

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MARCH 1, 2011

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Bob Blagden, Vice Chairman Judy Colby, Pam Dunning, Chairman David Nichols, Ed Polewarczyk and Town Manager Laurie Smith

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

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

3. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: February 22, 2011 and March 1, 2011

**Ed Polewarczyk moved to accept the Treasurer's Warrants as presented. Vote 4-1-0 (Blagden opposed)**

4. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2011 and Abatement Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2011

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2011 and Abatement Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2011. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards - None

6. Committee Appointments - None

7. Public Comment

Susan Robson, a member of the Waterfront Committee but speaking as a private citizen, urged the board to explore the Working Waterfront Covenant, as it would be important to Wiscasset's future.

Brian Buck, a member of the Waterfront Committee but speaking as a private citizen, said funding is available to Maine communities if a public access easement in perpetuity is granted to Land for Maine's Future. He asked the board to look at the pros and cons of the deeding the waterfront access in return for funding of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to revitalize the pier. With regard to repairing or replacing the commercial pier, he said that the estimated \$350,000 price was high and he believed it could be done for less.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report - None

9. Unfinished Business - None

10. New Business

A. Fiscal Year 2012 General Budget Overview: Laurie Smith

Smith described the contents of the binder for the 2012 budget. The schedule calls for meetings in March so that a draft budget warrant can be prepared in early April. The goal is to have a budget providing quality services at an affordable cost. The adopted selectmen's goals have been integrated into the departments' budgets.

Smith said that 51% of the 2012 expenses are for personnel, 10% for capital and utilities, and 29% for equipment, supplies and material. In a budget overview, Smith reviewed the

individual departments' budgets with proposed changes such as the addition of a police chief, mandatory recycling, and an increase in sewer rates. She listed options for the board's consideration such as eliminating capital projects (savings of \$459,000), eliminating funding community organizations (\$18,000), substituting town meetings for elections (\$8,000), privatizing Emergency Medical Services, substituting sheriff's deputies for police department (saving possibly \$100,000), changing the funding for the rec center, creating a fund-raising position which could generate \$100,000, and instituting a pay as you throw system.

B. Discussion of Senior Center activities and dissolution of Senior Center, Inc.: Conrad Schilke and Todd Souza

Doc Schilke asked the selectmen to help resolve a liability issue for the trustees of the Senior Center of Wiscasset. There are two organizations: Wiscasset Senior Center (WSC), a town department; and Senior Center of Wiscasset (SCW), an independent 501(C) (3) corporation. The SCW was formed to handle revenue from fund-raising and gifts and expense issues such as trips and capital improvements to the center. These expenses and revenues are not included in the Wiscasset departmental budget. However, because of the liability that the trustees would face if a lawsuit were brought against the SCW and because the corporation would not be covered by town insurance, it was decided to dissolve that organization.

Schilke said the Town Manager recommended that the town set up a WSC fund account for short term revenue expenses such as trips; that the town set up a WSC trust account created by an attorney for long term capital improvements to handle money from fundraisers and memorials which would be used only for specified expenditures within the trust; and that the board of selectmen recognize the WSC trustees now and after every June election, giving them official status. There are nine trustees; five (including officers) must be from Wiscasset and four may be from other towns.

Schilke said the WSC's budget for the meal program is \$55,000 per year and WSC is asking for \$10,000 from the town for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The center serves three meals a week to people 50 and over who are active and seeking social activities. He said 1/4 to 1/3 of those served are not residents. He spoke about menus, meal schedules and future plans for the senior center.

Todd Souza spoke about plans to combine memberships of the community center and the senior center and to offer multigenerational programs such as fitness programs particularly when the community center is less busy during the middle of the day. A survey will be taken to find target areas of interest. For info on the community center or WSC, contact [info@wiscassetrec.com](mailto:info@wiscassetrec.com).

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen place the appointment of Senior Center Directors on the March 15th Agenda. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Board Rules and Procedures Section 22 Amendment to Appointments to Boards, Committees and Commissions

The proposed changes were discussed and because there was disagreement on the wording and there was no procedure to deal with committee members whom the board did not want to reappoint, **David Nichols moved to postpone the matter to a later date. Vote 5-0-0**

D. Personnel Policy: Laurie Smith

Several minor corrections were made. **David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen adopt the Personnel Policy with changes. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

### A. General Update

Laurie Smith reported that a meeting had been held with the police union and recommended going into executive session. **David Nichols moved to go into executive session to discuss labor negotiations under 1 M.R.S.A 405 (6) (E). Vote 5-0-0.** The board entered executive session at 8:05 p.m. and exited at 8:30 p.m.

### 12. Other Board Business

Smith referred to the Land for Maine's Future application process for the waterfront protection project. The bond issue for this funding was passed and applications for funds are due April 1; selection of applicants is scheduled for July 12. She recommended that if the town was interested in seeking funding or purchasing waterfront property with a covenant for future public access, it should submit an application. Under the program, the town would be reimbursed 25% of fair market value for the covenant; there are no restrictions on the use of the money. Questions from the board will be researched. The cost and scope of repair or replacement of the pier was discussed. Smith said a final estimate on building a new pier was expected soon; however, a more accurate cost would be determined by bids. Brian Buck suggested a design/build contest.

### 13. Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**