

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
DECEMBER 6, 2011

Preliminary Minutes

(tape recorded meeting)

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

Absent: Bill Curtis

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. Audit Presentation with R. H. R. Smith

Ron Smith, Charemon Davis and Chris Backman reported on the audit of the financial statements of the Town of Wiscasset. Backman distributed and explained a package of statements, schedules and tables excerpted from the 2011 financial statements and answered questions on the Audited Financial Statements. A change was made to Schedule D, Page 46: Airport Snow Removal was changed to Airport Master Plan and the auditors will check on the recreation department reserve fund. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the audit report tonight with the changes. Vote 4-0-0.**

4. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: November 22, November 29 and December 6, 2011

Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of November 22, 2011. Vote 4-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of November 29, 2011. Vote 4-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve upon review the Treasurer's Warrant of December 6, 2011. Vote 3-1-0.

5. Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2011

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2011 as presented. Vote 4-0-0.

6. Special Presentation or Awards

A. Business Recognition Award for Simpson's Oceanfresh Seafood and Scott Simpson

Town Manager Laurie Smith summarized the 25-year history of the Simpson fish market and Judy Colby presented the award to Scott Simpson, recognizing "25 years of business within the town of Wiscasset as a valuable member of our community and an important economic contributor to the town of Wiscasset."

7. Appointments: None

8. Public Comment

Judy Flanagan referred to a motion made at the previous meeting in which the Board of Selectmen formally endorsed the Wiscasset Educational Research Panel going forward in providing options for voters to consider concerning withdrawal from the RSU 12. She asked what that meant and whether other panels would be endorsed. She said she was disappointed in the

selectmen's vote being taken prematurely to endorse one organization when the ballot question was to look into options; a member of WERP had indicated to her that the group was looking into getting out of the RSU. She said another group, SAGES, was also looking into the question. Flanagan said that after a petition was circulated, the committee could then be appointed and could then gather information needed to make a decision.

Judy Colby responded that WERP needed the endorsement of the town in order to obtain information from the Department of Education. David Nichols said that WERP would be able to give the town options. Ed Polewarczyk, who had opposed the motion, commented on SAGES' forum and its contribution to getting out the large vote on the referendum. He said endorsing a panel meant that the board approved of what it had done, which was not the case. He added that the law was clear on the makeup of the committee. Pam Dunning, who had also opposed the motion as it might have confused the matter, reviewed the steps a town should take beginning with a citizens' petition and that the selectmen should not be involved until after the petition was submitted. Ed Polewarczyk said the board needed to do its homework, included in which was an estimate of the legal costs and budgeting for that amount.

Clark Jones asked if the board had recently voted to give some town employees a raise that had not been voted on by the town. He was advised that raises had been given to non-union employees, which were included in the budget approved by the voters in June.

9. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Ice Rink Fundraiser update with Wiscasset Rec Center Director, Todd Souza: To date \$2,142 has been raised toward the \$4,000 goal for the ice rink. The boards and brackets have been installed for the 67' x 150' rink. Prices and delivery times for the liner are being investigated. Fund-raising is continuing. Souza listed and thanked the donors who had so far contributed to the construction of the rink.

Souza said he and the town manager had been collecting data to generate more revenue and they plan a grand opening in January. Two-week trial memberships will be offered in January and data collected will be used in target marketing to increase revenues and decrease the center's reliance on taxes.

Judy Flanagan congratulated all who had contributed to the tree-lighting ceremony on December 3.

B. Discussion of Penobscot Energy Recovery Co., PERC, with Transfer Station Supervisor Ron Lear

On January 12 at 5 p.m., the Boothbay Region Refuse District will host a regional meeting to discuss PERC issues and its plans after 2018 when the PERC agreements expire. The selectmen are invited to attend.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion of Aluminum Ramp Bid: Laurie Smith had obtained a quote of \$560 from Dockmaster for an additional rail. Plans call for a 33" rail; however, ADA standards require it to be between 34 and 38 inches. There will be no charge to move the rail to comply. Further discussion was postponed until Bill Curtis could be present.

B. Discussion of Retirement options: Smith had submitted a memo to the board regarding retirement options. If approved by the voters, the current retirement plan would be terminated, the union contracts would be amended to provide for the elimination of the current plan, and the ICMARC 401 plan and perhaps others would be adopted. It will be necessary to terminate the current program in order for employees to access their current retirement funds.

C. Discussion of the Updated Main Street Pier Policy; Susan Robson, representing the Waterfront Committee, presented a draft pier policy and application as requested by the selectmen. Robson said the policy provided for year-round occupancy of the pier and increases in rates. The Waterfront Committee will continue to work on the draft and will eliminate the "seasonal with storage" category on the application as requested.

11. New Business

A. Discussion of Fort Hill Street Sidewalk: Selectmen had visited the site. David Nichols said the slope of the sidewalk in question was more than others, but the driveway would have to be dug up in order to correct the situation. Pam Dunning said that there was the same situation all over town and questioned fixing just one sidewalk. Smith said the Road Commissioner would not be able to totally correct the slope but could make it more level. Pam Dunning suggested not taking action until there are sufficient funds to tear up and repave the sidewalk. Don Jones said another owner had been required by the town to correct the slope of his sidewalk. There are requirements in the ordinance for the allowed slope. There was a consensus that no action be taken.

B. Discussion of Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, Ordinance with Dana Fischer and Town Planner Misty Gorski

Fischer described the PACE program established by the state two years ago that enables municipalities to establish loan programs so that their citizens may be able to borrow up to \$15,000 for weatherization projects to reduce energy consumption. The municipalities may administer the loan programs or may have PACE administer them. The funds are from a \$20,000,000 grant Efficiency Maine has received from the Department of Energy to support weatherization programs throughout the state. In order for residents of Wiscasset to be eligible for loans, the town must adopt an ordinance and sign a contract with PACE. The selectmen had previously been given a model ordinance. **Pam Dunning moved to send the draft ordinance to the ORC for review. Vote 4-0-0.**

C. Set date for Abatement Hearings

Pam Dunning moved that the Board of Selectmen set the Abatement Hearings for January 10, 2012 at 6 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.

12. Town Manager's Report

A. Letter from Town of Plymouth regarding nuclear fuel repository: The Town of Plymouth, Massachusetts has invited Wiscasset to a meeting of the Coalition of Nuclear Communities that are currently storing spent fuel rods. The purpose of the coalition is to advocate solutions and seek new legislation. The meeting will be held on January 27, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will discuss community challenges, spent fuel issues, and advocacy and actions. There was a consensus that Wiscasset participate. Ed Polewarczyk and Pam Dunning tentatively agreed to attend the meeting.

B. General Update: On Monday, December 12, the selectmen will meet with Edgecomb selectmen and the DOT in the Municipal Hearing Room.

Huber's Market is reopening and the selectmen are invited to the ribbon-cutting ceremony on December 13 at 10:30 a.m.

The selectmen decided to fund next year only those charitable organizations that were funded this year and only if they apply for funds. Ed Polewarczyk objected to including contributions to charitable organizations in municipal taxes.

A memo was received from Peter Arnold giving an update of the tidal power project. An analysis is now being done of the results of the month-long study of currents in the Back River. Peter Arnold has left Chewonki but will continue to manage the Wiscasset Tidal Energy Project.

The employees' holiday potluck luncheon will be held at the Community Center on December 14 from 11:30 to 1.

13. Other Board Business

Laurie Smith requested an executive session. **Judy Colby moved to go into executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 1, Section 405 (6)(A) to discuss personnel matters. Vote 4-0-0.**

14. Adjournment

The board exited executive session and adjourned at 9:15 p.m.