

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
FEBRUARY 7, 2012

(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

The chair 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: January 24, 2012, January 31, 2012, and February 7, 2012

**Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of January 24, 2012. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of January 31, 2012. Vote 5-0-0. Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of February 7, 2012. Vote 4-1-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes: January 17, 2012

**Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Business Recognition Award: Schuyler Fairfield and Fairfield of Wiscasset Signs

Town Manager Laurie Smith recounted how in 1960, one month after marrying Marguerite, Schuler Fairfield opened Beauchamp Enterprises, later renamed Fairfield of Wiscasset Signs and Screen Printing. He became well known for his custom signs that were seen on scaffolding in boatyards, and on sailboats, lobster boats and large yachts. Fairfield is also well known for his "Louie the Maine Lobster" cartoons. Marguerite Fairfield has assisted her husband and now handles the computer side of the business. Schuyler served as Wiscasset Sign Control Officer for almost 30 years. Judy Colby presented a Business Recognition Award plaque to Mr. Fairfield in recognition of 52 years of business in Wiscasset as a valuable member of the community and an important economic contributor to Wiscasset. Mr. Fairfield thanked the selectmen.

6. Appointments

A. Certificates of Appointment and Approval

**Ed Polewarczyk moved that the Board of Selectmen approve Joan Barnes to fill the vacant position of Warden and Keith Bridgham to fill the vacant position of Deputy Warden for the election on February 14, 2012. Vote 5-0-0.**

**Pam Dunning moved that the Board of Selectmen approve Cam Johnson to fill the vacant position of Senior Center Trustee, effective through June 30, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items - None

8. Department head or Committee Chair Report

A. Ervin Deck, Airport Manager regarding Airport projected expenses and revenues for fiscal year 2012

Erv Deck presented budget figures showing original and revised numbers for FY 2012, the latter figures represented operating the airport without a fixed base operator. He also provided figures for estimated monthly fuel sales for 2012. Laurie Smith said the change will drastically change expenses and revenues but will have little impact on the bottom line. She recommended a warrant article at the annual town meeting to update the airport budget.

Deck explained that the FBO is leaving and changes have to be made. The biggest adjustment to the expense side of the budget is the purchase of fuel. A part-time employee will be hired in April for \$10/hr. and will probably be full time by summer.

Deck said he would do a statewide survey of airports to research the salaries of FBOs. He also, in response to Bill Curtis, said the gate will be painted or signed to make it more visible and there will be a pass code or card for entry.

Smith said expenses and revenues will be higher over the next few months and the new arrangement will be evaluated. In the meantime, Deck will continue to accept FBO applications.

## 9. Unfinished Business

### A. Huntoon Hill Central Maine Power Amended Easement

CMP has asked for an amendment to the easement granted by the Town that would allow the cutting of trees and other vegetation which might interfere with the operation and maintenance of their equipment or facilities, the right to restrict the construction of buildings, structures and improvements within 15 feet of its equipment and facilities, and the right to keep the surface of ground above its underground cables and other electrical equipment free from structures, improvements and growth which could interfere with their operations. Town Attorney Dennis Jumper provided the board with a draft of an amended easement covering the requests of CMP and recommended approval. Smith said she would convey to CMP the board's request that trees be cut down completely or trimmed, but not left with unsightly tall stumps. **Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the Amended CMP Easement as written. Vote 5-0-0.**

### B. Discussion regarding Kevin James' request to amend his prior agreement in reference to tax acquired property

In 2009, Kevin James signed an agreement to pay \$100 per week for back taxes with the balance due on February 1, 2012. He has paid over one-third of the total amount owed and has now asked to be able to continue to pay off the balance at \$100 per week. Approximately \$10,000 is owed. **Pam Dunning moved to extend the agreement with Kevin James an additional 24 months to allow the time necessary to pay off the back taxes at the rate of \$100 per week. Vote 5-0-0.**

### C. Discuss Lincoln County Television's request for capital funds

Mary Ellen Crowley, LCTV, said the station was requesting capital funds from the \$40,000 grant Wiscasset received from Adelphia in 2004. The grant was for a specific purpose, not revenue for the general fund and as such, it would not need to go before the town for a vote. The original intent of the grant was that one-third would be used for school video equipment, one-third for municipal broadcasting and one-third for LCTV. The station has not received its one-third share. There is \$22,506 remaining from the original grant. She listed the priority needs of the station.

In response to questions, Crowley said the operating budget for next year is \$49,911. According to a funding formula for FY 2013 for Lincoln County towns based on the average of the percentage of population and percentage of cable subscribers, Wiscasset's share is 19.28%, or

\$9,623. Crowley's request for its share of the grant is separate from this town assessment for next year.

**Judy Colby moved to take \$13,000 from the grant and give it to LCTV for capital funding. Vote 5-0-0.**

#### 10. New Business

##### A. Discussion of stop sign recommendation at High and Lee Street

Smith said the town had received a request from residents to remove one stop sign on Bradford Street and place a new stop sign on Lee Street, both at the High Street intersection. The board had also received letters from residents opposing the change. Don Jones said the Transportation Committee had reviewed a similar request in the past and he did not see the need to change the stop signs. Police Chief Troy Cline said after reviewing the information pertaining to the intersection over the past two years, he saw no indication that there was a problem with accidents at the intersection and he has no record of complaints from citizens. He said he was not in a position to advocate for a change. David Nichols opposed the removal of the stop sign because there was a sightline problem at High Street and Bradford Road. Ed Polewarczyk supported the request of the residents to remove the sign on the incline of Bradford Road at High Street. **Judy Colby moved to leave the intersection at High and Lee streets as it is. Vote 4-1-0.**

##### B. Misty Gorski, Town Planner regarding the recommendation from the Ordinance Review Committee relative to the proposed PACE ordinance

Gorski said the Ordinance Review Committee had, as requested by board, reviewed the PACE ordinance, made several changes and recommended the amended ordinance. The ordinance would allow residents of Wiscasset to apply for loans administered by Efficiency Maine. She said ORC members were concerned about the need for an ordinance establishing the PACE program, as other than the state requirement that an ordinance be passed, there was no clarification why this would be necessary; the town would not be involved with the loans.

Although not required to review or advise on the contract, the ORC had concerns about the responsibilities of the town outlined in the contract and recommended that the Board, Town Manager and Town Attorney thoroughly review the contract.

Ed Polewarczyk said he did not believe the state or federal governments should be involved in home mortgages and it was clear from the ordinance that the town would become involved and accept responsibilities. He was concerned about the viability of the program and the resulting responsibilities of the town if funding ceased. He also objected to the town's obligations outlined in the contract such as accepting and dispersing funds and support for billing and collection functions. Dunning agreed that terms of the contract would involve the town in the process and require man-hours to fulfill its obligations. A motion to place the PACE ordinance on the June warrant failed by a 0-5 vote.

##### C. Misty Gorski, Town Planner, regarding a request from the Planning Board for an ordinance change relative to their meeting schedule

Gorski said that because the ordinance requires the Planning Board to meet at least once a month, at times that has meant that the board met when there were no agenda items. The Planning Board has requested that the selectmen refer to the matter to the Ordinance Review Committee. **Judy Colby moved that the Selectmen direct the Ordinance Review Committee to review Article I, Section 4.3.3 that requires the Planning Board to meet once a month. Vote 5-0-0.**

Gorski reported that the ORC would be holding a public meeting during the Planning Board meeting on February 13 at 7 p.m. to discuss the proposed Village 1 ordinance; the owners in this district have been notified. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the town office and it is also on the town website.

#### 11. Town Manager's Report

A. Draft Selectmen Goals: The selectmen were given a copy of the draft 2012 goals with an overarching goal, challenges, opportunities, and the top five goals. She clarified several items and she asked for feedback from the board. The goals will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

B. Lincoln County Community Resources: Smith noted that requests for General Assistance have increased dramatically since last year and while there are many programs, organizations and community resources, there is no system that connects them for easy access by people in need and as a tool for administrators. Lisa Garman, who handles General Assistance, took part in meetings in the Boothbay region where a coalition of social service agencies and non profit groups are working together to utilize resources at their maximum potential without duplication. She proposes a similar organization of resources for Lincoln County and will be inviting organizations and agencies to a meeting on February 29 at 6 p.m. at the Wiscasset Town Office hearing room to begin a conversation on helping people in the community.

C. General Update: On Thursday, February 9, at 5 p.m. a FERC meeting will be held in Boothbay. A petition to withdraw from the RSU has been submitted and signatures certified. It will be presented to the selectmen at the next meeting.

#### 12. Other Board Business - None

#### 13. Adjournment

**Pam Dunning moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**