

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MARCH 20, 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

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: March 13, 2012 and March 20, 2012

**Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of March 13, 2012. Vote 5-0-0.  
Pam Dunning moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of March 20, 2012. Vote 4-1-0.**

4. Approval of Minutes: March 6, 2012

**Ed Polewarczyk moved to amend the minutes of March 6, 2012. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Steve Zuppa of the Wiscasset, Waterville, & Farmington Railway Museum with an update of the railcar at the Main St. Pier

Town Manager Laurie Smith said the agreement between the museum and the town would insure that the museum will have liability insurance, the railcar will remain the property of the museum, and it will maintain operating hours. Steve Zuppa distributed photos showing the original car and the construction of the replica which has now been completed. The area on the pier for the railcar will be prepped in late April and the car will be delivered soon thereafter. Inside the car will be a replica of the original cooling system, milk cans that would have been used at that time and photographs and memorabilia. There will be no admission charged for the historic display. The railcar will be open, but unmanned, from approximately nine to five and will be closed by an employee each night. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the agreement between the WWF Railway and the Town of Wiscasset. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Appointments

A. Certificates of Appointment and Approval

**Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen appoint Rick Lang as Building Inspector, effective through March 31, 2013 and appoint Misty Gorski as Deputy Building Inspector, effective through March 31, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.**

7. Public Comment

Hamilton Meserve, candidate for the position of County Commissioner, introduced himself and said he was visiting the towns in his district to acquaint himself with local issues.

Bill Barnes asked that Article 1 be removed from the warrant, as people feel that their vote doesn't count when articles are brought back for a second vote.

## 8. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

### A. Town Manager - Presentation of the Budget

Laurie Smith presented the 2013 draft budget and reviewed the contents including the budget summary of each department's 2012 budget and revenues, and draft 2013 budgets for each department. She cited the increases in wages, insurances, energy, food, chemicals, equipment and capital and the offsetting revenues from the change in the airport operation and fuel sales, decreases in the retirement system contributions, increased ambulance fees, increased recreation fees, membership drives, and wastewater fee increase. The \$2.4 million budget is broken down into manager budget, grants, loans, dedicated funds and not funded. The budget also includes five-year requests by departments.

## 9. Unfinished Business

### A. Deb Taylor with a request for Mary Bailey endowment funds

Deb Taylor said that no request was made for endowment funds last year; however, this year Wiscasset High school was requesting \$3,000 for Early College, \$2,000 for support of the MELMAC and intensive class experiences and \$2,000 to support remediation for students who are struggling academically. Addressing concerns about Wiscasset High School's affiliation with RSU 12, she said the vast majority of the students at the high school are from Wiscasset and the majority of Wiscasset's children of high school age attend Wiscasset High School. She asked for the board's support for her request.

David Nichols said Wiscasset no longer has a school system; it belongs to the RSU. He said that in the event the academy discontinued its courses and no longer was in existence, the principal should be turned over to the Town of Wiscasset. Bill Curtis said the court document does not have a provision for the funds to go to a successor, so he didn't see how anything could be done. Pam Dunning, referring to the court document, said the fund was "for the purpose of establishing new courses in advanced training and for such other education purposes in connection with the *school systems* in the Town of Wiscasset...". Ed Polewarczyk said the intent of the endowment was to go to Wiscasset High School students and **he moved to approve the \$7,000 from the Mary Bailey fund to the Wiscasset High School**. In response to David Nichols' concern that the money would be used by the RSU, Deb Taylor said the funds would be used at Wiscasset High School and would not go to the RSU. **Vote 3-2-0.**

### B. Determination of Harbormaster position - stipend or hourly

Extensive discussion on the history of this position, whether hourly or stipend, included the increase and decrease in duties of the position over the years, sometimes without commensurate changes in pay. Adding to the discussion was the fact that at times the Public Works Department performs work on the pier assisted by the Harbormaster. The scheduling of the duties of the Harbormaster and payment therefor is complicated by the amount of hours worked at the various seasons of the year when requirements differ. Pam Dunning recommended first defining the job description for the Harbormaster and then setting the pay rate and type.

Bill Curtis recommended that the Harbormaster be a stipend position and the cost of all work done at the harbor be in the Harbormaster budget.

The Town Manager said she had calculated for the budget 25 hours/week for 15 weeks, 20 hours/week for nine weeks, and five hours/week for 28 weeks for a total of approximately \$10,500 annually averaging out to \$15 per week.

Following discussion on whether to set specific hours for the Harbormaster, whether duties should be confined to those listed in the ordinance, the duties and pay rates of other towns, and

paying on an hourly basis for a year or two, **Pam Dunning moved to make the Harbormaster a stipend position. Vote 5-0-0.**

Laurie Smith said that the current harbormaster had given his notice, but would agree to stay on until the position was filled. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to authorize Laurie Smith to advertise for a Harbormaster with a \$5,000 stipend. Vote 3-2-0.**

C. Request to waive interest for Michael Carlton property

Smith said First Federal Savings has asked that the interest be waived on the taxes due on this property. The town did not have the bank identified as a mortgage holder and as a result, the bank did not receive a lien notice. At the previous meeting, the board had asked Smith to research the legality of waiving the taxes. Smith supplied the board with the statute, which would allow them to waive the taxes. **Judy Colby moved to sign the quit claim deed for the full payment of back taxes, interest and costs. Vote 5-0-0.**

10. New Business

A. Wiscasset Waterfront Committee recommendation for pier vendors

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen approve Frank Sprague as a vendor at the Main Street Pier on the waterfront. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Certificate of Settlement and recommitment for Tax Collector and Treasurer

**Judy Colby moved that the board sign the certificate of Settlement and Recommitment for the Tax Collector/Treasurer. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Discussion of the RSU Withdrawal article and necessary funding

**Bill Curtis moved that the selectmen set the necessary funding at \$55,000.** WERP had requested \$45,000; estimate from three law firms was \$50,000. Ed Polewarczyk recommended \$50,000 because if the request were too high, voters would not approve it, but if the request were too low, it would be necessary to ask the voters for additional funds.

In response to questions regarding the necessity of an architect (included in the WERP budget), Doug Smith, WERP, said the panel had estimated that it would be possible to consolidate all students into two buildings without adding onto either the primary or high school. Since Stephen Blatt had done the original 2008 study consolidating three buildings into two, it would be less costly to use the same architect to estimate costs to make the minor modifications to the high school. WERP plans to use a retired superintendent recommended by the state as a consultant at a cost of \$15,000 rather than attorneys.

Pam Dunning asked for a legal opinion on including architectural fees, as the warrant article includes funds only for leaving the RSU. Bill Curtis said it was not necessary to give the voters a breakdown, only the total amount it would cost. Judy Colby said the selectmen would appoint a committee (one member of which will be a selectman) who will make decisions on how to spend the money. **Vote 3-2-0.** Smith said the board would have to decide how to finance the \$55,000. Ed Polewarczyk recommended raising and appropriating the money rather than paying a bond over a number of years.

## 11. Town Manager's Report

### A. General Update

Smith reported that the monthly report was available.

Smith said she had received an inquiry from an abutter of a 30-acre town-owned parcel of land off Old Road that connects to Dorr Road. The lot is wooded with little or no access and was tax-acquired in 1952. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to put the property out to bid. Vote 5-0-0.**

## 12. Other Business

### A. Executive Session regarding 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. Vote 5-0-0.** The board entered executive session at 9:18 p.m. and exited at 9:35 p.m.

## 13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.