

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
OCTOBER 27, 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 Hearings & Selectmen's Consideration on the following Automobile Graveyards and/or Junkyards in the Town of Wiscasset: Jim's Auto Trim; Blagden's Garage; Grover Auto and Tire, Inc.; Norm's Used Cars, Inc.; Pro Body Works

(Bob Blagden recused himself.) Code Enforcement Officer Rick Lang reported that he had visited all sites and found them in compliance. All applications are for renewal permits. There were no questions or comments. The public hearing closed at 7:05 p.m.

**Pam Dunning moved to renew all five of the applicants on the list. Vote 4-0-1**

4. Approve minutes of October 20, 2009

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

5. Town Clerk: Appointments for the November 3, 2009 referendum election

**Bob Blagden moved to appoint Susan Varney, Patricia Bridgham, Judith Colby, Joan Barnes, and Katharine Martin-Savage as ballot clerks and Susan Blagden as warden. Vote 4-0-1 (Blagden abstained).**

**Bob Blagden moved to appoint Susan Varney as election clerk. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Citizen Comment - none

7. Finance Committee Chair Greg Shea: Update on Investment Services task

Updating the board on the search for an investment firm, Greg Shea reported that a questionnaire had been sent to 12 firms and it had been posted on the web site. Fifteen investment firms had responded and the committee had selected six of those to be sent a request for proposal. The proposals are due on December 8, after which the criteria will be reviewed, and interviews will be held in January. The committee expects to be able to make a recommendation to the board in February.

8. Superintendent Gregory Potter: RSU's use of the Alternative Education Facility

Gregory Potter said there were agreements to be made as a result of the school consolidation plan. The town will continue to own the Adult Education Building and will lease space to the RSU. Policies and agreements concerning the Wiscasset High School athletic fields will be worked out. He said it was the RSU Committee's policy not to institute a fee schedule and he asked the board to consider shared use of the Adult Education Building, which would be considered a wash.

**Bill Curtis moved to ask Arthur Faucher and Gregory Potter to put together a basic document on the agreements.** Faucher said he was working with the town attorney on an agreement between the RSU and town for the recreation department, which has to be formalized, and on an agreement regarding leasing space to the RSU in the Adult Education Building spelling out the expenses for which the RSU would be responsible, use of the transfer station, etc. Faucher and Potter will draft a document covering all agreements between the RSU and the town for one year. **Vote 5-0-0.**

9. Lt. John Allen: Recruitment for the Wiscasset Police Department

Lt. Allen said he had a candidate for the open position of reserve officer: Henry Grenier, a current Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff. Allen said there were currently nine reserve officers and hiring Grenier would bring the department up to its previous level of reserve officers and would assist in weekend and holiday coverage. Grenier was the only applicant; the position had not been advertised. **Pam Dunning moved to accept Henry Grenier to fill the position of reserve officer. Vote 5-0-0.**

Allen said Officer Simmons is resigning as of the first of the year and he would like to advertise for the position inhouse. Pam Dunning said the board is planning to meet with the sheriff to consider the possibility of the sheriff's department covering Wiscasset instead of the police department. She asked if it would be fair to hire someone when there was the possibility that the position would not exist in six months. Allen pointed out that only one person had asked about coverage by the sheriff's department and that one person did not speak for the town. He added that the voters had approved the police department. He had not been notified of the board's meeting with the sheriff and asked if the timing was coincidental.

Pam Dunning said that the question about the sheriff's department coverage had been asked for three years and it was time to get some actual numbers from the County. Bill Curtis said the sheriff's department would need to know what the board expects in order to have a level playing field. Arthur Faucher suggested that board members submit questions to him by Friday so that he can compile a list to give to the county administrator.

Pam Dunning said that John Allen should have been notified of the meeting with the sheriff. She said the board needed to know what coverage the sheriff could provide and at what cost; it already knew the cost and coverage of the police department. She added that it was no reflection on the police department. Bill Curtis said this subject had been brought up twice, and both times it was found to be more expensive for county coverage.

Greg Shea said that it would take time to analyze what the county can or can't do. He recommended hiring to fill the open position and advising the applicant that a change was possible in a year or 18 months.

Bill Barnes said that it had not been possible to get a response from the sheriff's department in the past. He recommended getting a proposal and putting both options on the ballot in June.

John Blagden, a long-time member of the ambulance service and fire department, said that in the middle of the night when a call came in, it was nice to know there was an officer in the town regardless of price and advocated keeping the police services intact.

Bob Blagden said it was the town manager's responsibility to hire, not the board's. He said he was unaware a meeting with the sheriff had been scheduled and it was unfortunate that the police had not been notified. The board's responsibility is to make policy, but right now, the board did not have adequate information on which to make policy.

10. Don Jones, John Blagdon, Bill Sutter & Bill Cumming: Changing the 4-way stop on Washington Street to a 2-way stop.

Don Jones asked the board to reconsider a 2002 decision for a four-way stop at the Washington/Pleasant/Union street intersection. He said a four-way stop was not warranted by the small amount of traffic on Washington Street and removing the stop sign on Washington Street would minimize the number of stops on that street. Bill Sutter quoted from the Manual of Traffic Control Devices, which gave instances where stop signs should and should not be used. John Allen said speed was not a factor as he had timed traffic on the street. Phil DiVece asked the town clerk to determine whether a public hearing would be necessary before making a change.

11. Board of Selectmen: Opening of Bids for Audit Services

Four bids covering audit services for the fiscal years from 2010 to 2014 were received.

Ron L. Beaulieu & Co.	\$55,255
RHR Smith	54,700
Berry Talbot Royer	71,020
William H. Brewer	73,000

**Phil DiVece moved to table the matter until the town manager reviews the packages. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Town Manager

Departmental Energy Efficiency Grant Applications: Stimulus money is available for towns, and the wastewater treatment plant, the community center and an overall energy audit may be eligible for funds. There is a maximum of \$50,000 available for a study of the wastewater treatment facility and for repair and improvement. This would require a 50% match. The community center may be eligible for a grant for a solar project to heat the pool, which would require only a 10% match. There is also stimulus money for an overall energy audit for the town, which may be interrelated with the tidal energy project. The town manager said applications are due soon and he recommended a workshop at the next meeting to discuss applications for these funds. There was a consensus that the board would hold an executive session on November 3 to meet with Attorney Peter Lowe, followed by a short meeting and a workshop on the grant applications.

Gross Budgeting for 2009/2010 fiscal year: **Phil DiVece moved to implement gross budgeting for the 2010-2011 fiscal year for all accounts.** The involvement of the selectmen in the budget process was discussed as well as the need to include anticipated revenues in the budget. The treasurer and the auditor have performed this function in the past. Bill Curtis expressed his opposition to including the ambulance service and the airport in gross budgeting. **Vote 3-2-0** (Curtis and Fairfield opposed).

13. Other Business

Bill Curtis reported that he, Arthur Faucher and Erv Deck had met with the state aeronautic group and FAA on October 23 regarding the five-year master plan due in 2010-2011. In 2012, the runway design will be developed and construction will take place in 2014. There is \$5 million in discretionary funds available for nine airports in the state. Town contribution to the cost would be 2-1/2%.

In response to Bob Blagden's question regarding the Point East overdue payment, Arthur Faucher said that it had not been paid although he had sent a reminder the previous day. Because Bernstein Shur had a conflict, the town attorney is handling the matter.

Steve Mehrl recommended beginning the budget process after the election: setting a calendar and preparing questions so the budget committee can do a better job setting deadlines.

Vernice Evasius said that legally there should be a warrant article approving estimated revenue to offset the tax commitment.

In response to a question about hours the window is open (for tax payments, car registrations, absentee ballots, etc.) Chris Wolfe said that because of the volume of business conducted during October, it was impossible to gauge days or hours when traffic was light and the window could conceivably have been closed. She will track the volume during November. Jim George said that he has resisted closing the window because the public is paying the staff's salaries and the staff is there to do the people's business.

#### 14. Adjourn

At 9 p.m., Bob **Blagden moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**