

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
JUNE 23, 2009

(Tape recorded meeting)

Present: Chairman Bob Blagden, Vice Chairman Phil DiVece, Pam Dunning, Bob Fairfield and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

Absent: Bill Curtis

1. Call to Order

The chairman 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 June 16, 2009

Corrections were made as follows: Item 5, sixth paragraph, the second sentence should begin, "He *said* the posting..." Item 5, seventh paragraph, seventh line, "an" should be replaced with "a." Item 5, ninth paragraph, should begin "James *Hammond*." **Pam Dunning moved to accept the minutes of June 16 as amended. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Citizen Comment

George Lamar said he had signed a contract with the state to allow the rebuilding of Thorndike Road from his driveway to the railroad bridge. The state needed access to repair the Montsweag Arch supporting the railroad bridge and had guaranteed that a gate would be installed across the road, closing it off to the public; however, this has not been done. Mr. Lamar said that there is a liability issue with drivers using the road, and he asked to meet with the selectmen to determine if he can put up a gate. The town currently plows the road to Mr. Lamar's driveway. Mr. Lamar said the rest of the road had not been used or maintained for over 50 years until the state needed it to get to the bridge. Bob Blagden asked the town manager to give a copy of the contract to the town attorney and ask him to determine if this is a public right of way and, if so, whether it can be blocked off. He also asked that the matter be put on the agenda when a legal opinion is received.

Carroll Colby said there were gaps of 6 to 10 inches between the floats at Memorial Pier, which present a danger to children and others. Bob Blagden said that 2 x 6-inch pieces should have been bolted over the join and he asked that the town manager contact the harbormaster to have these replaced.

**Pam Dunning moved to invite the Harbormaster and members of the Waterfront Committee to the selectmen's meeting in two weeks to talk about issues raised at selectmen's meetings and how they can be resolved. Vote 4-0-0.**

Prior Morrell recommended that the town contact Gowen Electric for an inspection of the emergency generator at the town hall to determine why it had malfunctioned. He said the generator should be run weekly and it should not be used to run computers, as the power is too variable and power surges occur; the computers should have battery backup. The price for an authorized representative to look at the generator would be \$240 plus labor. He estimated it would cost less than \$1000 to find the problem.

Bill Barnes noted the discrepancy in the wording of the mowing bids: last year's bids stated that mowing must be done to the satisfaction of the road commissioner and department heads. This year's forms said mowing would have to be done to the satisfaction of the town. The town manager said there was no change in the procedure. In response to Barnes' question regarding

the mowing of the septic field, which he understood was being done at no charge, the town manager recommended he check with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor. He said that the grass from the septic field would be delivered to the fire department burn site. Bob Blagden asked that the insurance of the person doing the mowing be verified. To the suggestion that the person cutting the grass may want to keep the hay, Bob Blagden said the state governs disposition of the grass cut on septic fields.

Ed Polewarczyk asked what the selectmen expected of the ad hoc investment services committee. Arthur Faucher said the purpose was to review the Edward Jones investments. Two selectmen, two budget committee members and three at large members will make up the committee. The objective is to review the monthly and quarterly reports, review market conditions and advise the board accordingly, determine the reason for buying and selling and coordinate an annual meeting with Edward Jones. Phil DiVece said in addition he would like to review the agreement with Edward Jones and its job performance. Arthur Faucher said there had been no discussion of term limits for committee members and the committee would be setting up its operating procedures, bylaws, etc. Ed asked how the committee would question the legitimacy of the trading activity. Faucher said the committee would have access to personnel from Edward Jones who handle the reserve and endowment accounts. The deadline for selecting members for the committee is June 29. The Budget Committee will select its representatives on Thursday, June 25.

Richard Hanson asked if the town manager had 24-hour access to the town's Edward Jones account to see what is transpiring daily. Faucher said in addition to receiving monthly and quarterly reports, he phoned Edward Jones if he needed information. Advised that a representative from Edward Jones would be in Wiscasset in July or August, Phil DiVece asked if a definite date could be set. Faucher asked that the board and the Budget Committee submit their questions and he would send them to Edward Jones so that responses can be prepared. Pam Dunning asked that the board be given at least two weeks' notice of the meeting.

#### 5. Lisa Garman: Report on the upcoming July 4th events

The theme of this year's celebration is American Pride. The lineup starts at 9 a.m.; the parade will start at 10 and will follow the same route as last year. It is being organized by the Masons and led by the Police Department. Sign-up sheets are available in the town office for those wishing to participate in the parade. Lisa Garman asked for volunteers to judge the parade entrants and to present awards at the end of the parade. She listed other events: food vendors at the pier, breakfast at the senior center, pancake breakfast at the airport, BBQ at the yacht club and fireworks from Sherman Park. A dance will take place at the pier from 8:00 to 10:30 p.m. On July 3rd, the Army National Guard band will perform on the pier at noon. On July 5th the Sheepscot River six-mile canoe and kayak race will take place.

Garman said she would report later on the 250th anniversary committee.

#### 6. Jeffrey Hinderliter: Explanation of the town sewer ordinance and the Montsweag Roadhouse project

In order to connect the town sewer to the Montsweag roadhouse, an interlocal agreement would be required, as the roadhouse is outside the Wiscasset town limits. The agreement, by statute, would require a public hearing and approval of the voters. Jeffrey Hinderliter will check on the time requirements for the hearing and vote. He said a vote on the agreement could take place at the time of the school vote. Bob Blagden said the board would decide whether to proceed and then would set a date for a public hearing if necessary.

In response to questions, Hinderliter said that if Wiscasset voted to provide sewer service to the Montsweag Roadhouse, a contract with Montsweag would be necessary to define responsibilities, maintenance, and fees and to exempt Wiscasset from any liability. In response

to Carroll Colby's question, Faucher said that Montsweag would be responsible for maintaining the sewer line to the pump station. Bob Blagden asked that the item be put on the agenda for June 30 and that Mr. DeWick, Pine Tree Engineering, be asked to attend at that time.

#### 7. Greg Griffin and Mark Jones: Repairs needed for Highway Truck #5

Road Commissioner Greg Griffin said that major engine repair and a new body are necessary for the 1997 plow truck. Repair is estimated at \$4500 to \$5000. However, because the engine has reached its life expectancy, he said he would prefer to get a rebuilt engine, which would cost from \$12,275 to \$12,426. Mark Jones, town mechanic, will install the engine. The town policy is to solicit bids for purchases over \$2500, and although the bids will probably reflect the quotes already received, there was a consensus that bid packages be sent out. Bids will be voted on at the June 30 meeting so that the purchase can be made from this year's budget.

#### 8. Town Manager's Report

- Alna/Westport Island visits on the tractor-trailer: George Richardson, Westport Island selectman, has indicated that because Westport Island is not a shareholder in the Wiscasset Transfer Station, it would not be making a financial investment in the replacement of the trailer and would remain a customer only. Ron Lear spoke with an Alna official and received a similar, though unofficial, reply; the Alna selectmen will not meet until next week. Lear said he had sufficient funds to purchase the trailer; the surplus is \$65,000 and cost of the trailer is \$52,000. Next year's budget does not include the carryover of the surplus. The board discussed the need for a third trailer, whether to replace or repair the trailer, whether a town vote would be required, and the advantages of a lease-purchase option. Mark Jones will be able to repair the holes and he estimated the town would be able to use the truck for four more years with the repair of the suspension. Lear will obtain estimates on repair of the hydraulic system. **Bob Blagden moved to authorize \$6345± for the repair of the suspension on the trailer. Vote 4-0-0.**
- Update on RFQs for airport engineering services: Bids for the new master plan have been received from Oest Associates, Hoyle and Tanner Associates and Stantic. The Airport Advisory Committee will be interviewing these firms on June 26 and will make their recommendation at the June 30 selectmen's meeting.
- RSU Central Office and commercial square footage rates: It was not necessary for the board to consider rental rates for an RSU office in Wiscasset, as Wiscasset Newspaper editor Paula Gibbs said the RSU had rented two buildings in Whitefield. The town manager will contact the RSU to see if they are still interested in renting an office in Wiscasset.
- Maine Yankee's abatement request: The town manager presented the Amendment to Property Tax and Impact Fee Agreement for the board's approval and signatures. Under the agreement, Maine Yankee agrees to withdraw its request for abatement, leaving the 2008 assessment in place. The assessed value as of April 1, 2008 was \$9,905,000 and the agreement sets the assessed value as of April 1, 2009 at \$4,905,000 and at \$7,405,000 as of April 1, 2010. The property will be reassessed in 2011. Phil DiVece said that approving the agreement would avoid legal expenses and the cost of having another assessment done. Richard Hanson asked how much more this agreement would cost the taxpayers and in response to his question on the amount of abatements this year, Arthur Faucher said that total abatements were \$79,560.13, the overlay was \$49,300.88 and the balance was taken from contingency funds. Bob Blagden said that after listening to Attorney Peter Murray's summary of events, he thought the agreement was the best alternative without incurring gigantic legal fees, and at the same time, raising the valuation to something higher than it was. **Bob Blagden moved to sign the Property Tax and Impact Fee Agreement with Maine Yankee. Vote 4-0-0.**

## 9. Other Business

Arthur Faucher offered to take the board to visit Thorndike Road and to view some mobile units and abandoned properties.

Phil DiVece asked that Dennis Jumper, town attorney, brief the board on the necessity of signing over the school property to the RSU, as required, by July 1 when a budget has not yet been approved. Pam Dunning said the town attorney had said that the date was not stated implicitly, only implied and Dunning asked that it be taken care of at the next meeting. She added that the attorney had said in the event the RSU is defeated by a vote in November, it would have to complete its business including returning the properties to the town. Bob Blagden asked that the board have a report from Dennis Jumper on June 30.

Bob Blagden said he and Pam Dunning would meet with Joe Flanders on Monday, June 29 at 5 p.m. for an update on the condition of the support staff union contract.

Steve Mehrl said the July 2 Budget Committee meeting had been cancelled.

Bob Blagden said that there are two departments without a union contract and recommended giving priority to the department that has been without a contract for the longer time.

## 10. Adjourn

At 9:15 p.m., **Phil DiVece moved to adjourn. Vote 4-0-0**