

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 17, 2007

Preliminary Minutes

(Tape recorded meeting)

Present: Bill Curtis, Chairman Duane Goud, Nicole Viele and Town Manager
Arthur Faucher

Absent: David Nichols and Alex Robertson

1. Call to Order

Chairman Duane Goud called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

3. Approve Minutes of June 26, 2007

Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to approve the minutes as written. Vote 3-0.

Old Business

4. Approve School Department Request from Mary Bailey Fund

Bill Curtis recommended delaying action until a full board was present. Duane Goud suggested that the matter not be left in limbo for three weeks until the next meeting. A motion by Nicole Viele to approve \$18,500 from the Mary Bailey Fund to fund half of an English teacher position lost on a 2-1 vote. (Note: Three affirmative votes are needed to pass a motion.)

New Business

5. Bid Opening and Award for Airport Mowing

Duane Goud said the airport mowing contract had gone out for rebid because the original low bidder had misread the bid package. There was discussion on the procedure that had been followed and the result was that the second set of bids was not opened. **Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to throw out the bids that we have received and advertise in the newspaper for a new clean bid.** He said the original motion at the last meeting did not mention anything about going back to the second lowest bidder. Mike Muchmore recommended that there be two separate bids, one for mowing and one for brush clearing. There was further discussion on the need for those bidding to be responsible for reading the specifications of the work to be done, and the need for the Selectmen to follow proper procedure in awarding the bids. **Vote 3-0.**

6. Sign Warrant for July 31, 2007 Secret Ballot Election

- The warrant for the July 31, 2007 election was signed.
- Approve Ballot Clerks: Don Jones, Patricia Bridgham, Joan Barnes and Natalie Demeny. **Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to approve the ballot clerks. Vote 3-0.**
- Polling Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on July 31, 2007 at the Community Center. **Bill Curtis moved, Duane Goud seconded, to approve the polling hours. Vote 3-0**

7. Set Date for Public Hearing for Commercial Waste Hauler Permits

Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to set August 7, 2007 at 7 p.m. as the date for the public hearing on Commercial Waste Hauler permits. Vote 3-0.

8. Appoint Three Members to the School Reorganization Planning Committee.

Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to appoint Jay McIntire, Doug Smith and Nicole Viele to the School Reorganization Committee. Vote 3-0.

9. Approve Paperwork from the November 8, 2005 Referendum Election for School Funding Project

Arthur Faucher said that the Bond Bank had agreed to pay approximately \$40,000 which was approved in November 2005 as soon as the proper paperwork was submitted. The Town Manager will obtain the necessary documents. **Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to approve the paperwork for the reimbursement. Vote 3-0.**

10. Community Center Web Page - Deferred to Other Business

11. Approve Slate Stone for Use in Greenlawn Cemetery

Slate is not on the list of approved materials for use in the cemetery; however, Bob Blagden, Road Commissioner, recommended it as a good alternative. **Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to approve slate stone for use in the Greenlawn Cemetery and to have it added to the current list of materials to be used in the cemetery. Vote 3-0.**

12. Town Manager's Report

- Sweet Imaging Contract: Arthur Faucher reported that according to the Town's agreement with Sweet Imaging, seven disks were to be laser-printed for the Town; but as the material was being cut, the disks broke into two pieces and no more disks can be made. The Sweets are moving out of state and would like to know if the Town would like to have the pieces laser printed. There are 12 eight-foot sections left out of which the pieces could be made. The sections with laser printing of the Hesper and Luther Little will cost \$30 to make and will be sold to the Town at that price. The Town could retail them for between \$40 and \$50. The Sweets also owe the Town \$150. They have made pens and key chains from the masts and asked whether the Town would accept \$315 worth of this merchandise in lieu of cash. **Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, that we go forward with the laser project for between \$1600 and \$2000 and accept the merchandise in lieu of the \$150 owed. The laser-printed pieces will be sold on the town's website. Vote 3-0.**
- Compensation Due to Former CEO, Stuart Wyman: Arthur Faucher said that compensation for Stuart Wyman's unused sick time amounts to \$3,464.18; and his unused vacation compensation is \$5,127.20. **Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to pay compensation due to Stuart Wyman of \$8,591.38. Vote 3-0.** The Town Manager reported an individual had been selected for the part-time position of Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and Plumbing Inspector.
- Non-renewal of Mooring Permit and Worm Cars: Duane Goud reported that mooring permits nos. 451 and 554 were not renewed and were available. Arthur Faucher said that there are a number of unpaid fees and pointed out that if the 2006 fee was paid in 2007, the fee would be credited to 2006 and the current year's fee would still be due.
- Vacation Payment Request from Police Officer Alfred Simmons: Sue Varney reported that Officer Simmons had requested that he be compensated for 50 hours of accrued vacation time, as he will be unable to use this time by the anniversary of his hire date. She said an error had been made in both the amount of vacation time earned shown on his pay stub and in his hire date. After a review of vacation time used and a research of the Selectmen's minutes, both errors were corrected. **Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to pay Officer Simmons 50 hours of vacation pay. Vote 3-0.**

13. Other Board Business

Rob Bickford reported that the Wiscasset Fire Department Apparatus Committee opened bid proposals for a new fire engine on July 6, 2007. Two bids were received: \$367,000 from the Dingee Machine Company and \$359,968 from KME Fire Apparatus. After review, the committee recommended accepting the bid from KME Fire Apparatus for a Predator Panther Triple Combination Custom Fire Pumper. Rob Bickford said that in addition to the purchase of the new engine, the National Fire Protection Association required certain equipment to be on the apparatus. The Wiscasset fire department currently owns and uses all the equipment required; however, most was bought in 1972 and is old and deteriorating. He submitted a list of equipment required by the NFPA with approximate prices and asked that a Request for Proposal be distributed for bids on this equipment in order to have the most up to date equipment for the new engine. He said this did not have to be done immediately, as delivery on the new engine will not be until May 2008. Asked about reimbursement from the Firefighters Grant, Bickford said he had applied for the fire grant in April. **Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to accept the KME bid and authorize the Fire Association to put out the RFP for additional equipment. Vote 3-0.**

Duane Goud said the revaluation letters will be in the mail that week and a hearings would be held from July 25 to August 4.

10. Community Center Web Page

Todd Souza asked for permission to put together an RFP to design a website for the Community Center. He said advertising costs and postage have increased and he would like to create a functional website to be used as an advertising tool. The Town website is not adaptable for this purpose. **Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to authorize Todd to find out more and put together the RFP for a design which would allow the town to join in too.** Bill Curtis offered to help with the process. Karl Tarbox urged the Board to issue an RFP for the Town, not just for one department. Bill Curtis said he had found two websites (Greenville and Dexter) that would seem to meet the needs of the Town. **Vote 3-0.**

Twin River Energy Center

Scott Houldin gave an introductory talk about the proposed gasification plant, which would be located on land formerly owned by Maine Yankee. Infrastructure is in place and rail, marine and airport access is available. The plant would fill the vacuum left behind when Maine Yankee left Wiscasset. The plant will use ultra clean gasification technology and will represent a \$1.5 billion investment.

Houldin explained the gasification process that will be able to produce 9,000 barrels of diesel fuel per day and/or 700 megawatts of electricity at peak operation. The physical plant would consist of a barge terminal on the Back River where coal and wood biomass would be unloaded and taken through an enclosed conveyor belt to the gasification block, a 50-acre parcel where the gasification complex is located. There will also be an R&D Center and Business Development Center. There will be no environmental impact. Fuel will be moved by rail or barge.

In the discussion which followed and in response to questions from the audience, Scott Houldin said that:

- Twin River Energy Center is owned by National RE/sources
- Permitting process will take 18 to 36 months
- The plan will add much needed diversification for power to Maine
- Developers are looking at many water sources; plant will require 2% of the water that Maine Yankee used
- Life expectancy of the plant is 50 years

- Coal for the plant will come in from Searsport
- The tallest structure will be 225 feet; the height limitation in the ordinance would need adjusting
- The development will not be using TIF or any State money
- Low profile barges will be used which will run with the tides; no dredging will be required
- Initial studies say the plan will meet the noise limitations in the ordinance
- There are more than 200 gasification plants in the country; proposed plant is modeled after one in the Netherlands.
- 750 construction jobs are estimated
- Construction time for the project is estimated at four years
- During operation 200 full-time jobs are estimated
- Project will represent 75% of Wiscasset's tax base

Scott Houldin said community involvement and encouragement is needed to make this project a reality. Duane Goud announced that a public informational meeting would be held at 6 pm on July 24 at the high school and invited all to attend.

Duane Goud asked that the abutters of i-park and the Westport Selectmen be notified of the July 24 meeting.

Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to notify the Ordinance Review Committee that we need to look at the height ordinance in order for this deal to go through. Scott Houldin will confirm heights of the proposed structures within a week. **Vote 3-0.**

Bob Blagden asked whether the fire truck that is being taken out of service would be declared surplus. Duane Goud said that breaking up the truck for usable parts was being considered, and it had not been decided whether the pieces would be termed surplus. Bill Curtis said that there is a website, firetech.com, where antique fire trucks are sold.

Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. Vote 3-0.