

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 22, 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. Public Hearing & Selectmen's Consideration: Liquor License for an American Harvest Picnic event at the Morris Farm

Lola Lea said that only wine would be served at the October 4 event and it would not be allowed out of the building. There were no comments or questions. The public hearing closed at 7:05 p.m.

Pam Dunning moved to grant the off-premise liquor license application to Azure Café for the October 4 program at Morris Farm. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Approve minutes of September 15, 2009

Phil DiVece moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Citizen Comment

Don Jones asked for clarification of the board's action on amending the parking ordinance. **Pam Dunning moved to put the hydrant [parking] ordinance in the hands of the ORC for rewording so it reflects reality. Vote 5-0-0.**

In response to Richard Hanson's question, Arthur Faucher said there had been no response to his letter to Point East regarding interest on the overdue payment; however, he had received the certified mail receipt indicating delivery of the letter. **Bob Blagden moved to authorize the Town Manager to contact Bernstein Shur and have them pull out the original contract and collect all the money that is due us and they can send the bill for their fee to Point East.** Phil DiVece asked that, if the attorney who originally handled the matter is still with the firm, he be assigned to enforce the contract. **Vote 5-0-0.**

In response to Paula Gibbs' question about snow plowing at the schools, Arthur Faucher said that the RSU would be going out for bids on plowing, as four communities in the RSU had not included snow plowing in their budgets. She also asked whether the board had asked the Sheriff's Department what the cost would be for providing police protection to Wiscasset. She was advised that coverage by the Sheriff's Department had been investigated in the past and the cost exceeded the town police budget. The chairman recommended that this matter be brought up when and if the board decides on hiring another officer or during the next budget cycle.

6. Kenneth R. Boudin, Jr., Machinery Service Company: Security Bond for construction of the Wiscasset Airport Snow Removal Equipment building

The Town Manager said that the amount of the performance bond exceeded the limit he could accept and he asked for authorization. The document specifies Dennis Jumper or any person whom the Town Manager appoints will be the escrow agent. The chairman said he had no

objection to Dennis Jumper if the Town Manager chose to appoint him. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the performance bond and authorize the Town Manager to sign it. Vote 4-0-1** (DiVece abstained).

7. Peter Arnold, Chewonki Foundation: Update on the Wiscasset Tidal Resources Project

Arnold updated the board on the application made to FERC last year for a three-year permit to investigate making power in the river. As required, Peter Arnold, as project manager, had submitted the work plan to FERC on July 13, 2009. He said studies must be completed next year if the town chooses to move forward with the project. Arnold will put together funding for the study and he added that the University of Maine has applied for earmark funds for a Riverbank study of currents. Riverbank and Wiscasset will be working together and sharing data. By 2012, an application will be submitted for a five-year pilot license to install and test equipment.

Arnold said that when complete, the project should provide revenue for Wiscasset. He was unable to answer definitively questions about revenue from turbine locations outside Wiscasset in Edgecomb and Westport Island using Wiscasset's grid. The federal government has jurisdiction over the water, the state has jurisdiction over the bottom of the river and it is unclear what jurisdiction towns have, he said. Pam Dunning advised looking into these matters before Wiscasset starts receiving bills from other towns claiming part of the revenue.

8. Roland Abbott: Trouble with the 2003 ambulance rear doors

Abbot reported trouble with the rear doors on the 2003 Wheeled Coach ambulance, which at times do not shut and at other times will not open. He said the doors have been fixed several times and new parts have been installed, but the service is still having trouble with them. The 2003 ambulance has been out of front line service for 33 days losing \$10,200 in revenue. He said there is the same issue with the side doors, and the suspension is worn out and needs to be redone. The inoperable doors present a danger when transporting patients. There is \$127,000 in the ambulance service reserve fund and he asked the board to consider the purchase of a 2006 ambulance, similar to one the service has, for \$84,000. The 2003 ambulance has no trade-in value but could possibly be sold for \$10,000 or \$15,000. He said he would have to notify Sugarloaf Ambulance Rescue Vehicles the next day if the town wanted to purchase the 2006 vehicle.

Pam Dunning explained that the ambulance funds belong to Wiscasset and cannot be spent without approval of the voters. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the board to ask the town manager to contact the town clerk and town attorney regarding the timing of a special town meeting and whether there were any emergency provisions in the ordinance that would allow the ambulance service to spend its reserves without approval of the voters. Roland Abbott will find out what it will cost to repair the suspension and replace the doors on the 2003 ambulance, inquire about renting an ambulance, and ask the seller of the 2006 ambulance if the town can delay its answer for a few days.

9. Town Manager

DEP and the Douglas Koehling Property clean up: Arthur Faucher and Bill Curtis had met with DEP representatives regarding the cleanup of the property at 215 Gardiner Road and the board was given a memo detailing the responsibilities of the town and the DEP. The cost of removing the oil tanks on the property is \$25-35,000, which will be paid for by the DEP with stimulus funds, and then billed to the town. The cost of decontamination of the soil could be as much as \$75,000 more. The total ROM cost at this time is approximately \$100,000. A viable dollar value cannot be determined until after the tanks are removed and soil samples taken. The house on the property will be torn down or burned. It was recommended that the land be used for only commercial or industrial purposes because of soil contamination. **Phil DiVece moved to ask the**

state representatives to look into the reason there are no stimulus funds available to Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.

Sunken Garden Request for Proposals: Road Commissioner Greg Griffin has estimated the cost of repairing the walls in the sunken garden at \$10-12,000. Bob Blagden recommended discussing this during the regular budget cycle and put the work on the wall out to bid next fall. If a dangerous condition should develop, the area will be taped off.

10. Other Business

The video equipment has been fixed by a Lincoln County TV employee who suggested that another camera be purchased to focus on the audience. Arthur Faucher will contact the school to see if the AV club or students would be able to assist in operating the equipment as part of their community service.

Bob Blagden moved to allow the First Congregational Church to close High Street between the church and the courthouse on October 17 from 9 to 3 for Octoberfest. Vote 5-0-0.

Bob Blagden moved to sign the Assessor's return for county taxes. Vote 5-0-0.

It was the consensus of the board that a request to close the office window on October 7 be approved so that Jim George, Becky Applin, Arthur Faucher, Sue Varney and Christine Wolfe could attend the MMA convention. It was recommended that in the future, only half of the employees attend each year so the office can be kept open. A notice will be put on the sign, and the newspapers will be notified.

Bob Blagden noted that a letter sent to bidders on the sand contract was not sent to the winner and the winning bid was incorrect; it should have been \$11, not \$7 per cubic yard.

Phil DiVece reported that the notice of the special town meeting in the last week's newspaper was incorrect. Changes had been made to the warrant at Tuesday night's board meeting, which should have been called into the paper on Wednesday morning. Pam Dunning said that according to MMA, the items on the warrant do not have to be listed on the notice, and it was suggested that a note to check the actual article be added to the notice.

Because of the delay in receiving the copies of this year's audit, Faucher will send out RFPs to audit firms indicating that only the previous year's audit is available. Criteria in considering auditing firms will include completing the budget on time and on budget.

11. Adjourn

At 9:25 p.m., **Phil DiVece moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**