

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Chair Judy Colby, Bill Curtis, Pam Dunning, Vice Chair David Nichols, Ed Polewarczyk and Town Manager Laurie Smith

1. 6 p.m. Executive Session

Judy Colby moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) - consultation with legal counsel. Vote 5-0-0.

Pam Dunning moved to come out of executive session. Vote 5-0-0.

2. 7 p.m. Call to Order

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

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

4. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: August 23, 2011, August 30, 2011 and September 6, 2011

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the treasurer's warrants for August 23, August 30 and September 6 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes, August 11, 2011 and August 16, 2011

Pam Dunning moved to accept the August 11 as written. Vote 4-0-1. Ed Polewarczyk moved to accept the minutes of August 16 as amended. Vote 5-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to accept the August 24 minutes. Vote 4-0-1.

6. Special Presentations of Awards

A. Ceremonial Swearing-in of Troy Cline, Wiscasset's new Police Chief

Troy Cline introduced himself, his family and friends and representatives from various law enforcement agencies who were present. Chris Wolfe gave an introduction followed by Sgt. Kathy Williams who read the Code of Ethics. Cline was officially sworn in and received his badge from his father. A reception followed.

7. Appointments: None

8. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

George Green expressed concern over the replacement of the brick sidewalks on Federal Street following the roadwork that raised the curb above the present sidewalk. He said some residents on the street had paid for brick sidewalks and he hoped they would be raised to the level of the curb and replaced. Town Manager Smith said there was no money for sidewalks. He was advised that the state has been contacted in an effort to resolve the issue.

George Green referred to several newspaper articles about the possibility of Wiscasset High School taking in foreign students. He asked whether this should be brought up to the public in order to get their feelings. He was advised that the decision was not the selectmen's to make,

that it was up to the RSU board. He was urged to attend the RSU board meetings the first Thursday of the month in Whitefield.

Dick Grondin reported that when the RSU finance committee met, only three people from Wiscasset had attended. The attendance from Wiscasset at the annual budget meetings has been poor.

Chris Teel of Dresden, whose daughter was a tuition student at Wiscasset High school for three years, expressed concern that 73% of Wiscasset's taxes go to the school budget and hoped that Wiscasset would get its schools back.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Review draft Warrant regarding withdrawal from the RSU and appropriation of the budgeted \$5,000 for Wastewater Impact Fees

Judy Colby read the November 8, 2011 draft warrant. The three articles are: (1) to elect a moderator, (2) to appropriate \$5,000 from impact fees for wastewater system capital expenses, and (3) to ask a non-binding survey question regarding withdrawal from the RSU. **David Nichols moved to approve the November warrant.** Smith explained that the \$5,000 had been omitted from the warrant in June. Recommendations from the Budget Committee and Select Board will appear on the final warrant, followed by a public hearing before the election.

The wording of the non-binding survey question was discussed and whether a "yes" vote would necessarily mean a vote to withdraw. Judy Colby explained that if the survey question indicates that a majority of the town is in favor of beginning the withdrawal process, legal advice would be sought as a first step. In response to Chet Grover's question regarding the selectmen providing information before the vote on the warrant, Judy Colby explained the whole process, which would begin with a citizen-initiated petition, followed by involvement by the selectmen in negotiating with the RSU, and a vote on the withdrawal subject to conditions negotiated.

Ed Polewarczyk moved to amend the wording of Article 3 to read, "Shall the Town of Wiscasset vote to begin evaluating the process of withdrawal from RSU 12. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to accept the warrant as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

11. New Business

A. Review and approve treadmill financing lease

Smith said the four-year lease option with Gorham Savings Bank provided for annual payments at 3½% interest (\$517 in interest over the four-year period). **Pam Dunning moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the attached Lease Agreement for four annual payments with Gorham Savings Bank. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Review and approve Tax Growth Worksheet

Sue Varney, Assessors' Agent, explained the worksheet which indicated that total building permit changes were \$3,517,128; an increase in personal property of \$344,500; total record changes were \$2,104,836; total growth factor was \$4,318,837. The net value of the Maine Yankee properties is (\$2,645,917). The Growth Factor Grand Total is \$1,672,720. **Ed Polewarczyk moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Tax Growth Worksheet as attached. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Municipal Tax Commitment for Fiscal Year 2012

Smith explained the Draft Town of Wiscasset FY 12 Budget indicating increases and decreases over FY 11. The total mill rate for FY 12 is \$15.15, \$.35 greater than FY 11 resulting in a 2.36% increase in the mill rate. The difference is mainly due to the absence of the FY 11 education fund balance of \$219,000. **Pam Dunning moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the proposed Tax Commitment for the Fiscal Year 2012 in the amount of \$6,790,060.32 with an overlay of \$52,865.40. Vote 5-0-0.** The figures on the tax bill were explained. There was a consensus that the bill should indicate that the school commitment was 70% of the taxes.

D. Amendment to Town Manager's Contract

Judy Colby moved to amend the Town Manager's Contract under Section 4. Residence - to extend the contract provisions by 12 months. Smith indicated her house had been on the market but to date there was no interest shown in it. **Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Review and Sign Release Deeds for Scott Connors and Julie and Robert West

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the release deeds for Scott Connors and Julie and Robert West. Vote 5-0-0.

12. Town Manager's Report

A. FOIA Request Policy: Smith said an FOAA policy was accepted by the selectmen on September 2, 2008, which provided for written requests and established fees. She discussed policies of other towns and their differences from Wiscasset's policy. She offered to hold a workshop if members were interested. In response to questions, she said requests should be made to the town manager.

B. Post Irene Feedback: Smith said although Wiscasset had not received the brunt of the storm, a shelter had been set up which did accommodate people from other towns. There was lack of power for 10 of the 17 pump stations. She commended the selectmen and the EMA for their work during the storm and thanked Mrs. Bickford for providing food for the emergency crew.

C. Memorial Pier Project: Delivery of materials for the project has been delayed by Irene and it is now estimated that construction will start mid to late October and be completed by December 31.

D. Tidal Study Date - late September: Because of the possible impact on fishing, the study will begin the end of September at the Westport Island bridge. A public informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, at the town office.

E. Selectmen tours: A schedule of department head tours was distributed, but because of conflicts, it will be revised.

F. Public Budget Meeting: There was a consensus that the Budget Committee hold a budget meeting for the public to express opinions on the process without selectmen involvement.

G. Tax Lien Letters: The list of tax-acquired properties was discussed and it was agreed that the over-due taxes should be pursued aggressively. All owners had been sent certified letters; some had responded and were interested in making payments. There was a consensus that the selectmen should not waive or abate taxes, as the voters had approved the interest to be charged. Ed Polewarczyk recommended attacking the properties with the highest value first and asked the town manager to bring additional information and her recommendations to the next meeting.

H. Fuel Bid Status: The County is waiting for the market to change and will put the bids out that day. Smith is waiting for the county to take action.

I. Time Warner Cable Notifications: A copy of the letter regarding the change to an all-digital format was distributed.

13. Other Board Business - None

14. Adjournment

At 9:20 p.m., **David Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**