

Wiscasset Budget Committee  
Hearing Room  
January 17, 2013

Members Present:

Chair, Cliff Hendricks, Bob Blagden, Bill Barnes, Ray Soule, David Miete, and Norman Guidoboni.

Carla Chapman resigned due to business commitments.

Chairman Hendricks opened the Wiscasset Budget Committee meeting at Romeo 18:00.

Minutes of December 20<sup>th</sup> were approved by Bill Barnes. 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Blagden.

Chairman Hendricks questioned the sum of \$25,000 carried over from the Public Works Department. R. Soule and B. Blagden informed the Board that any previously carried over department money went back to the public.

Question 50, Article J. refers... any undesignated funds, if any, to be used to reduce property taxes, 512 Y / 128 No.

Contingency Fund is now at \$43,000. Town Manager has not decided on how to pay for fuel tank removal; Highway, Contingency, or Capital Improvement. \$65,492

The comingling of Cemetery Funds is hiring summer help and department (union) labor was discussed. Two summer laborers are hired for eleven weeks; 2 Highway workers also, and one is retained for a period of six months to maintain the cemeteries. Cemetery Funds are folded over to augment the salary of one worker for the remainder of the year. The need to retain steady labor during slow seasons is the reason. This reduces the Highway budget. If the work went out to bid, you would have to lay off workers. Apparently, there is a quid-pro-quo between non-union and union labor.

New equipment purchases for the Transfer Station - Will they be paid for outright or over a period of 5 years? B. Blagden – “Cheap money.”

Note: Page 10 of the Auditor’s Report – unassigned fund balance has fallen to a level insufficient to sustain government operations for a period of approximately 3 months.

Chairman asked when would be a good time to visit departments? R. Soule – “Wait for the wish list.”

Chairman questioned, “Is bundling going to be a problem this year? Voters downed it in June.”

Chairman moved to adjourn. R. Soule moved. 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Barnes 5-0. 19:00

The next meeting will be February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted: Norman Guidoboni, Clerk