

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
APRIL 24, 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 7:05 p.m.

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

3. Warrant Authorization

Town Manager Laurie Smith asked if the selectmen wished to make a recommendation on Article 4 of the warrant. **Judy Colby moved that the selectmen make no recommendation on Article 4. Vote 3-2-0.**

Smith said it had been recommended that Article 63, a change to the Port and Harbor ordinance allowing pot buoys in the mooring fields, be deleted and in its place an article allowing a trial period for a year. **Judy Colby moved to remove Article 63 and replace it with, "Do you approve of suspending for one year the ordinance that prohibits placing lobster traps in the Wiscasset mooring fields." Vote 5-0-0.**

Smith said the Art Gallery would like to move forward with a 99-year lease, which would allow them to apply for grants. The current lease has not expired. Smith asked if the selectmen wished to put this on the warrant. Pam Dunning said she would prefer looking at it in November, which would give the Town Manager and the Art Gallery board time to work together on the language of a possible lease. There was a consensus that this be delayed until November.

Article 46 had been added authorizing the payment of retiree health insurance premiums, as discussed at the previous meeting.

Article 49 authorizing the sale of the Superintendent's office will be amended to add the address on Gardiner Road.

Article 64, the non-binding referendum question, has been added.

There were no further questions or comments on the warrant articles from the selectmen.

Questions from the Budget Committee:

Article 49 - Richard Hanson asked what size lot would be included with the former Superintendent's office.

Smith said that a specific number could not be used at this time because the lot had not been surveyed. After discussion, it was decided to leave Article 49 as written.

Article 39 - Constance Schumann asked if LCTV paid the Town an annual franchise fee and if so, could not the \$7,000 contribution to LCTV be taken from the annual fee rather than paid from taxes. She pointed out that people who do not have cable TV would be paying the \$7,000 out of their taxes. Smith explained that the franchise fee under gross budgeting is taken in as revenue and the LCTV appropriation comes out of the budget. The franchise fee is used to offset the expenditure. It was the consensus of the board that a note explaining that the cable franchise fee generates \$45,000 per year to offset the appropriation for LCTV be included in the warrant.

Bob Blagden said that until the revenues equal the expenses, the balance would come out of the residents' tax dollars. He said it should be up to the voters to make a donation, whether or not they have cable TV.

Article 45 - Constance Schumann said approximate amounts should be shown for each capital improvement item, as voters should be given a choice. Pam Dunning responded that a policy voted by the selectmen dictated how capital improvements, using a mathematical equation, would be funded from Capital Reserve Account and any balance carried forward. Bob Blagden and Richard Hanson were in favor of voters being given an option to vote on each capital improvement item. Roland Abbott (EMS) said that the Budget Committee's recommendation against the Article because they wanted it broken down by item would influence voters who may vote against the entire article, turning down a cardiac monitor, which is desperately needed. Police Chief Troy Cline spoke in favor of the article, which would replace one of the police cruisers. After further discussion, a motion to separate the capital improvement items failed.

Judy Colby moved to sign the 2012 Annual Election Town Warrant with the amendments as discussed. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Other Business

David Nichols said Joe Carter had asked him to dispel rumors about Joe's health and announce that his cancer is in remission and he is able to work.

The Board recessed in order for the warrant to be amended as discussed and reconvened to sign the warrant.

Smith reminded the board of the executive session at 6 p.m. on May 1 with Scott Holden.

5. Adjournment

At 8:15 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**