

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MAY 17, 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

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. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: May 10, 2011 and May 17, 2011

**Judy Colby moved to approve the treasurer's warrants of May 10 and May 17, 2011. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes: May 3, 2011

**Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 2011. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Gerry Audibert, Study Manager, Maine Department of Transportation to propose a joint State-Town pedestrian traffic plan

Audibert submitted a proposal to share with the Town of Wiscasset the cost to retain uniformed traffic officers to reduce traffic delays through downtown Wiscasset by better managing pedestrian crossings, particularly from July through September. Included in his proposal were data on traffic volumes and traffic speeds. He described the various data collection methods being used, i.e. radar and web cams. He proposed traffic monitoring during July and August with and without the presence of a uniformed officer to determine whether traffic delays could be effectively reduced.

The cost of one officer for 500 hours would be \$7,170. Maine DOT would contribute 50%, E. Davies Allan would contribute \$2,000, and Wiscasset would contribute the remainder or \$1,585. The cost of two officers (1000 hours) would be \$14,340, Davies would contribute \$2,000 and Wiscasset would be responsible for \$5,170.

Judy Colby recommended stationing one officer at the post office corner from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. In response to Ed Polewarczyk's question, Town Manager Laurie Smith said funds could come from the contingency account or from the police budget if funds were available. Audibert recommended discussing the proposal with the Police Department, Transportation Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

Police Lt, John Allen said that the traffic controls implemented in the past helped pedestrians and side street traffic, but did not help Route 1 traffic at all. He said he did not see the benefit of traffic officers and suggested using the funds instead for parking enforcement. He said when traffic officers had been used in the past, the department had seven or eight officers, which they do not have now.

Bill Curtis recommended that a committee (Town Manager, Chamber of Commerce, Police Department and Beautification Committee) be formed to discuss the matter and make a

recommendation at the June Town Meeting. Other suggestions included requesting assistance from the Sheriff's Department, a pedestrian tunnel or bridge, one-way streets, traffic signals, barriers and traffic officers. Audibert said that a tunnel or bridge would not be considered by the DOT. He added that the state's contribution would not be setting a precedent for the future.

It was the consensus of the board to move forward with the proposal. Bob Blagden suggested a trial in July comparing one week with an officer with the weeks before and after without an officer and then deciding whether to go ahead with the proposal. John Allen recommended that data be collected during the last two weeks in July and first two weeks in August, from 10 to 6, using current staff, as it would be easier to schedule officers for this short period than to hire officers for a longer period.

#### B. Dick Forrest and representatives of the Shellfish committee to present data regarding the clam harvesting economic impact study

Forrest said that in response to a request four years ago by David Nichols for information on the economic impact of the clamming industry in Wiscasset, he had contacted Amy Winston, Lincoln County Economic Development Office and Mary Ellen Barnes, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission. Winston had prepared an analysis of the economic importance of the soft-shell clam resources and industry to the town. The report shows a total economic impact for 2010 of \$151,021.

Barnes said the study included documentation on the clam diggers such as how often they dig, how many months a year are they engaged in clamming, how many other jobs they have and how they compare with other towns in the state or in Lincoln County. The report indicated that the dollar value of clams harvested in 2010 was \$115,515, the greatest harvest in the past 20 years. The harvest produced \$53,696 in income for the clammers. She said the industry was healthy due to the conservation efforts; and by cooperating with other communities, Wiscasset may be able to develop a market for its products.

#### 7. Public Comment

Steve Mehrl advised the board that a lot next to the town parking lot on Water Street was for sale if the town were looking for additional parking space.

Frank Risell said more than a sign ordinance is needed to make the town attractive and that absentee owners should be required to take care of their property.

Don Lamson asked whether the board intended to look at alternative energy sources, and he suggested wood-fired boilers. He congratulated the town on the recycling ordinance on the town warrant, but recommended giving people tools to recycle rather than inflicting punitive consequences.

#### 8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

Chris Wolfe presented for the selectmen's signatures the RSU warrant calling for an election on June 14, which will coincide with the Town Meeting. There are two articles on the warrant: Approval of the RSU Budget and authorization to issue bonds or notes not to exceed \$160,000 to acquire the school administrative property in Whitefield. RSU will hold a budget meeting on June 4 at 10 a.m. at the Windsor Elementary School and the public hearing on the second article will be held at noon. Wolfe said absentee ballots for the Annual Town Meeting and the RSU bond authorization are currently available. Absentee ballots for the RSU budget validation will be available after June 4.

#### 9. Unfinished Business

A. The Downtown Plan for Wiscasset

**David Nichols moved to adopt the Downtown Plan for the Town of Wiscasset.** In response to questions, Laurie Smith said the plan was a summary of the approved comprehensive plan and would fulfill the requirement for a downtown plan, which would be necessary to apply for a Maine Community Future grant. The infrastructure grant would enable the town to move forward with the railroad platform and parking lot as part of the commercial pier project. Total implementation of the plan would involve different partners for the various aspects.

In response to a question on connecting the two piers, Bob Faunce, Lincoln County Planning Commission, said the number one priority of the Bicycle and Pedestrian plan approved by the selectmen was to connect the two piers with a boardwalk. He added that 97% of the respondents to a bicycle/pedestrian survey supported the boardwalk connection.

Bob Blagden said that he saw value in the plan for additional parking and a more usable railroad platform, but said it was hard to support building additional walkways and piers when the town cannot afford to maintain the piers it has. **Vote 4-1-0.**

10. New Business

A. Central Maine Power Company application for pole location on Route 218 - no action

B. Commercial Waste Haulers: Giles Rubbish, Pine Tree Waste and Regional Rubbish Removal

**David Nichols moved to approve the Commercial Waste Hauler applications for June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Open Road Striping Bids for 2011

Bids were received from the following firms: Lucas Striping LLC, Hagar Enterprises and Highway Safety Systems. **David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. 5-0-0**

D. Open Street Cleaning Bids for 2011

The following bids were received:

E. C. Barry and Sons	\$100/hr.	\$40 per basin
McDonald's Sweeping	\$100/hr.	\$35 per basin
Wilson Commercial Sweeping	\$119.90/hr.	\$29.90 per basin
National Water Main Cleaning Co.	\$195/hr.	\$55 per basin

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Sign Ratio Declaration and Homestead Reimbursement Application

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen sign the Ratio Declaration and Homestead Reimbursement Application. Vote 5-0-0.**

F. ICMA Retirement Plan Adoption

Smith said the administrative services agreement is part of the package to be sent to the ICMA. It establishes a 457 ICMA plan that is part of the Town Manager's contract and is available to other employees under certain conditions. There is no fee for establishing the program. The town will match the town manager's contribution as specified in her contract, but will not match

the contributions of other employees. **David Nichols moved to adopt the suggested resolution as attached to this agenda establishing a 457 deferred compensation plan. Vote 5-0-0.**

G. Spirit of America Foundation Recognition

Ed Polewarczyk said last year the foundation had recognized the contributions of St. Philip's Episcopal Church to the community, and it has asked the Board of Selectmen in the next month to choose another non-profit organization in town to be recognized for its contributions to the community. A list of non-profit organizations will be developed for the board's consideration.

11. Town Manager's Report

A. Central Maine Power Land Transfer

Smith said there was no further information on the condition of the dam and previous maintenance. If CMP retains the property, it will be taxable but with the covenants, the value will be diminished.

B. Attorney letter regarding website links

A copy of the letter from Attorney Hole regarding the website links was provided. He advised that it be used only for governmental functions, or that it be opened up to community organizations without the ability to monitor content.

C. Wiscasset Community Center membership rates effective 7/1/11

The rates have been increased about 10% effective July 1.

D. July Fourth Parade applications

Applications for parade participants are available. Several of the Senior Center Trustees will be Grand Marshals; Ed Cavanaugh will be a judge together with Sue Robson and Cindy Collamore of the Waterfront Committee.

E. Fuel Bids for 2011-12

Smith said there were four options: Maine PowerOptions (which she recommended); extending Sewell agreement although the town does not have sufficient capacity at this time; MDOT, which would require diesel fueling at DOT in Edgecomb; and index pricing with Sewell, now at \$3.18/gallon. She recommended watching the weekly price updates and going out to bid later in the summer. Smith will be receiving weekly updates from Sewell and has requested fuel agreements from DOT for the transfer station trucks during the summer. She said obtaining diesel and heating fuel at \$3 per gallon would meet budget projections and according to Ned Sewell was not unreasonable. She recommended having purchasing flexibility to take advantage of price changes without waiting for a board meeting.

F. General Update

Smith has been nominated to serve on the Maine Municipal Association Executive Committee beginning in December. The appointment will be voted on by the MMA board and by the General Assembly of the association.

RSU Budget information was distributed; Wiscasset's share has increased \$24,000 for public education, and \$2,000 for adult education.

The Senior Center owns a donated organ that it would like to give away. **David Nichols moved to allow the Senior Center to give it to a non-profit organization. Vote 5-0-0.**

Smith said in the monthly reports that had been distributed; she had done a synopsis of the warrant articles and included a summary of the changes to the ordinances.

Smith reported on the water rate hearing. Application will be made to the PUC for increases of 35% for homeowners and 45% for fire protection.

Governor LePage will be in Lincoln County for a "Capital for the Day" visit on Friday, May 20, at Edgecomb, Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor and Damariscotta. All are invited to a meeting at 6 p.m. at Lincoln Academy.

Smith noted there had been an article in the Kennebec Journal about Maine having the most business-friendly tax policy.

#### 12. Other Board Business

Judy Colby reported on the RSU reapportionment meeting on May 11; the board now has 21 members, four of which will be from Wiscasset. The weighted vote of Wiscasset has not changed. The change requires state approval and Wiscasset will then appoint another member. Colby recommended that Don Jones be appointed. If approved by the state, the one-year appointment can be voted on by the selectmen at the June 7 meeting, two days before the next RSU meeting.

**David Nichols moved to extend the meeting past 10 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

Bob Blagden asked that the Town Manager be authorized to send a letter to Don Jones thanking him for his participation at the RSU meeting.

**David Nichols moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A §405 (6)(D) to discuss personnel matters. Vote 5-0-0.**

The board exited executive session at 10:35 p.m.

#### 13. Adjournment

**Judy Colby moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**