

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AUGUST 4, 2009

(tape recorded meeting)

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

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 July 28, 2009

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2009.** A typo in the third paragraph on page 3 was corrected changing \$6340/hr to \$6340/yr. **Vote 4-0-1** (Curtis abstained).

4. Citizen Comment

Ed Cavanaugh, a resident of Federal Street, commented on the number of trucks using Federal Street and the poor condition of the road. He asked about the status of the proposed Water District work on that street and Main Street. Bob Blagden said the Water District is seeking funding for the project. The state is committed to doing an overlay, but that is being delayed until a decision is made on the water lines.

Steve Mehrl asked whether the board could make a supposition of the mill rate under various scenarios that could be used in the next round of meetings on the school budget. Bob Blagden said that information would be made available.

5. Board of Selectmen: Opening of Fire and Highway Department Surplus Bids

The following bids were received for the 1971 Maxium pumper

Ray Soule	\$1500.00
Scott Colby	150.00
Joe Gagnon	103.03
Jason Simpson	102.00

**Phil DiVece moved to accept the bid from Ray Soule for \$1500 for the purchase of the 1971 Maxium pumper fire truck.** Bill Curtis recommended putting the item on eBay in order to get a better bid as he had suggested a year ago. **Vote 4-1-0** (Curtis opposed).

The following bids were received for the Warren dump body:

Scott Colby	\$20.00
Tony Colby	12.50
Paul Ruff (Dresden All Works)	112.00

**Phil DiVece moved to accept the bid for the Warren dump body from Dresden All Works for \$112. Vote 5-0-0.**

The following bids were received for scrap iron:

Tony Colby	\$12.50
Scott Colby	25.00
Ray Soule	58.00
Dresden All Works	312.00

**Pam Dunning moved to accept the Dresden All Works bid for \$312 for scrap iron. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. John A. Reinhardt: The Wiscasset Historical Walking Tour

John Reinhardt, President of the 250-member Lincoln County Historical Association, said the LCHA together with other non-profit groups in town would be sponsoring a historical walk in Wiscasset on August 22 at 10 a.m. The recreation center will be sponsoring a march at 8:30 a.m. On the same day, there will be antiques al fresco at the old jail. In response to Prior Morrell's question why the powderhouse was not included, Reinhardt said that his group would be advising the town on the preservation of the powderhouse.

7. Todd Souza: Year-end Balance/Purchases and Activity Report

Souza, in his activity report, said he had lost staff during the year and commended his staff for filling the void. In the absence of staff and grants, he said the center had partnered with other organizations that had received grants. A Halloween garden had been planted with the 4-H group, the summer camp children had weeded the garden and the after-school group will harvest the pumpkins, gourds, corn, etc. which will be used for their Halloween party. He has worked with the Adult Community Education program for use of the facility, computers have been provided for public use and the 21st Century grant had helped with the late start program, aftercare and summer camp. Souza will be researching other grants to replace the 21st Century grant, which has been discontinued.

With regard to finances, Souza said that last year the carryover and revenues were less than anticipated and he had suspended purchases in order to end the year in the black. However, his department ended up with \$28,000 to carry over to this fiscal year. He asked for direction on use of the funds for purchases and repairs that had been postponed. For instance, he said, a new law requires new drain covers at \$1200 and he asked whether the carryover funds could be used for this purchase. He said the financial outlay for other items would save money in the long run in energy savings and asked how purchases and maintenance items should be approved. He said that the HVAC system needed a \$1500 repair and it was the consensus of the board that because the failure had occurred in June (in the previous fiscal year) and the repair process began at that time, the funds could be taken from the \$28,000 carryover. The legality of using the balance of the \$28,000 was discussed because it was not included in the budget approved by the voters for the current fiscal year. Phil DiVece recommended that Souza continue with energy conservation measures and suggested that Souza meet with the town manager the budget committee and the auditor to decide whether the \$28,000 could now be used for delayed purchases and repairs. Pam Dunning said she would like a legal opinion on the use of these funds.

Gross budgeting versus enterprise accounts was discussed. The previous board had decided to change from enterprise accounts to gross budgeting and had later rescinded that decision. The chairman said the board should make a decision on the matter. Steve Mehrl said a third alternative, special revenue accounts, should also be considered and he will provide information on that accounting method.

8. Ron Lear: Recommendation for Class 1 Utility Driver/Laborer

Lear said 19 applications for this position had been received; and out of the five applicants that had been interviewed, he recommended Robert Wolf. Arthur Faucher advised the board that the union rate for this position was \$12.75. Inasmuch as the town manager hires and fires staff, board approval was not necessary.

## 9. Town Manager

- Meeting with David Barrett (MMA Labor Attorney): Barrett will meet with the board in executive session on August 11 at 5:30 on union affairs.
- Accounts and Year-end Overdrafts: A memo from the treasurer advised that \$12,247.97 was moved from Contingency to Contractual Services to cover the legal bill for Maine Yankee; \$8,172.48 was moved from Contingency to General Assistance to cover an overdraft; \$6,200 was moved from Town Clerk to Finance to cover overtime expenses; and \$7,500 was moved from Town Clerk to Finance to cover health insurance costs. The latter two moves were necessitated by Becky Applin's covering in the absence of a town clerk. Bob Blagden suggested that the contingency funds should have been used to cover the overdraft in finance. Arthur Faucher proposed that the auditor make a recommendation on handling these overdrafts.
- Shore and Harbor Planning Grant - Municipal acceptance: The town has received a \$2,250 grant requiring \$562.50 in matching funds to help with repositioning moorings. In response to questions, Arthur Faucher said that some moorings had been abandoned and should be removed from the navigational channel and the Waterfront Committee had approved the application for this grant. Other moorings in the channel will be moved only if requested by the owners. The job will be put out to bid, the process researched and newspaper notification will be made. **Phil DiVece moved that the town manager be authorized to accept the Shore and Harbor Planning Grant for \$2,250. Vote 5-0-0.**
- The board signed the notice of public hearings to be held on August 18 at 7 p.m. for the annual commercial waste hauler permits for Giles Rubbish, Regional Rubbish Removal and Pine Tree Waste.

## 10. Board of Selectmen: Review of Sewer Use Agreement (Montsweag Roadhouse Project) and Special Town Meeting of January 12, 2005 regarding the Town of Edgecomb Sewer Line

The selectmen had received a letter from town attorney Dennis Jumper stating there were major problems with the draft contract with Montsweag Roadhouse and recommended that it undergo major changes before acceptance. **Bill Curtis moved that in light of the attorney's letter, the board ask the town manager, Buck Rines (Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor) and Dennis Jumper to address the issues in the (attorney's) letter to the board.** Chris Johnston, owner of the Montsweag Roadhouse, said he expected that the board would want changes and had not yet given the draft to his attorney. Arthur Faucher suggested that Mr. Johnston and his engineer meet with him, the town attorney and Buck Rines so that the attorney can explain the points in his letter. He added that the board still has to decide whether to take the matter to the voters.

Bob Blagden questioned the sewer user charge given in the material presented to the board at the previous meeting. He said the roadhouse flow of 2,000 gallons per day would have to be pumped five times before processing at the end of the sewer line and this could not be done for \$6,340 per year. He said the taxpayers and ratepayers would be subsidizing the roadhouse. In response to Johnston's question, Blagden said that all other users pay the same rate, and even if the roadhouse were part of the system, it could be charged a different rate, as it would be the only user that was not a taxpayer in the town. **Vote 5-0-0.**

## 11. Other Business

Susan Blagden, Maine Art Gallery, had discovered that the former Wiscasset Academy had not paid rent since 2007 and had not signed a lease. She presented a copy of a new five-year lease dated August 4, 2009 for the board's approval. The gallery is a non-profit organization and conducts fundraisers, receives commissions on artwork sold and sells greeting cards. It has occupied the building since the 1950s. The building needs maintenance and Steve Mehrl asked whether the town would consider giving the building to the organization, removing it from the town

rolls. Bill Curtis suggested the matter be considered. A public vote would be required to donate the building to the Art Gallery. **Bob Fairfield moved to sign the five-year lease to the Art Gallery, Inc. Vote 5-0-0.**

Bob Blagden asked whether there were funds in the highway budget for the necessary repairs to the art gallery building. Faucher said that the windows had been repaired and that he wanted to get a bid on repairs to the powderhouse before continuing work on the art gallery. He added that he has been watching for grants for these repairs.

**Phil DiVece moved to allow the Wiscasset financial committee to begin interviewing investment firms to manage the Town of Wiscasset reserve and endowment accounts.** He said that it had been nine years since a change was made; traditionally, reviews were done every five years. Bob Fairfield suggested giving Edward Jones an opportunity to respond to the board's questions before discussing other firms. Ed Polewarczyk said there were two separate issues, Edward Jones' performance and a review of other possibilities. He added that he thought the board was getting a good deal from Edward Jones, but other firms should be looked at as well.

There was discussion on the ad hoc committee's responsibilities and disagreement whether the ad hoc committee should present its plan to the board or whether direction should come from the board. Ed Polewarczyk said the committee needs to know the expectations of the board and the obligations of the committee. The committee's meetings are public; the next meeting will be held on August 24 at 6:30 in the firehouse. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Arthur Faucher reported that a fax had been received from Edward Jones the previous day, but through an oversight, a copy was not given to the ad hoc committee before its meeting. The investment firm had not set a date for meeting with the board.

The board signed the Morris Farm abatement form and a quitclaim deed to Kenneth Chapman.

The chairman reported the receipt of two letters, one from Joanne M. Schueth who complained that no traffic officer was present in downtown Wiscasset to prevent pedestrians' crossings from holding up traffic, and the other from E. Davies Allen who complimented the board on its decorum and restraint.

The chairman informed the town manager that over the weekend, the sheriff's department had been unable to contact him, as the health officer for the town, and he asked that Faucher give his telephone number to the 911 dispatch officer.

Steve Mehrl asked the best way to amend the ordinance establishing the budget committee, as the current ordinance wording is deficient and not supportive of the task. He was advised to contact the Ordinance Review Committee.

## 12. Adjourn

At 9:40 p.m., **Phil DiVece moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**