

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DECEMBER 20, 2011

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Chair Judy Colby, Bill Curtis, Pam Dunning, Vice Chair David Nichols, Ed Polewarczyk and Acting Town Manager Sue Varney

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: December 13, 2011 and December 20, 2011

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's warrants of December 13 and December 20 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2011

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of December 6 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Special Presentations or Awards - None

6. Appointments - None

7. Public Comment

(1) George Green said that since Federal Street had been repaved, traffic was exceeding the 25 mph speed limit and the town should be concerned, particularly with traffic around the school. (2) He said less than 5% of the eligible voters had actually voted in the last election; many who used the community center that day did not vote. He recommended voting at the town hall, which is more accessible. (3) Regarding the meeting between Edgecomb and Wiscasset selectmen and the DOT on Wiscasset's traffic problem, Green said there would be approximately \$100,000 to spend to alleviate the problem, which would result in a band-aid approach. He suggested at sometime in the future making use of the railroad bed and making a three-lane bridge.

(1) Bob Blagden said the town did not vote for salary increases recently awarded, only for the contingency out of which the raises were taken. (2) He further asked why one stipend position, the raise for which was approved in June, did not receive a raise until December. (3) He asked whether the Town or the Legion paid for the repairs to the steps at the Scout Hall. Pam Dunning said the Public Works Department had asked for bids as it was in the Public Works budget. Blagden asked why the bid had not come to the selectmen. The chair said these two matters would be looked into. Even though there was a threshold for requiring a bid, Blagden said in some cases, it would be advantageous to require a bid in order to be fair to everyone.

(1) Richard Hanson said the ductwork for the heating system at the former superintendent's office had been removed and he asked what had happened to it and why it was done. (2) He asked whether an insurance claim had been filed for damage last year when the pipes froze and whether the claim was paid. (3) Hanson said department heads should not be putting out bids; the process should be open to everyone to bid. (4) He said 3/4 of a million dollars in taxes is owed to the town. He asked why foreclosures were not taking place, as the taxpayers deserve for that money to be collected. Colby said some of those owners on the foreclosure list had been contacted and some were making payments. Colby will contact the Town Manager when she returns from vacation regarding these questions.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report - None

9. Unfinished Business - None

10. New Business

A. Open Municipal Building roof repair bid: No bids were received and the matter was tabled until the January 3 meeting. The bid process and particularly the lack of bids was discussed. Several possible reasons were suggested, such as lack of advertising, completion deadlines which were unrealistic, a bid being rejected out of hand because selectmen didn't want to do the work and contractors who don't do business with Wiscasset any more because of the bid process.

B. Supplemental Tax Certificate and Warrant

Sue Varney had been informed that a taxpayer's land value had been dropped from the tax bill when a new building was constructed and taxed. Supplemental tax bills for \$3,352.20 (2010-2011) and \$3,431.47 (2011-2012) had been sent and she asked the selectmen to sign the Supplemental Tax Certificates and Warrants. **Bill Curtis moved that the Board of Assessors sign the supplemental tax certificates and warrants. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. Town Manager's Report - None

12. Other Business

Judy Colby, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and town employees, wished the residents of Wiscasset a happy and safe holiday.

13. Adjournment

At 7:20 p.m., **Bill Curtis moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**