

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Preliminary Minutes

(tape recorded meeting)

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

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

3. Workshop with the Planning Board and Ordinance Review Committee to discuss the Comprehensive Plan

4. Public Hearing on Special Town Meeting warrant articles

The public hearing opened at 7 p.m. Judy Colby read the warrant articles to be voted on by secret ballot on December 13, 2011, the proposed Fireworks Ordinance and joining the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. There were no comments or questions. The public hearing closed at 7:03 p.m.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: November 8, 2011 and November 15, 2011

Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of November 8, 2011. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of November 15, 2011. Vote 4-1-0.

6. Approval of Minutes: November 1, 2011

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of November 1, 2011 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Business Recognition of Le Garage

Laurie Smith read a short history of the restaurant that occupies a building constructed in the early part of the 20th century and originally used for automotive and engine repair. The restaurant was opened in 1974 as an ice cream parlor and chowder house and later expanded into a full service restaurant. She said the restaurant is a wonderful asset to the downtown. Judy Colby presented a Business Recognition Award to Cheryl Rust in recognition of 34 years of business within Wiscasset as a valuable member of the community and an important economic contributor to the Town of Wiscasset. Cheryl Rust accepted the award on behalf of all the men and women who have worked at Le Garage.

B. Wiscasset Spirit of America Foundation Award to the Wiscasset Female Charitable Society

The Spirit of America Foundation Award honors volunteerism and is awarded by municipalities to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service. Judy Colby presented this year's award to the Wiscasset Female Charitable Society for outstanding community service since 1805. Katharine Martin-Savage accepted the award for the society.

8. Appointments - None

9. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Constance Schumann thanked those who contributed to the Ambulance Department's fund-raising dinner. She asked if the pier project was coming in on budget and was advised that it was.

Donald Jones reminded the board of his request at the previous meeting regarding the slope of the sidewalk at 19 Fort Hill Street, which was a safety issue. The Road Commissioner will be asked to examine the sidewalk and the board members will make a site visit before the next meeting.

10. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Thanksgiving Basket Funding Request: Lisa Garman

Garman thanked all residents and organizations for their donations for food baskets, among whom were the Primary School, Fire Dept., High School, Senior Center, Sarah's Café, Huntoon Hill Grange, the Rebeccas, Beta Sigma Phi Beta Rho Chapter and the Congregational Church. Thanksgiving baskets containing a turkey and all the trimmings will be purchased at Yellowfront and vegetables raised by the primary school will be included. She said help for Christmas is also needed and the holiday wish number is 350-7799. Garman can be reached at 882-8200 X103.

B. Ice Rink Fundraising Activities: Todd Souza

Souza reported that \$780 had been raised from contributions for a portable temporary ice rink at the community playground. Total cost of the 67' x 115' rink is \$3,600. The rink will take advantage of the lighting system at the playground. A recognition board will list lead sponsors.

He said that Winterfest would be held on February 4 and The First has contributed \$1,000 toward the fireworks but further contributions are still being sought. Souza's number if contributors wish to contact him is 882-8230.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Community Marquee Policy

A draft of the marquee policy, incorporating the board's suggestions, was distributed to the board. **Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen adopt the attached Community Marquee Policy effective immediately.** She read the policy, which limits announcements on the marquee to events sponsored by the town and notice of Wiscasset school functions and activities for children and/or their parents and outlines priorities and required approvals. **Vote 5-0-0.**

12. New Business:

A. Open Aluminum Ramp Bid

One bid for \$6,204 was received from Dockmaster Aluminum Ramps and Floats. Smith said an additional rail was needed and recommended that a motion on the bid be made and the motion be amended to add the third rail. Bill Curtis recommended not accepting the bid because it did not conform to federal guidelines. Smith said she had contacted the insurance company and an engineer regarding the bid specifications. **Pam Dunning moved that if the spec sheet meets the code, the bid with the third rail be awarded to the bidder. Vote 4-1-0.**

13. Town Manager's Report

A. Voting Results for the November 8 Election: Smith reported a good turnout for the November 8 election, the results of which were given to the board; both questions on the municipal ballot passed. David Nichols said that due to the strong turnout at the election for studying Wiscasset withdrawing from the RSU along with the 78% in favor, it was time that the board formally acknowledge and support the wishes of the voters. Because the Wiscasset Educational Research Panel has spent many hours gathering facts, researching alternatives, and making trips to Augusta, **he moved that the Board of Selectmen formally endorses the Wiscasset Educational Research Panel going forward in providing options for voters to consider in regard to withdrawal from the RSU 12.** Dunning said she was not in favor of forming a selectmen's committee until after the petition process had gone forward and according to the state law a selectmen's committee could be formed. She said more than one committee is looking into the question and cited the SAGES. Todd Souza said he voted to look at the options because there still were many questions that need to be answered. Ed Polewarczyk did not support the motion because the board had an obligation to involve someone from the RSU, a parent, a teacher, and a taxpayer to make a thorough evaluation. He said the cost to go through withdrawal had to be determined and the town must look at initial costs of administration and transportation as well as the quality of education. Judy Colby, who had been involved with WERP, stated that she had not been an active member since June 2011. Bill Curtis moved the question. Vote 4-1-0. **Vote on the motion 3-2-0.**

B. Central Maine Power Montsweag Dam: Smith reported that she had advised CMP that the town was interested in moving forward on the acquisition of the dam and requested maintenance records.

C. Transportation Committee Recommendations: These were included in the Selectmen's packet.

D. Christmas Tree: Smith reported that the Christmas tree on the town common had been replaced with a Norway spruce.

E. Retirement System Changes: This will be voted on on December 13 and she explained how employees could purchase their back years and transfer them to another account. A representative of the insurance company will be meeting with employees. An amendment to the union contract will be necessary in order to move forward with the retirement plan.

F. General Update:

Smith reported that according to CEO Rick Lang, the owner of Tony's Pizza on Route 1 has received bids for the demolition of the building that was recently damaged by fire.

The public safety tower (for which the Town entered into agreement with the State) is now up.

Monthly reports for October are available and Smith reported that Transfer Station Mandatory Recycling was going well and in comparison with a year ago, waste had been decreased by 22.58 tons and recycling had increased by 2.6 tons. She pointed out the graph showing the weekly average of single stream recycling to date and the goal of 6500 tons. The October weekly average was 5500 tons.

Healthy Kids has thanked the town for its donation.

Kim Andersson has volunteered to be in the group that will be working on the RSU question based on the vote.

14. Other Board Business

Judy Colby thanked department heads for the tours they had provided for the selectmen.

A. Executive Session regarding land negotiations for Koehling property

At 8 p.m., **Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) to discuss the sale of the Koehling property. Vote 5-0-0.**
At 8:13 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to come out of Executive Session. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Executive Session to discuss personnel

Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters regarding pay increases. Vote 5-0-0. At 8:45 p.m., **David Nichols moved to come out of Executive Session. Vote 5-0-0.** **David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen approve 2% raises for non-union employees listed on the sheet effective December 1, 2011. Vote 4-1-0.**

15. Adjournment

David Nichols moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.