

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2008

The meeting began at 6:30 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building

Budget committee members in attendance: Chairman Steve Mehrl, Judith Colby, Pamela Dunning, and Richard Hanson. Members absent were Sherri Dunbar, Robert Fairfield Sr., George Greene, Tony True and Karl Tarbox.

Since there was no quorum present and no voting could take place, the committee members in attendance decided to go through the information from the April 8 meeting to be sure they had a firm understanding.

There was a brief discussion that Steve would call and email the committee members with a new meeting date so a quorum would be in attendance.

Sean Rafter entered the meeting to present a request from the local cable channel. The local television is a PEG access program. PEG access programming includes a public access channel, an educational channel and a government channel. Wiscasset is paid approximately \$25,000 in franchise fees from Time Warner each year. Mr. Rafter was requesting that a portion of the franchise fees, preferably half, be turned over to the public access station. There was a \$40,000 from a cable company settlement. Approximately \$12,000 of this amount was used on equipment to televise meetings at the town office. According to Mr. Rafter, the rest of this money is earmarked for further equipping the town office, the Wiscasset Community Center and the Wiscasset High School. Approximately \$1,200 would fund a device to stream video over the internet for those who do not have cable to receive the local channels. Mr. Rafter's request for the \$12,500 would fund a full-time position for someone to work at the station. Currently it is being run by a part-time person. The committee members present agreed to notify the other members of the situation and to make a consideration of the request if it were put forward by the Selectmen.

Having no further business the meeting closed at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning