

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 5, 2009, 6 P.M.

BALLOT ARTICLES FOR JUNE 9, 2009 TOWN MEETING

Present: Bill Curtis, Phil DiVece, Bob Fairfield, Chairman David Nichols, Vice
Chairman Nicole Viele and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

The chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The following questions on the ballot were read:

1. Should any cost center (departmental budget) question fail to pass, shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to expend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the previous year's cost center appropriation? No discussion.

2. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for General Government the sum of \$543,720? No discussion.

3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Building Maintenance/Operations the sum of \$75,987? No discussion.

4. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Planning/Code Enforcement the sum of \$130,250? No discussion.

5A. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Contractual Services the sum of \$128,600? No discussion.

5B. Should the previous question fail to pass: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Contractual Services the sum of \$117,600? Greg Shaw asked about the difference between 5A and 5B and was advised by Steve Mehrl that the Acadia 40IK management budget had been reduced by \$4,000.

6A. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Celebrations (July 4th and Winter Celebration) the sum of \$12,500? No discussion.

6B. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for the 250th Celebration the sum of \$5,000? No discussion.

7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Insurance/Debt Services/Utilities the sum of \$262,418? No discussion.

8. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for the Police Department the sum of \$302,979? No discussion.

9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Fire Department the sum of \$85,025? No discussion.

10. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Animal Control the sum of \$7,425? No discussion.

Question 11A and 11B are related. Please read both questions in their entirety before voting.

11A. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Highway Department the sum of \$634,128?

11B. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Highway Department the sum of \$675,323? In response to questions from Greg Shaw and Bill Barnes, it was explained that the difference between 11A and 11B was that 11B included hiring a full-time person for the highway department. Jim George was asked what would happen if people voted for both questions and he said the one with most votes would win. Because there was the possibility of both questions passing, it was decided to contact MMA. It was suggested that the question should be worded similar to the way Question 5B was worded.

12. Shall the Town vote to appropriate and authorize the Selectmen to transfer from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund the sum of \$52,187 for Cemeteries? No discussion.

13. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the Wiscasset Public Library? No discussion.

14. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Shellfish Conservation the sum of \$10,581? No discussion.

15. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,810 for Community Organizations? No discussion.

16. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Road and Sidewalk Repair the sum of \$150,000? No discussion.

17. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Special Maintenance & Repairs to the Municipal Building (Fuel Tank Sump Pump, Furnace Boilers, Roof Valleys and Doors. Year 4 of 5) the sum of \$25,000? No discussion.

18. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Municipal Building Generator the sum of \$43,600? In response to Dick Grondin's question why the Budget Committee did not recommend this question, Steve Mehrl said that the committee favored purchasing portable pumps that could be used in other buildings or for pumps rather than one generator which could be used only in the Municipal Building.

19. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate for Sewer Pump Station, US Route One the sum of \$75,000? No discussion.

20. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$26,333 from taxation for the Airport and appropriate the sum of \$32,500 to come from departmental revenues and surplus for a total operational budget of \$58,833? No discussion.

21. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an amount of \$274,390 from taxation for the Parks & Recreation Department budget; and appropriate the sum of \$470,000 from departmental revenues and surplus for a total operational budget of \$744,390?

Bill Barnes asked why the amount needed from taxation had increased when it should be \$100,000 if the community center was supposed to be paid off in five years. Todd Souza said that there had been an 8% reduction in the amount to be raised and appropriated this year, and added that he had never promised the center would be self-supporting.

22. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$321,503 from taxation for the Transfer Station and appropriate the sum of \$195,000 to come from departmental revenues and surplus for a total operational budget of \$516,503? No discussion

23. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$11,192 from taxation for the Senior Center and appropriate the sum of \$45,848 to come from departmental revenues and surplus for a total operational budget of \$57,040? No discussion.

24. Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$68,767 the entire amount to come from departmental revenues and surplus for the total Waterfront & Harbors operational budget? No discussion.

25. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$385,854 the entire amount to come from departmental revenues, impact fees and surplus, for the total Wastewater Treatment Plant operational budget. No discussion.

26. Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$274,444 the entire amount to come from departmental revenues and surplus for the total Emergency Medical Services operational budget? No discussion.

27. Shall the Town fix Friday, October 23, 2009 and Friday, April 23, 2010 as the dates when semi-annual tax payments are due and payable and instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at the rate of 7.00% per annum on all taxes unpaid after said dates? No discussion.

28. Shall the Town vote to approve the following:

- A. To pay interest at 5.00% per annum on any amount overpaid on property taxes as noted in M.R.S.A. Title 36, section 506-A;
- B. To authorize the payment of tax abatements and applicable interest approved by the Selectmen/Board of Assessors from the property tax overlay;
- C. To authorize the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment of property taxes with no interest to be paid on the same;
- D. To authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms, as they may deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for such property. Property that, in the opinion of the Selectmen, best serves the interest of the Town by remaining Town-owned property need not be sold;
- E. To authorize the Selectmen to expend additional funds received from federal, state and other sources during the year for Town purposes provided such additional funds do not require the expenditure of local funds not previously appropriated;
- F. To authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer, on behalf of the town, to accept gifts, real estate and other funds including trust funds that may be given or left to the Town and to apply these funds to the accounts the Selectmen deem appropriate;

G To authorize the Selectmen to sell or dispose of various items, except real estate, that serve little or no purpose in the operation of the town and to apply the proceeds from these sales to the accounts the Selectmen deem appropriate;

H. To authorize the Selectmen to disburse money received from registration fees of snowmobiles for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails in Wiscasset;

I. To authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the town, to apply for federal and state grants; and if such program grants are approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept grant funds, assume such responsibilities and exercise such authority as necessary to implement such programs? No discussion.

Jim George asked why the wording of Questions 20 to 23 had not been changed, as these were not true enterprise accounts, and gross budgeting as applied to these categories had been discussed previously. David Nichols said it would be done next year; it was too late to change it this year. Phil DiVece added that the selectmen and Budget Committee members had already voted on the articles as they appear when the recommendation from the auditor arrived on April 30, and it was too late to re-vote and revise the ballot in order to get it to the printer on time. Steve Mehrl said that although the selectmen voted for gross budgeting, they had only moved Questions 21-23 out of the Enterprise Accounts category on the ballot, but had not changed the wording.

The public hearing adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

