

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JUNE 2, 2009

Preliminary Minutes

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

3. Approve minutes for the May 12, 2009 Abatement meeting and the May 19, 2009 Selectmen's meeting

**Bill Curtis moved to approve the minutes of the abatement meeting on May 12, 2009. Vote 5-0-0. Bob Fairfield moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2009 as written. Vote 4-1-0.**

Phil DiVece, referring to the minutes of the previous meeting, said that waiving a public hearing for a liquor license could set a precedent, that the board had not voted to sign the Homestead Exemption form and that he would like to hear from the town mechanic on the garbage trailer issue.

Jeffrey Hinderliter, Town Planner, said that the liquor license application is a state form that includes the waiver provision if an applicant has had a license for five years without complaints. The town has no liquor license ordinance. Phil DiVece said he would like an opinion from the town attorney. Nicole Viele said she saw no problem with waiving a hearing if there have been no issues with the license or the establishment and the form clearly states that a hearing can be waived; it would not be worth hiring the town attorney.

4. Citizen Comment

Steve Mehrl, Budget Committee chairman, said that when the pump and generator for the school was discussed during budget meetings, the cost (\$118,000) was intended be rolled into the Regional School Unit budget; however, the Wiscasset School Board has accepted a bid for the equipment. Mehrl asked where the school would get the \$118,000. He was referred to the school board.

5. Katharine Martin-Savage: The Woody Freeman Memorial

Katharine Martin-Savage asked for the board's permission to have Bob Blagden, Road Commissioner, remove the dead tree on the common that in the past has been decorated with Christmas lights and to plant a 14-15-foot spruce tree, which is being donated by Marcie and Kent Reed, in its place. Ms. Savage will contact the Reeds to determine who will be digging up the tree and the size of the root ball and will return to the board with that information.

6. Board of Selectmen

- Opening of Hot Top bids: Six bids were received as follows:

Pike Industries	\$315,864.00
Harry C. Crooker	338,000.00
Marriners	301,110.90
R.C. & Sons Paving	313,532.18
Ferraiolo	277,551.10

Asked for comment, the road commissioner said that Ferraiolo had done the paving for the last four years. **Nicole Viele moved to accept the low bid from Ferraiolo for hot top paving. Vote 5-0-0.**

- Opening of Catch Basin bids: One bid had been received as follows:

McDonald Sweeping    \$37 per basin    \$100 per hour

The road commissioner said that this firm had done an adequate job in the past and he recommended accepting the bid on the per basin cost. **Nicole Viele moved to accept the McDonald bid of \$37 per basin for cleaning catch basins. Vote 5-0-0.**

- Main Street Pier - Carol Wheeler, Bottis Glass Art: Peter Dalton, Harbormaster, said the Waterfront Committee had approved the application. He said with the applications being considered at this meeting, there would be three food vendors, one coffee vendor and one craft vendor. Phil DiVece said that he had requested a policy on the use of the pier in March that so far had not been received. He asked about the electric capacity of the pier and was informed that Frank Sprague and the coffee vendor each have their own electric meters. DiVece said a policy was necessary as a guideline for the use of the pier and would answer questions such as the electric capacity at the pier. Peter Dalton said there was room for additional meters on the pier. Bill Curtis recommended contacting CMP to determine the electrical capacity. Arthur Faucher said the Waterfront Committee is still working on the policy. **Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Carol Wheeler, Bottis Glass Art application. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Main Street Pier - Glade Bloom, Jr. and Rachel Corson: Peter Dalton said the Waterfront Committee had approved this application. In response to Phil DiVece's question, Rachel Corson said propane would be used for heating; electricity would be used only for the refrigerator, toaster and coffee machine. Peter DiVece inquired as to the number of vendors allowed on the pier and was advised that the limit was five and that this is the fifth application. DiVece asked that the Waterfront Committee attend a selectmen's meeting to discuss the pier policy regarding heating, i.e., propane vs. electric, which should be covered in the policy. **Nicole Viele moved to accept the application of Glade Bloom, Jr. and Rachel Corson. Vote 5-0-0.**

## 7. Town Manager

Arthur Faucher asked the board to sign a letter to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles confirming Christine Wolfe's appointment as town clerk and motor vehicle agent. **Phil DiVece moved to authorize Christine Wolfe, Town Clerk, to be the motor vehicle agent for Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.**

Edward Jones Trust Company - Recent Financial Reports: Arthur Faucher said financial reports had been distributed to the board. He said that a representative from Edward Jones was not able to attend this selectmen's meeting but that he could be in Wiscasset in July, travel expenses estimated to be \$1500 to \$2000 would be split between Edward Jones and Wiscasset. Phil DiVece said he was opposed to sharing expenses with Edward Jones and that he saw no reason for someone to fly from St. Louis when Edward Jones had offices in Maine. He asked if the Town Manager had a password so that he could check on the town's investments. Arthur Faucher said he did not have a password but instead phoned if he had questions. DiVece asked about Edward Jones' recommendation that a subcommittee be established to coordinate with the investment firm in person or by video conference. Arthur Faucher said he and the chairman had discussed a committee composed of two selectmen, two budget committee members and three at-large Wiscasset residents. DiVece asked for an explanation of the fees charged by Edward Jones for the reserve and endowment accounts, cost of trades, etc. He said that although there were two

meetings with Edward Jones last year, there was not adequate notice of the meetings and consequently, attendance at the meetings was poor.

Greg Shea, budget committee member, said that in his experience, it was inappropriate for an investment firm to ask the client to pay half of its expenses and a representative should be available for visits where the board can ask questions and comment. He said he had reviewed the town's portfolio in 2008 and 2009 and found that the portfolio was entirely in bonds and questioned why the bonds were experiencing a 100% turnover rather than being held to maturity. He also questioned the practice of a marketing firm connected to Edward Jones handling the trades. He recommended that the town ask for an explanation of Edward Jones' policies and investigate other firms with which to do business.

Nicole Viele asked that copies of the contract with Edward Jones be made available to the board. **Bill Curtis moved to appoint a task force composed of two selectmen, two budget committee members, and three at-large town residents to look at what we have, form questions, make a presentation to the board, set up a plan and invite Edward Jones to come to Wiscasset at no cost to the town.** Arthur Faucher recommended that establishing an ad hoc committee be discussed with the budget committee, that the selectmen select two of their members, the budget committee select two of its members and the three at-large members would be selected by both groups. **Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 8. Other Business

**David Nichols moved to award the French and Haggett scholarships for \$1000 and \$500 each to the proposed recipients who are "C" students (names to be published after class night). Vote 5-0-0.**

**David Nichols moved to sign the Homestead Reimbursement form. Vote 5-0-0.**

Phil DiVece asked that the town mechanic be present at the next meeting to give his recommendation on the trailer and that Ron Lear, Transfer Station Supervisor be present also.

#### 9. Executive Session

At 5:10 p.m. **David Nichols moved to go into executive session pursuant to Title 1: Chapter 13: Section 405, paragraph (6)(A) to do a six-month probationary review and evaluation of Ron Lear as the municipal transfer station supervisor. Vote 5-0-0.** The board exited executive session at 5:53 p.m.

Chairman Nichols asked what were the wishes of the Board regarding Ron Lear's probationary period. **Vice Chairman Nicole Viele moved to adjust Ron Lear's salary to \$45,000 per year for a two-year period after reviewing a positive evaluation.** There was no discussion. **Vote 4-1-0.** Selectmen Curtis, Fairfield, Nichols and Viele in favor. Selectman DeVece opposed. Motion carried.

The Wiscasset Transfer Station Supervisor, Ron Lear, understands and accepts that his annual salary shall be \$45,000 per year for the period of July 2009 to June 2010 and July 2010 to June 2011. (His current salary is \$43,340.)

#### 10. Adjourn

Having no further business **Chairman David Nichols moved to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.** The Board of Selectmen then drove to Whitefield for the Regional School Unit (RSU) budget meeting.