

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
August 21, 2012

Preliminary Minutes

Tape-recorded meeting

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

Absent: Judy Colby

1. Call to Order

Chair Pam Dunning called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

3. Executive Session to discuss economic development

Bill Curtis moved that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(C) to discuss economic development at Mason Station properties. Vote 4-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to come out of executive session at 7:01 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.

4. Public Hearing - Buck Rines: Discussion of sewer rate increase

The public hearing opened at 7:01 p.m. Buck Rines, Wastewater Superintendent, proposed a wastewater fee increase from \$.076 per cubic foot to \$.08 per cubic foot in order to meet the proposed expenses and begin to invest in the wastewater infrastructure. The proposed fee is in line with other towns of comparable size. Town Manager Laurie Smith said that with the proposed increase, there was the possibility of \$400,000 in revenue, depending on water usage, to offset the expenses of the wastewater department. The public hearing closed at 7:05 p.m. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to increase the wastewater rate to \$.08 per cubic foot effective October 1, 2012. Vote 4-0-0.**

The second public hearing on the special town meeting Warrant was postponed until 7:30 p.m.

6. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: August 7, 2012, August 14, 2012 and August 21, 2012

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of August 7, 2012. Vote 4-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of August 14, 2012. Vote 4-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of August 21, 2012. Vote 4-0-0.

7. Approval of Minutes: August 7, 2012

Bill Curtis moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vote 4-0-0.

8. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Bill Phinney and Ed Kavanaugh regarding discussion of Museum in the Streets project

Ed Kavanaugh and Bill Phinney have worked on the Museum in the Streets project for a year and a half accumulating photos of historic buildings in Wiscasset and planning a self-directed walking tour of the town. Signs on metal posts will be placed at the site of each building with brochures and three kiosks will display photos and maps. Kavanaugh and Road Commissioner Greg Griffin have discussed the placement of the signs so they will not interfere with snowplowing or other activities. Kavanaugh said he was requesting no town funds, only permission to erect the signs on town properties. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to grant Museum in the Streets Project**

permission to display sign panels at pre-established areas on Town property pending final approval by the Public Works Supervisor. Vote 4-0-0. Ed Polewarczyk moved to allow the Public Works Supervisor permission to grant additional locations, if necessary. Vote 4-0-0.

9. Appointments - None

10. Public Comment

Glen Plyler, a resident of Dorr Road, said equipment had been stolen from his barn recently and on the 20th, the door of a neighboring house had been smashed in and gold jewelry stolen. He asked if Lincoln County Sheriff's office could help the Wiscasset Police and if the police could drive by the neighbor's house often to reassure her. Pam Dunning said she had full confidence in the police and that they would contact Mr. Plyler and his neighbor if they had any information. Laurie Smith said the Wiscasset Police Department refers cases to the Lincoln County Sheriff's office when necessary and she would contact the Chief of Police to make sure they are using all resources.

5. Public Hearing - Discussion of September 11, 2012 Special Town Meeting

The public hearing opened at 7:31 p.m. There are four articles in addition to the one electing a moderator.

Article 2 authorizes the Town to spend 3/12 of the previous year's budget if an article fails to pass, which would be in addition to 3/12 of the previous year's budget approved at the June 12 annual meeting. Ed Polewarczyk confirmed that if the article does not pass, the funding for the CEO would end in September.

Article 3 authorizes the Town to raise and appropriate \$48,674 for Code Enforcement. Ed Polewarczyk said if the article passes, the Code Enforcement Officer would be paid three months at the previous rate and nine months at the new rate. He said that without funds for the department there would be no code enforcement functions such as building permits or plumbing inspections. Laurie Smith said there would be no money to contract for those services and there are union issues to be dealt with. Pam Dunning added that the town would be in violation of the ordinance.

Article 4 authorizes the Town to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for contingency. Smith said the amount was less than 1% of the budget and would cover unexpected emergencies and legal assistance, but was not intended for salary increases.

Article 5 authorizes the Town to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for Lincoln County Television, the same amount as in last year's budget. Mary Ellen Crowley, Station Manager, said LCTV's board, in fairness to other towns, would have to decide whether services to Wiscasset would continue if the article is turned down. She said LCTV provides over 1000 hours of television coverage of Wiscasset meetings and events that is also available on the internet. Ed Polewarczyk said LCTV was providing a valuable service, and he thanked Crowley and Alex Diamond, a volunteer who tapes the meetings.

George Green said he could not understand why the recommendations of selectmen and budget committee members were diametrically opposed. He said it was not good for the town and asked why these issues could not have been resolved before being put on the ballot. In response to a suggestion reportedly made by a budget committee member that Wiscasset share a CEO with other towns, Pam Dunning said the CEO position is a union job and it cannot be outsourced; the position cannot be shared with other towns. The public hearing closed at 7:55 p.m.

10. Public Comment - none

11. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

A. Selectman Slack regarding the RSU Withdrawal Subcommittee request: Slack in a memo to the selectmen recommended a five-member subcommittee be appointed whose purpose would be to focus on the future of Wiscasset schools. Duties would include determining what shape the schools are in and determining needed repairs, additions, etc.; determining the economic impact on the town if a school had to be closed or students tuitioned out; and forecasting the future education of the children.

Pam Dunning said the issue is what it will cost if Wiscasset joins an AOS, another RSU or stays as is or closes one or more schools. She said even if these costs are determined, there is no guarantee that an AOS or RSU would accept Wiscasset.

Slack said the withdrawal committee would have a dollar amount for joining an AOS and other scenarios and had already contacted AOSs. He said with the current school population, the town could go back to two buildings, as was the situation in 1971 when the student numbers were approximately the same as they are now.

Ed Polewarczyk said the primary reason for leaving RSU 12 was the loss of local control, and he asked why another RSU would be considered. He said if the subcommittee were going to figure out the future of the schools, it would need a consensus of what people really want. A majority of the town voted to keep the mascot, so no consensus would be reached if the high school were closed. If the middle school were closed, there would be no support from those that love the middle school. This work should have been done before a petition was circulated.

Slack said the Withdrawal Committee would negotiate the withdrawal and determine what the town will do in the first year. In response to Ed Polewarczyk's question, Jeff Slack said the Withdrawal Committee would have first year costs for the town

With regard to timing, Ed Polewarczyk said the Withdrawal Committee had 90 days to submit the withdrawal plan to the commissioner who then had 60 days to approve it. If the commissioner recommends the plan, a town vote would be taken at the next statewide election, which would be November 2013.

Pam Dunning recommended that the five-member subcommittee to be appointed be made up of people who have background in the subject and that specific goals be listed. She said the subcommittee should look at different scenarios, i.e. the status quo, K-8, closing schools, etc.

Bill Curtis said that it was the duty of the selectmen to appoint a withdrawal committee that does not receive direction from the selectmen; it meets with the commissioner for approval and draws upon the resources of the Dept. of Education. He said he did not support having a subcommittee. A motion by Bill Curtis to recommend that the Withdrawal Committee meet with and seek immediate assistance of the Commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Education to complete their task failed on a 2-2 vote. The committee already had a meeting scheduled with the commissioner the following day.

With regard to the goals for the proposed subcommittee, Pam Dunning said work of estimating repairs and/or closing schools had already been done by engineers several years ago; the subcommittee will determine the economic impact. More attainable will be the third goal where the future of the schools (one, two or three schools, k-8, tuition high schools students or stay the same) will be determined. The Board will vote on the request for a subcommittee when all five members are present. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to postpone further discussion to September 4 or 18. Vote 4-0-0.**

B. Greg Griffin discussion regarding Public Works equipment and plow truck: Greg Griffin said he had divided the bids into two categories: Single axle and dual axle. The town currently has a single axle truck, but Griffin recommended the Mack truck, a dual axle vehicle, which is \$4,500 over budget. The truck is more efficient than the one the Town owns, as it can move more snow, sand or gravel and would result in a savings of man-hours. He asked the board to consider the Mack truck, which costs \$154,504, approximately \$11,000 more than the Freightliner, which was the lowest single axle vehicle bid. The Mack truck is immediately available. Griffin said the difference in the price and the budgeted amount would be made up from capital improvement funds or the maintenance budget. There was a consensus of the board that the Mack truck bid be accepted.

12. Unfinished Business - None

13. New Business

A. Sign Release Deed for Wiscasset Raceway, LLC, for a small building property: Smith said the back taxes had been paid and the new owners will be requesting an abatement. The buyers have met twice with the DEP and are aware of the contamination issues. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to sign a Release Deed for Wiscasset Raceway, LLC shown on Map R 05, Lot 045 and Map R 05, Lot 046 on the Wiscasset tax map. Vote 4-0-0.**

B. Review loan revision to the ICMARC Plan: Smith said the loan provision, which was included in the previous plan, had not been included in the ICMARC plan and she asked the board to adopt the loan provision resolution, amending the new plan. There is no additional cost. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to adopt the ICMARC loan provision resolution. Vote 4-0-0.**

14. Town Manager's Report

- A. The Police Cruiser bid had been awarded to Newcastle Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.
- B. The signed transfer station contract with Westport Island had been received. Smith said she had not heard from Alna but she understood they had some questions.
- C. The board was reminded of their meeting with the Recreation staff on Friday, August 24.
- D. Two tax-acquired properties had been paid off. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the release deeds for the 15 Summer Street Realty Trust and for Darryl and Vicki Delong. Vote 4-0-0.**
- E. The American Legion has asked the Town for support of their project placing flags on utility poles on Route 1 roughly from the Town Office to the waterfront. There was no objection from the board.

15. Other Board Business

Pam Dunning moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., §405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters. Vote 4-0-0. The board entered executive session at 8:56 and exited at 9:35 p.m.

16. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 9:36 p.m.