

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
APRIL 23, 2009, 6:30 P.M.

Present: Selectmen Bill Curtis, Phil DiVece, Bob Fairfield, Chairman David Nichols, Vice Chairman Nicole Viele, Town Manager Arthur Faucher and Budget Committee members Judith Colby, Sherri Dunlap, Pam Dunning, Judy Flanagan, George Greene, Richard Hanson, Chairman Steve Mehrl and Greg Shea

1. Call to Order

David Nichols called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The chairman read the notice of public hearing on Tuesday May 5 at the Wiscasset Middle School cafeteria at 6 p.m. to discuss the annual ballot which will be voted by secret ballot on Tuesday, June 9, 2009; the notice was signed by all selectmen

2. Review of Draft #4: Official Ballot of the Annual Town Meeting for June 9, 2009

The following questions that had not been voted on by either the selectmen and/or Budget Committee were discussed and voted:

Question 4: Attorney Linda McGill's letter was read which stated that the Code Enforcement Officer is a union position and benefits cannot be reduced if hours are reduced. Budget Committee will vote following the selectmen's meeting.

Question 5B: The selectmen voted for 5A, which includes funds for Tyler to perform assessing duties. The duties of the Assessing Agent for this year and next year were discussed. Nicole Viele moved to not recommend question 5B. Vote 4-1 (DiVece opposed). Nicole Viele moved to revisit question 5B. Vote 4-1. Phil DiVece moved to recommend question 5B. Vote 1-4. (Curtis, Fairfield, Nichols and Viele opposed).

Question 9: The Fire Department had advised the Town Manager that an additional \$4100 is needed for turnout gear and an air compressor. Phil DiVece moved to rescind the selectmen's earlier motion to recommend \$80,925. Vote 5-0. Phil DiVece moved that the selectmen recommend the Fire Department budget of \$85,025. Vote 5-0. Budget Committee will vote following the selectmen's meeting.

Question 11: The need for an additional employee for the highway crew was discussed, (as one employee had been transferred to the Transfer Station and another had been on light duty because of health reasons) and whether filling the position was needed only in the winter for snow plowing when other department employees could be used or the work could be contracted out. Phil DiVece moved to amend the question to read, "Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$675,323 for Municipal Highway Department?" This amount would include the hiring of one full-time worker at the Highway Department. Vote 2-3 (Curtis, Fairfield and Nichols opposed). David Nichols moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$634,128 for the Highway Department. Vote 3-2 (DiVece and Viele opposed).

Question 15: Sean Rafter asked that the town increase the amount to be given to LCTV as funds come from the franchise fee, not from taxes. No vote was taken

Question 17: The special maintenance and repairs to the municipal building (fuel tank sump pump, furnace boilers, roof valleys and doors) were discussed at length. David Nichols moved to raise and appropriate for special maintenance and repairs to the municipal building the sum of \$25,000. Vote 5-0.

Question 18: David Nichols moved to raise and appropriate for the municipal building generator the sum of \$43,600. Vote 5-0.

Question 19: David Nichols moved to approve Question 19. Vote 5-0.

Question 20: Ken Boudin explained that bills for leases had just been sent out and that it was expected that the receipts would reach the anticipated amount before the end of the fiscal year. This had been a concern of the Budget Committee. Budget Committee will revisit.

Question 22: The amount for the transfer station includes one full-time Class A driver. Bob Fairfield moved to raise and appropriate \$516,503 for operation of the transfer station. Vote 5-0.

Question 27: The State allows the town to charge 9% interest on all unpaid taxes after the due date. The town has charged 2% less in recent years. It was suggested that if the town charged 9% interest, it might encourage owners of large properties to pay on time. Phil DiVece moved to amend Question 27 from 7% to the state-allowed 9%. Vote 2-3 (Curtis, Fairfield and Nichols opposed).

Question 28A-I: Phil DiVece moved to approve Question 28. Vote 5-0.

Buck Rines asked that \$5000 from impact fees for a sewer line and pump be added to the Wastewater Treatment Plant appropriation. Phil DiVece moved to rescind Question 25. Vote 5-0. Phil DiVece moved that the Board of Selectmen recommend a budget of \$386,854 for the purpose of the Wastewater Treatment Plant operational budget. Vote 5-0.

David Nichols recessed the selectmen's meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Budget Committee meeting

Judith Colby moved to approve \$985,025 for the Fire Department. Vote 8-0.

George Green moved to recommend on Question 11 \$634,128 as written. Vote 1-7. Judith Colby moved to approve \$675,323 for Question 11. Vote 7-1.

No change was proposed to Question 15 (LCTV).

Judy Flanagan moved to revisit Question 16. Vote 3-5. Greg Shea moved that the URIP funds received by the town be appropriated to Road and Sidewalk Repair over and above the existing amount raised and appropriated. Vote 8-0.

Steve Mehrl moved to revisit Question 20 (airport). Vote 8-0. Steve Mehrl moved to accept \$58,833. Vote 8-0.

Judith Colby moved to accept Question 22 as written. Vote 8-0.

Pam Dunning moved to revisit Question 25. Vote 8-0. George Greene moved to approve \$386,854 for question 25. Vote 8-0.

The Budget Committee adjourned and the selectmen's meeting resumed.

Phil DiVece moved to include the Budget Committee's alternate question on the highway department budget of \$675,323 (11B). Vote 3-1-1. Phil DiVece moved to recommend \$675,323 for Question 11B. Vote 2-3.

The Budget Committee reconvened at 9:07. Sherri Dunbar moved to raise and appropriate \$675,323 for Question 11 (Highway Department). Vote 7-1.

Bill Curtis moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Vote 5-0.