

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 16, 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

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 December 2, 2008

Phil DiVece moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2008 as written. Vote 5-0.

4. Citizen Comment

Discussion of Powderhouse: Prior Morrell said the powderhouse was built to support Ft. Edgecomb in the War of 1812. He pointed out that there was a right of way for ingress and egress to the powderhouse that was owned by the inhabitants of the town per the original deed.

Bob Blagden said that after the adjacent landowner had cut trees close to the powderhouse, several trees were left standing, but due to their location and quality, they could damage the powderhouse if the wind were to topple them. He recommended that those trees be removed also.

Ben Rines, Jr., noted that the powderhouse is on the National Register of Historic Places and inquired into the possible damage from blasting that is taking place in the vicinity.

Steve Mehrl asked whether the town assessor would be completing the building permit assessments this year or if the work would be hired out. Arthur Faucher said the work was done quickly and adequately last year when the service was contracted out. It took three weeks and \$15,000 was budgeted.

Jim Guidi, who owns 80 acres on Churchill Street, said blasting had occurred on one day only and no more blasting would be done. As far as he could tell, no damage was done to the powderhouse. With regard to the trees, he had done a select cut on his property. He said he was conscious of the value of the powderhouse and would take great care in working close to it. Bob Blagden will meet with Guidi and Mark Hocks, a registered forester, to determine whether trees on the 20-foot square on which the powderhouse sits should be taken down. Guidi said he was aware of the deed and he had not blocked the right of way to the powderhouse.

Phil DiVece said he and Dan Sortwell had visited the powderhouse and found there were not a lot of trees that were a danger to the building; however, he had faith in Mark Hocks' abilities. DiVece was concerned about the condition of the powderhouse as

vandalism had taken place, the hasp was broken on the door and the wooden roof shingles were starting to show their age. He suggested that with a town celebration coming up, the town should look into budgeting funds for the necessary work.

Ben Rines, Jr. said last January he had expressed his displeasure with the sloppiness of audited accounts and the overdrafts. Now, he added, it appears that the town has been missing funds for years and he asked why this was allowed to go on for so long and why the same auditor and manager had blamed this on Jim George, the town treasurer. He said Jim George was honest, dedicated and competent and that facts should be determined before laying blame. He added that if George is moved from his present job quickly, everyone needs to worry.

Bob Blagden said he considered Jim George competent and had 100% confidence in him. He said George should be kept at the position to which he was elected and if blame is to be laid, it should be shared by the auditor who had found no fault year after year. He added that it was a mistake to hire the auditor back.

Steve Mehrl, referring to a newspaper article that said the union contract had been worked on for 18 months, asked whether the other union contracts were in place. David Nichols said the Selectmen were working on the other contracts.

New Business

5. Opening of the Request for Proposals for a new municipal office generator

The following proposals were received:

Coastal Climate Control - Diesel 40 KW generator	\$47,400
Christopher H. Curtis - Propane 27 KW generator	15,700
- Diesel 27 KW generator	27,360
Midcoast Energy Systems - Winco Diesel 20KW generator	18,640
- Kohler Diesel 20 KW generator	26,524
- Kohler LP 25 KW generator	23,431

In response to Dick Hanson's question, the Town Manager said there were no specifications for a new generator, as the Selectmen did not want to spend money for an engineer to draw them up, and the decision was made to ask for proposals instead. Hansen said that two weeks ago this was a crisis and the town was going out for bids. Instead proposals were requested and there was no way to compare them as no specs were given.

Prior Morrell said the town failed to get a load analysis to determine what size generator was needed. He said a 40kw generator was originally installed because there was electric heat in the building, but that would be oversized for the current electric use of the building, which is no longer heated electrically.

Bill Curtis moved to refer the bids to the committee that had been appointed in the first place (Curtis, DiVece, Merry, Abbott and Faucher) for evaluation and recommendation. Vote 5-0. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 18, at 9:30 a.m.

6. Stuart Wyman: Disparity in town and personal property surveys

Stuart Wyman said that there was a discrepancy between the town survey and his survey. According to his document, the town bus garage is on part of his property. Phil DiVece asked that the situation be reviewed by the Town Attorney. The chairman recommended that the property be resurveyed, the cost of which plus any legal costs will be borne equally by the town, the school board and Wyman.

7. Town Manager's Report

- Recommendation on a highway department replacement: Arthur Faucher had met with Ron Lear, Transfer Station Supervisor, and Bob Blagden, Road Commissioner, about filling a vacancy. The Highway Department has a vacancy for a full-time employee and has funds in its budget for this purpose. The Transfer Station also needs a full-time employee but has inadequate funds at this time (approximately \$11,000). The Town Manager recommended that the vacancy in the Highway Department be filled and that Blagden and Lear coordinate on scheduling when this employee is on loan to the Transfer Station. Scheduling and needs will be monitored for six months, at which time the Budget Committee and selectmen will determine whether an employee should be added to the Transfer Station in the next budget year.

In response to Bill Curtis' inquiry, Arthur Faucher said the DEP had conducted a courtesy inspection of the Transfer Station two weeks ago. Recommendations included more source separation, removal of the propane tanks, moving of the wood pile, monitoring the bin 100% of the time, prevention of rust from metal components leaking into the storm drain and ultimately into the wetlands, documentation and removal of electronics, and monitoring of materials put in the small bin. Many of these violations are due to lack of sufficient personnel. The DEP has been asked to visit the Transfer Station every two months.

Bill Curtis said that according to the Town Manager the inspector had recommended hiring a full time employee and he (Curtis) agreed. With single stream recycling, the savings of \$85 per load and the \$11,000 in the budget would go a long way to funding this position. Arthur Faucher said approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000 could be collected from unpaid fees which would help offset the cost of hiring a Transfer Station employee.

Nicole Viele recommended advertising for the Highway Department vacancy and examining the numbers before hiring someone for the Transfer Station.

Bill Curtis cautioned the Board that even though the courtesy inspections reports were not written, inspectors doing compliance inspections would review the notes of previous inspections so it was important to have adequate personnel to carry out the recommendations of the DEP.

Phil DiVece moved to advertise for a full-time laborer/ truck driver with a class B license for the Highway Department. Vote 5-0.

- Update on secretarial interviews: Arthur Faucher said 30 applications had been received for this position and second interviews for some would be held on Wednesday, December 17.

- Holiday Business Hours: Arthur Faucher said it has been the custom to close at noon on December 24 and that some employees would be taking the 26th as a vacation day as well. There was a consensus of the selectmen that all departments close on December 26th.

8. Other Business

An assessors' workshop will be held on January 13 at 6 p.m.

The chairman asked the Town Manager to send letters of thanks to employees for their work during the recent storm and to those who had donated food.

Bill Curtis referred to the minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting where it was said that the audit would be completed by December 19, and he asked whether it had been received. Arthur Faucher said he had not heard from the auditor but would contact him.

Steve Mehrl said the December 18th Budget Committee meeting was cancelled; it will meet with School Superintendent Jay McIntire on January 8 regarding the school status.

Roland Abbott gave an update of activities during the ice storm. He said the Emergency Management Agency had worked from early Thursday morning to Monday morning. On Saturday, a shelter was set up at the community center where people could come for warmth, showers and meals. Abbott said the governor and the state EMA director had stopped by Sunday night with kudos for the crew. The chairman thanked Pam Lear for coming into the office on Saturday and for her help during the storm. In response to Bill Curtis' question, Roland Abbott said his crew had made 11 inhouse medical calls.

At 8:10 p.m. **David Nichols moved to go into executive session pursuant to Chapter 13, Section 405, paragraph (6)(A)(1) covering a public discussion which could damage a reputation and an individual's right to privacy. Vote 5-0.**

The Board exited executive session at 8:45 p.m. At 8:46 p.m. **Phil DiVece moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0.**