did not work. The generator is 40 years old and Abbott recommended replacing it with a 40 KW diesel generator at a cost of \$37,000 to \$40,000. Abbott said that in addition to the building being an emergency shelter, it also houses the town offices.

In response to Phil DiVece's question on funding for a new generator, Arthur Faucher said that there was \$60,000 in the contingency fund, but he would like to investigate federal and county assistance first. He advised getting further advice and other estimates on a replacement generator. In response to Dick Hanson's question, Arthur Faucher said that because of the amount of money involved, it would be necessary to go out for bids.

Bill Curtis recommended that the Fire, Ambulance, and Police Departments, the Town Manager and several Selectmen meet within a week to find a solution to the problem. Bill Curtis and Phil DiVece volunteered. A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, at 9:30 p.m.

Abbott reminded the board that he had recommended a candidate for Deputy Emergency Management Director. **David Nichols moved to name Dickey Brigrance as Deputy Emergency Management Director for Wiscasset. Vote 5-0.**

In response to Steve Mehrl's question on the status of the audit report, Arthur Faucher said that, according to the auditor, the report would be available by December 19 and the Town Report would be available in January.

Steve Mehrl asked whether, with the decrease in fuel prices, the town was showing savings over what it had expected to spend. Road Commissioner Bob Blagden said it was too early to tell, but he anticipated some savings would be evident by the end of the winter.

New Business

5. Scout Hall re-shingling roof bids

The following bids were received:

Goode Enterprises	\$8,307.17
George Faux, Inc.	6,950.00
Noah Freeman	6,120.00
Alex Vise	6,412.50
Integrity Roofing & Siding	5,600.00*
P&P Construction	6,325.00

*Low Bid

The Town Manager, Road Commissioner and David Nichols will review the bids to insure that they meet all requirements before the contract is awarded.

6. West Alna Road Safety Improvements - Jeff Robertson

Jeff Robertson described the sharp corner on West Alna Road at the base of the hill approximately one half mile from Route 218 where the school bus discharges his son across the road from his driveway. Visibility is poor, the speed limit is 45 mph and the truck traffic on the road presents a dangerous situation for children crossing the road. He said the school bus had previously stopped on the side of the road adjacent to the driveway so the children would not have to cross the road, but Superintendent McIntire said that was not possible this year. Robertson had addressed the School Committee, but, as this was not a policy issue, the committee took no action. Robertson said rerouting would require the bus to travel a few extra miles, and he offered to pay for the gas required for the extra mileage to change the route. He asked the board for help in resolving the problem. Trimming trees for better visibility was suggested; however, the Road Commissioner said that while some trees could be cut back, that would not solve the problem.

Nicole Viele said that she was disappointed in the reaction of the School Committee and the Superintendent. She said that the 2-1/2 extra miles that the bus would have to travel to avoid a potentially dangerous situation could be paid for by cuts elsewhere in the budget and she recommended that a letter to that effect be sent to the superintendent **Bob Fairfield moved that the Board authorize the Town Manager to write a letter to School Superintendent McIntire expressing the board's concern. Vote 5-0.**

7. Policies for the use of the Main Street Pier - Harbormaster Peter Dalton

Dalton asked the board for authorization to allow Bob Jones, David Higgins and Frank Sprague to leave their buildings on the pier for the winter. He said the Waterfront Committee was split on the question. There would be no liability for the town as the vendors have insurance (Jones- \$500,000, Higgins - \$1 million, Sprague - \$2 million). **David Nichols moved to allow the vendors to stay on the pier for the winter and to review the policy in March. Vote 5-0.**

8. Town Manager's Report

- The warrant for the January 13 special election for School Board members for the Sheepscoot Valley Regional School District was signed by the selectmen.
- **David Nichols moved to sign the updated Wiscasset Fire Department Safety Policy Mission Statement. Vote 5-0.**
- Water & Wastewater Conference in Freeport: According to the Maine Rural Water Association, there is \$25 million available for wastewater improvement or replacement projects. The association is holding a two-day conference in Freeport, which Arthur Faucher and Buck Rines will be attending on December 10.
- Railroad Avenue Survey by Maine Department of Transportation: The MDOT has provided a survey map of the Railroad Avenue area, an area where potential public parking could be added. Arthur Faucher asked for the board's consensus to proceed with obtaining an engineer's estimate of the cost of the work necessary to prepare the area for parking. This would also be an opportunity to rehab the sewer line in that area at the same time. He said the town would be looking for grants for this improvement. There was a consensus that the Town Manager should proceed.
- Departmental Vacancy for Truck Driver/Laborer: Arthur Faucher provided a draft announcement of vacancy for a truck driver/laborer for the Transfer Station. He said it was his understanding that the position would be assigned to the Transfer Station and shared with the Highway Department. The need for additional personnel in both departments was discussed briefly, and the Town Manager will meet with the Transfer Station Superintendent and the Road Commissioner to address a compromise and budget restraints.
- Ferry Road Development Co., LLC: The 2007 TIF payment of \$42,752.96, the 2008 TIF payment of \$46,066.88, and interest of \$27,347.22 were received from Ferry Road Development. The company asked for a one-year extension on the \$250,000 principal payment that was due. **Bill Curtis moved to deny the request for an extension. Vote 5-0.** The Town Manager will advise Ferry Road Development of the board's decision.

Old Business

9. Town web site update by Jeremy Usher and Jeffery Hinderliter

Jeremy Usher gave an update on the progress of the new website and demonstrated its capabilities. It will contain information on all town departments, minutes of meetings, contact information, news items, schedules, staff, etc. The site will go through a period of testing, and recommendations on content are welcome. It is expected that the site will be in operation by the first of the year.

10. Other Business

At 8:50 p.m. **Bill Curtis moved to go into executive session pursuant to Title 16, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6)(A)(C). Vote 5-0.**

The board exited executive session at 9:21 p.m. At 9:22 **Bob Fairfield moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0.**