

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JANUARY 20, 2009

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

Chairman David Nichols 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 of January 6, 2009

**Nicole Viele moved to accept the minutes as written. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Citizen Comments

Rowena Flynn, 515 Lowelltown Road, reported that a town snowplow had damaged her mailbox on December 22. In the absence of a response from the Town, she had the mailbox repaired at a cost of \$45.98. She is a senior citizen on a limited income and she asked for reimbursement of this expense. Ms. Flynn was advised of the town policy of not assuming the cost of replacing mailboxes accidentally damaged by snowplows.

Steve Mehrl said that according to the Road Commissioner the number of mailboxes damaged accidentally was very small, one or two a year. He said he appreciated the job the road crew was doing.

In response to Mehrl's question on the 911 call system and the 64% rate increase, Police Lt. Allen said that the State controls and pays for the system.

Prior Morrell said that the Town Manager was remiss in not enforcing the deed to the right of way to the powderhouse. The right of way is owned by the inhabitants of Wiscasset and is not to be used for logging purposes, which has destroyed access to the powderhouse.

Phil DiVece said he and the Road Commissioner had met with the contractor who was working on the property adjoining the powerhouse, and he had agreed to remove the trees that could fall and damage the powerhouse in a strong wind.

Morrell asked if a power analysis had been done before specs were sent out for the electrical generator. He said there was no reason for a 40 KW generator. Bill Curtis said that according to CMP, the load in the municipal building was equivalent to 32KW and that, plus providing for growth, was the reason a 45 KW generator was specified.

Jeff Robertson thanked the board for their efforts to have the school bus stop changed to eliminate possible danger to children crossing the road. He said he had met with the School Board and they were not interested in his proposal.

Richard Hanson asked who drew up the specs for the generator. Bill Curtis said he had drawn them up and was qualified to do so. Hanson criticized the bid/proposal form pointing out that the name of the onsite licensed electrician should have been in the bid, not the proposal and disagreed with the statement that errors or omissions in the bid form should be brought to the attention of the committee. In response to further questions and comments, Hanson was advised that the bid process had been followed, notice was placed in the Times Record and Lincoln County News and that if he had further questions, he could contact Roland Abbott or Arthur Faucher.

Roy Barnes expressed appreciation to the selectmen for hiring help for the Highway Department.

Joe Piccarillo reported that windows were broken in the Harbormaster's shack and for the last five years, there had been a 6' x 6' hole in the creamery pier that had not been repaired and could present a hazard. Bob Fairfield will look at the pier.

Ken Boudin said he had experience with generators and that in his opinion a 45KW generator was not overkill.

### **Old Business**

#### 5. Opening of the municipal generator bids

The following bids were received:

Pow'r Point Generator Sales and Service	Kohler 45 KW generator	\$43,650.00*
Midcoast Energy Systems	Kohler 45 KW generator	69,621.00
Central Electric, Inc.	Kohler 45 KW generator	49,900.00 +
	Site construction	8,500
Lincoln Electric Service	Kohler 45 KW generator	48,290.86
*low bid		

**Phil DiVece moved that all bid proposals be turned over to the Town Manager, Bill Curtis and Roland Abbott for further review. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 6. Wiscasset Wine Outlet

Luanne Clifford said that following the last selectmen's meeting, she, the Town Manager and Buck Rines, Sewage Treatment Supervisor, were scheduled to meet regarding the damage to her store. Mr. Rines did not attend the meeting; however, Arthur Faucher met with her to review the damage. She said MMA is still denying her claim and recommended she go through her insurance company. She said she would not do this because the damage to her store caused by the failure of the pump was not her fault and a claim would only raise her rates. She said the board was supposed to be coming up with a solution.

In the discussion that followed, the selectmen questioned whether the pump had failed mechanically, whether the failure was due to the power outage, or whether it was due to a surge when power was resumed. If it were a mechanical failure rather than an electrical failure, the claim would be resubmitted to MMA. An insurance adjuster has

been requested. Maintenance records for the pump will be reviewed. No action will be taken by the selectmen until the cause of the pump failure is determined.

Ms. Rines said she would not involve her insurance company and if the board did not come up with a solution by the next meeting, she would contact her attorney.

## **New Business**

### 7. Airport Manager: New Snow Removal Equipment Building & FAA Funding

Erv Deck provided an update on the snow removal equipment building. There are two phases for the project: a bid for the purchase of the 50' x 50' steel building and a bid for construction of the building. Cost of the building is \$25,000 to \$30,000; construction is estimated at \$70,000. State and federal funds will provide 97-1/2% of the cost.

Bill Curtis recommended that the selectmen hold a workshop meeting with the Airport Committee for an update on the airport plan. A meeting was scheduled at the airport on Friday, January 23, at 11 a.m. Opening of bids for the building will be delayed until the February 3 selectmen's meeting.

New Airport Committee member appointment: Mr. Deck recommended that the board appoint Steve Williams, a pilot and aircraft owner to the Airport Committee. **Phil DiVece moved to appoint Stephen C. Williams of 146 Chewonki Neck Road to the Airport Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

### 8. Town Manager's Report

- Application for Pole Location - Old Bath Road: **David Nichols moved to approve the pole placement. Vote 5-0-0.**

- Estate of Greg Hartley - Airport hangar reassignment request: Arthur Faucher reported that the Estate of Greg Hartley wished to transfer the lease at the airport. Ken Boudin, Chairman of the Airport Committee, said that a condition of the lease was that it could be reassigned upon sale of the building with the selectmen's approval to Nicholas Knobil. **David Nichols moved to grant the bill of sale transfer. Vote 5-0-0.**

- **Nicole Viele moved to appoint Richard Lutes to the Waterfront Committee for one year. Vote 5-0-0.**

- Ambulance Department - Uncollectible accounts: The Town Manager said that currently the policy with regard to unpaid bills for ambulance services was billing at 30, 60 and 90 days, after which no further action was taken. He asked the board to consider changing the policy to making an effort to collect bills after 90 days. Roland Abbott, Ambulance Director, said that some bills are uncollectible and he recommended that the board write off those debts. The billing company being used does not collect overdue bills. It is currently working without a contract, but Abbott recommended staying with that company and contracting with a collection agency for the bills overdue after 90 days. Nicole Viele asked that Abbott recommend a policy for the over 90-day debts.

• Viewpoint on Highway Department position vacancy: The pay rate for a Class I driver is \$12.75/hr and for a Class II Driver \$11.50/hr. Because the Town has three Class I drivers and will have an additional Class I driver this year, the Town Manager and Road Commissioner recommended hiring a Class II driver for the Highway Department vacancy, saving \$1.25 per hour. **Phil DiVece moved to advertise in the newspaper for a Class II driver for the Highway Department, which is a union position.** The employee will work one day at the Transfer Station but will be available for snowplowing on that day, if necessary. The position was advertised inhouse, which resulted in two applicants, only one of which was qualified. **Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 9. Other Business

Nicole Viele recommended investigating the possibility of going out for oil bids now with the understanding that the bid price would require voter approval in June. **Viele moved to allow Arthur Faucher to go out for bids for oil for next year, which would require voter approval. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Bob Fairfield moved to accept the names of Hickory Drive and Cedar Drive for the Twin Oaks Subdivision. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Phil DiVece moved that the board, acting as the Board of Assessors, rescind the Wiscasset Yacht Club's 2008 tax abatement until such time as the Board of Assessors receives the following documentation: 1) disposition of the club's assets and 2) a copy of the 501(c)(3) form.** He said this request was in response to a communication from the town's attorney, Dennis Jumper. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Phil DiVece asked whether further information or explanation had been received from the auditor on the \$13,856 overdraft. The Town Manager said the auditor did not have an answer but that an updated version of the audit was expected that week.

DiVece also asked for a progress report on the new web page. The Town Manager said that according to Jeffrey Hinderliter, it should be ready within a week.

At 9:05, **David Nichols moved to go into executive session in accordance with MRSA Title 1: Chapter 13: Section 405 (6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Local S/89 District Lodge #4 of The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Town of Wiscasset; and to go into executive session in accordance with MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Wiscasset and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council No. 93, AFL-CIO, Local (Wiscasset Police Department); and to go into executive session in accordance with MRSA, Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405 (6)(A) to discuss matters relative to the annual appointment and evaluation of the town manager, Arthur L. Faucher. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 10. Adjournment

The board exited executive session at 10:09 p.m. At 10:10 p.m., **Nicole Viele moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**