

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 8, 2008

(Tape recorded meeting)

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Duane Goud 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 11, 2007

David Nichols moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to accept the minutes as read. Vote 4-0.

New Business

4. Approve Ballot Clerks for January 15, 2008 election

The chairman read the list of ballot clerks scheduled for January 15, 2008:

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Belinda Haggett and Patricia Bridgham
3 p.m. to end	Katharine Martin-Savage and Sara George

Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to accept the ballot clerks as read. Vote 4-0.

5. Approve Community Center 10-year Anniversary Celebration Plan Scheduled for February 8 through 16

The chairman read a request from Todd Souza, Director of Parks and Recreation, for approval of a week-long celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the center. He also asked for approval to open the building to all residents free of charge during that week. **David Nichols moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to approve the 10th anniversary celebration from February 8 through February 16 and allow any funding as necessary within reason. Vote 4-0.**

6. Manager's Report

- Year-end Expense Summary: The Town Manager submitted an expense summary report, July to December 2007, and briefly discussed the accounts for which expenses exceeded 50% for the six-month period.
- Ferry Road Deed/i.park: The deed for the roadway from Ferry Road Development to the Town of Wiscasset has been signed. Acceptance of the deed will be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting in June.
- Vacation Pay-Out Request: William Rines has requested receiving a week's pay in lieu of his taking a week's vacation. He has acquired 178.5 hours of vacation time. **Duane Goud moved, David Nichols seconded, to pay the 40-hour workweek in lieu of vacation time. Vote 4-0.**

- Request for New Cruiser: Police Lt. John Allen requested permission to trade the two older cruisers for a 2008 model vehicle. The mileage on the 2004 vehicle is 126,000 miles and on the 2001 vehicle is 166,400 miles. The department would retain the 2006 model vehicle. Maintenance on the older cruisers is becoming a problem. Selectmen approval will be necessary for a request for bids, which Lt. Allen would like to send out so that the purchase can be on the ballot for approval at the Annual Town Meeting. **Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to give Lt. Allen permission to put out specs for a new cruiser (the purchase of which is) contingent upon a vote at Town Meeting.** The specs will be reviewed by the Town Manager and Board and the deadline for return will be February 26 and 6 p.m. **Vote 4-0.**
- NEMA Grant: Lt. Allen reported that the Wiscasset School Board had received a NEMA grant of \$19,000 for active shooter training at the Middle School. The fund will cover a training exercise simulating a terrorist taking the school hostage.
- Voters' Petition for Town Meeting Vote: In the absence of Town Clerk Sandra Johnson, James George, Treasurer, read a petition that had been signed by 247 voters requesting that the following article be placed on the ballot at an open town meeting: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for the Office of Assessment/Human Resources the sum of \$30,328.12. The explanation that followed indicated that the amount approved by the voters in June 2007 was inadequate to fund the operation of the Assessment/Human Resources office for the entire fiscal year. Further, in order to avoid paying in excess of \$72,000 to the manager of this department as a severance package, appropriating \$30,328.12 will save the Town in excess of \$41,000 and will keep the Assessment/Human Resources office open through the remainder of the year.

The Town Clerk recommended holding the open town meeting on January 22, 2008, which would allow sufficient time to post the article.

Ben Rines, who had worked with Sue Varney, the Assessment/Human Resources manager, supported the petition. He characterized her work as above and beyond the call of duty. He said a 30-year employee deserved consideration and the petition would be a great opportunity to review and correct the vote taken last June. He suggested that the petition wording be changed because normally, before the commitment, the Board would raise and appropriate the funds and after the commitment, the funds would be taken from surplus. He said this could be a third article following the articles for the election of the moderator and the signed petition.

The Board will meet with the Budget Committee on January 17 at 6:30 p.m. No date for the town meeting will be set until after that meeting.

7. Other Board Business

Bill Curtis moved, Nicole Viele seconded, that the Selectmen consent to having Selectmen Bill Curtis and David Nichols review and evaluate the fixed base operations of the Wiscasset Airport to help "ease" any future transition for a new Fixed Base Operator. He said the effort is to start looking at the financial affairs, maintenance needs, and components relevant to the facility for a 2008 budget. **Vote 3-0-1** (Curtis abstained).

David Nichols said that Kevin James had requested an extension of time to clean up his property. Approximately 60% of the vehicles have been removed, and because of delays caused by the weather, James asked that an extension be given until March 31, 2008. **David**

Nichols moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to extend the time period for clean up of the junk yard to March 31, 2008. Vote 4-0.

8. Citizen Comments

Steve Mehrl congratulated the Road Commissioner on the good job he had done in clearing snow after the past two storms.

9. Executive Session

At 7:35 p.m. Duane Goud moved, David Nichols seconded, to move into executive session pursuant to Title 1, Section 405 (6)(A) for deliberations on the employment evaluation and compensation of town manager Arthur Faucher, executive secretary Debi Applebee, town planner Jeffrey Hinderliter and recreation director Todd Souza. Vote 4-0.

Duane Goud moved, David Nichols seconded, to come out of executive session at 9:18 p.m. Vote 4-0.

David Nichols moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to grant a \$2.00 per hour adjustment to executive secretary Debi Applebee, town planner Jeffrey Hinderliter and recreation director Todd Souza; and a \$3.00 per hour adjustment to town manager Arthur Faucher effective January 1, 2008. The Board of Selectmen recognized the individual work ethic, personal commitment and devotion of these employees in serving the Town of Wiscasset. Vote 4-0.

Duane Goud moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to extend Town Manager Arthur Faucher's contract to December 31, 2009. Vote 4-0.

Bill Curtis moved, Duane Goud seconded, to allow the town manager at his discretion to award up to three vacation days to the town planner and recreation director in 2008 in lieu of retro-active pay. Vote 4-0.

David Nichols moved, Duane Goud seconded, to adjourn at 9:21pm. Vote 4-0.