

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JULY 17, 2012

Preliminary Minutes

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Judy Colby, Bill Curtis, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice Chair Ed Polewarczyk, Jeff Slack and Town Manager Laurie Smith

1. Call to Order

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

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

3. Discussion of Special Town Meeting budgetary articles with Budget Committee

Pam Dunning read the warrant articles proposed by the town manager. There was no discussion on Article 1 - to elect a moderator.

Article 2 asked, if the following budgets fail to pass, whether the selectmen could spend 3/12 of the previous year's budget in addition to the 3/12 already approved. Bill Barnes asked how many times an article would be brought back when people had already voted it down. Ed Polewarczyk explained that although a budget for the CEO was voted down, for example, it did not necessarily mean that the voters wanted to abolish the position, only that they disagreed with the amount. The discussion centered mostly on the CEO's duties, whether they could be performed by the town planner. Pam Dunning said the CEO is a union position and there were limitations on what changes could be made to the position.

Article 3 asked whether the town would vote to raise and appropriate \$48,674 for the Code Enforcement Officer. This would reduce his hours to 25 per week and decrease the training budget. This amount would include three months at 30 hours per week and nine months at 25 hours per week. Ed Polewarczyk pointed out the monthly reports, which list the amount of work the CEO performs. Smith added that in addition to CEO duties, he also is involved with the safety program and has assisted the insurance companies with the tax-acquired properties as well as other duties assigned as needed. It was explained that the planner could not cover all the functions of the code enforcement officer. The consensus of the board was that the hours be decreased to 25 per week. Bill Barnes said the hours should be determined by what the town was willing to spend.

Article 4 asked if the town would vote to raise and appropriate for contingency the sum of \$50,000. In response to Cliff Hendricks comments on the amount of the contingency budget, Laurie Smith said the selectmen had added legal expenses to the previous year's budgeted amount. The previous year's contingency of \$30,000 had included a water heater, postage, and buyout of a retirement plan. Pam Dunning said the board had discussed anticipated expenses in executive session, and they could not be discussed in public. Asked whether the contingency budget included raises, Pam Dunning said that was not discussed.

Article 5 asked if the town would vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for Lincoln County Television. Asked whether the franchise fee would cover this amount, Smith explained that with gross budgeting, the fee was treated as miscellaneous revenue to offset taxes and therefore it was necessary to raise and appropriate the money for LCTV, which was more than covered by the fee. Bob Blagden said other requests for donations were voted down and asked why LCTV was being brought back. Pam Dunning explained that LCTV performed a quasi-municipal service, broadcasting town board and committee meetings, whereas other requests for funds from non-profits were for services already performed by other agencies.

The consensus of the board was to reduce the CEO's hours to 25 per week (\$48,674), to reduce the contingency budget to \$50,000 and to reduce the amount for LCTV to \$5,000. If the LCTV budget does not pass in September, it will not be brought back to the voters.

4. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: July 10, 2012 and July 17, 2012

Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's warrant of July 10, 2012. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's warrant of July 17, 2012. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Approval of Minutes: July 3, 2012 and July 10, 2012

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of July 3, 2012. Vote 4-0-1. Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2012 as amended. Vote 4-0-1.

6. Special Presentations or Awards - none

7. Appointments:

A. Airport Committee: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Kenneth Boudin to the Airport Committee through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Appeals Board: **Ed Polewarczyk moved to appoint John Blagdon through December 31, 2015, Denis Hebert through December 31, 2014 and Joan Barnes through December 31, 2013 to the Appeals Board. Vote 5-0-0.**

C. Town Committee: **Ed Polewarczyk moved to appoint Norma Gordon, Vickie Hersom, Donald Jones and Richelle Pontau to the Appearance of the Town Committee through December 31, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Community Center Scholarship Committee: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Robert Bickford, Sr., Vickie Hersom, Katherine Martin-Savage, Molly Barnes, LouAnn Pontau, Sheila Sawyer and Brian Viele to the Community Center Scholarship Committee through December 31, 2012. Vote 5-0-0.**

E. Investment Advisory Committee: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Frank Barnako and Stefan Mehrl to the Investment Advisory Committee through December 31, 2014. Vote 5-0-0.** Norman Guidoboni questioned the qualifications of the nominees to handle the town's investments. Ed Polewarczyk clarified that the board had adopted an investment policy; the members of the committee do not make investment decisions but review the actions taken by H. M. Payson. Ray Soule highly recommended Frank Barnako for the committee. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to appoint Judy Colby as the Selectmen's representative to the Investment Advisory Committee through July 11, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.**

F. Ordinance Review Committee: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Larry Lomison and Karl Olson to the Ordinance Review Committee through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

G. Planning Board: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Karl Olson, Anthony Gatti, Jr, and Peter McRae to the Planning Board through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.**

H. Shellfish Conservation Committee: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Scott James and Wilson Rex Collamore to the Shellfish Conservation Committee through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.** In response to Bob Blagden's question on the subcommittee's review of town committees, Pam Dunning said that she and Ed Polewarczyk had visited almost half of the committees; and would make their recommendations when visits were complete. The change in

expiration dates was made to give a new board elected in June sufficient time to become acquainted with the committees and members before appointments were made in January.

I. Transportation Committee: Bill Curtis moved to appoint Donald Jones, Lois Kwantz and Cynthia Fischer to the Transportation Committee through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.

J. Waterfront Committee: Judy Colby moved to appoint Bryan Buck and Susan Robson to the Waterfront Committee through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.

K. Celebrations Committee: Judy Colby moved to appoint Lisa Garman to the Celebrations Committee through December 31, 2015. Vote 5-0-0.

L. RSU Withdrawal Committee Appointments: Appointments made at the previous meeting.

8. Public Comment - None

9. Department Head or Committee Chair Report - None

10. Unfinished Business

A. Recommendation for the Special Town Meeting Warrant: In a vote on the \$48,674 for the Code Enforcement Budget, four were in favor, one opposed. **Judy Colby moved to recommend the following warrant articles as follows: Code Enforcement Budget: 5 Favor; 0 Oppose; Contingency Budget: 5 Favor; 0 Oppose; Lincoln County Television: 5 Favor; 0 Oppose. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. **Judy Colby moved to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant for September 11. Vote 5-0-0. The Budget Committee will provide their recommendations to the Town Manager on Friday, July 20.**

11. New Business

A. Ambulance Remount Bids

The following bids (after trade-in) were received:

Autotronics	\$79,244
Northeastern Rescue Vehicles	77,165
Sugarloaf Ambulance and Rescue Vehicles	70,188

Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager and the Ambulance Director to award the ambulance remount bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.

B. Quit Claim Deed for Map R3, Lot 77 and Map R3, Lot 64-002

Judy Colby moved to approve the quit claim deeds for full payment of back taxes, fees and interest for Map R-3, Lot 77 and Map R-3, Lot 64-002. Vote 5-0-0.

C. Maine Municipal Association Election

Ed Polewarczyk moved that the Board votes for the slate of officers as listed (Peter Nielsen for Vice President and John Butler, Jr., Michael Crooker and Marianne Moore for Directors). Vote 5-0-0.

12. Town Manager's Report

A. Wiscasset Raceway Auction: The property was sold at auction on July 12 to Rick Jordan for \$130,000. The Town Manager and Planner will be meeting with the new owner.

B. Town Office Hours: Smith asked the board to consider closing the window for three or four hours per week as had been done in previous years to allow the staff time to work without interruption. She said there were structural deficiencies in operation and the recommendation to close the window for a morning or afternoon would aid in the building of a better financial foundation.

C. Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber Tourism Invitation: Jeff Slack and Judy Colby had previously volunteered to escort the group from the railroad station to the Nichols-Sortwell House, but will be unable to because it will conflict with the RSU 12 meeting. Pam Dunning volunteered to meet the group.

D. General Update:

Vacancies exist on the Appeals Board, Town Appearance, Budget, Cemetery, Conservation, and Transportation committees. The vacancies will be advertised.

The Wests have requested that the town maintain the drainage ditch on Langdon Road to prevent flooding on their property. Although the town had performed some work at this location in the 1980s, this section of Langdon Road had been discontinued by the town in 1930. Attorney Geoffrey H. Hole has advised that the town has no obligation to perform work at that location, which is private property. It was the consensus of the board to follow advice of counsel.

The setting of the memorial stone beside the American elm planted in honor of Woody Freeman will take place on Sunday, July 22, at 11 a.m.

Judy Colby moved to approve the quit claim deed for payment of back taxes for Bruce and Mary Ellen Engert, Map U10, Lot 23. Vote 5-0-0.

13. Other Board Business

Pam Dunning moved that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) to discuss Labor Negotiations. Vote 5-0-0. The board exited executive session at 8:38 p.m.

Adjournment

The board adjourned at 8:39 p.m.