

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
October 18, 2011

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

Absent: Pam Dunning

1. Call to Order

Chair Judy Colby 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: October 11, 2011 and October 18, 2011

**Ed Polewarczyk moved to accept the Treasurer's Warrant for October 11, 2011 as presented. Vote 4-0-0. David Nichols moved to accept the Treasurer's Warrant of October 18, 2011. Vote 3-1-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes of October 4, 2011 and October 6, 2011

**David Nichols moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2011. Ed Polewarczyk moved to amend the minutes of October 4, 2011. Vote 3-1-0. Vote on approval of the minutes as amended 4-0-0.**

**Judy Colby moved to accept the minutes of October 6, 2011 as presented. 4-0-0.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards - None

6. Appointments - None

The chairman changed the order of the agenda to hear the discussion of the Fireworks Ordinance next in order to allow the participation of the Fire Chief.

10. New Business

A. Discussion of Draft Fireworks Ordinance: A second draft of the ordinance that regulates the use and sale of fireworks had been distributed to the board. Under the proposed ordinance, it will be necessary to obtain a permit from the Board of Selectmen and a conditional use permit from the Planning Board in order to sell fireworks. Sales would be allowed only on Route 1 from the Woolwich/Wiscasset town line to the southerly end of Flood Avenue. The Board of Selectmen will set the fee for a permit to sell fireworks. In order to display fireworks, a person would require a permit from the Fire Chief at least seven days before the discharge or use of consumer fireworks in order to give the Fire Chief an opportunity to inspect the location and insure the use of fireworks would not create a fire danger, danger to persons or to the general public.

Smith said that if the town voted down the ordinance governing the sale and use of fireworks, the state statute would rule (allowing the sale and use of fireworks) unless the town enacted an ordinance banning the sale and use of fireworks.

Bill Curtis said the board should not, and must not ignore safety with the assumption of high profits. He added that the cost to get started is high; the window of opportunity, mid June to mid July, is very small and the remainder of the year would be catch as catch can.

Fire Chief Rob Bickford and Police Chief Troy Cline were present and while recognizing the additional responsibilities their departments would experience, they indicated they had no objections to the ordinance.

Following discussion for and against the proposal, there was a consensus to hold a special meeting on October 20 at 5:30 p.m. when a full board could be present to vote whether to recommend the ordinance or to ban the sale and use of fireworks in town. In order to place the ordinance on the December 13 ballot, the board will have to sign the warrant by October 28.

7. Public Comment - None

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report - None

9. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion of Kevin James Agreement

**David Nichols moved to extend [Kevin James'] payment to February 1, 2012 and continue a \$100 weekly payment. Vote 4-0-0.**

10 B. Discussion concerning Lois Konvalinka building a temporary ADA access ramp relative to her occupancy at 16 Lee Street that extends within the town way

**Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen has no objection to the temporary placement of a ramp at 16 Lee Street for as long as Mrs. Konvalinka uses it to access her home. Vote 4-0-0.**

C. Open Koehling Property Bid

No bids were received. The board discussed various alternatives for sale of the property and it was the consensus to place a "For Sale" on the property for six months before advertising it again. **David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen direct the Town Manager to have a sign printed to put on the Koehling property "For Sale - Contact Town Office" Vote 4-0-0.**

D. Approval to operate Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for Huntoon Hill Grange #298 for the 2012 year

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the operation of Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance for Huntoon Hill Grange for the 2012 year. Vote 4-0-0.**

E. Discussion regarding Assessing Questions from taxpayers while the Assessors' Agent is out of the office.

Smith explained that the staff had collected the names of a number of residents who had contacted the town office about issues dealing with their properties. She presented a draft letter to be sent in response to the inquiries. **Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen agree to send a letter to all interested parties explaining the timeline and process. Vote 4-0-0.**

F. Discussion of proposed Maine State Retirement System for Town Employees

Smith explained the difference between the current retirement plan with Acadia Trust and that of the Maine State Retirement System. Recent changes in the MSRS made it more advantageous for the town to change to that retirement plan. It is less expensive than the Acadia Trust plan and provides better benefits to the employees. Smith asked the board to place the matter on the December ballot. The unions' position on the change will be determined before December. **Judy**

**Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to place a ballot article on the next Town Meeting referendum regarding the adoption of the proposed plan. Vote 4-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report

A. Mowing Costs: The Town Manager distributed copies of a memo detailing the costs of mowing as requested by Bill Barnes at the previous meeting.

B. Street Light Policy: Research had located no policy on street lights.

C. General Update:

Misty Gorski has been hired as town planner.

Smith asked the board to consider adopting the Model Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Ordinance, which would allow residents of Wiscasset to apply for a PACE loan for home energy improvement.

12. Other Business

In response to a question about an acting Town Manager when Laurie Smith is absent and Sue Varney is out of the office, Judy Colby said employees should contact her.

13. Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., **David Nichols moved to adjourn. Vote 4-0-0.**