

MINUTES

The Wiscasset Selectboard, Tax Assessors & Overseers of the Poor met Monday, **September 12** at 5 p.m.

Present: Judy Colby, Judy Flanagan, Jeff Slack, Ben Rines, David Cherry and Town Manager, Marian L Anderson

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. At the suggestion of Vice-Chairman Judy Flanagan the Board observed a moment of silence in remembrance of 9-11.

2. FY 2016-2017 Tax Commitment:

Selectmen David Cherry made a motion to postpone setting the 2016-2017 tax commitment until the Sept. 20th regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Ben Rines.

Discussion:

Selectmen Cherry expressed the Board needed to revisit the fund balance and understand the hard dollar amount of undesignated, unrestricted and unassigned funds.

Selectmen Flanagan said the right questions were not asked of the assessor and auditor at the last meeting and more information is needed to make a decision. She also raised the issue of the Town's General Fund Policy's suggestion of keeping two months of operating cost in the Fund Balance. Judy questioned whether keeping less than the policy's recommendation would affect the Town's credit for borrowing.

Chairman Colby said the \$2.3 million fund balance includes restricted money for school and assigned money for capital improvement, which brings the actual Fund Balance down to \$1.1 million.

The Board agreed they didn't have enough information to sign the tax commitment and would like the auditor and assessor to provide more information prior to their Sept. 20th meeting.

Motion passed, 4-1-0 (Jeff Slack opposed).

3. Department Budget Planning Visit at EMS, Police & Fire:

Present: Judy Colby, Judy Flanagan, Jeff Slack, Ben Rines, David Cherry and Town Manager, Marian L Anderson, Steve Mehrl, EMS Director Toby Martin, Police Chief Jeffrey Lange, Fire Chief T.J. Merry, Abby Adams (Lincoln County News)

EMS Director Toby Martin reported his department revenues are already at 38% of the current year's estimated revenue. To increase revenue he reports Wiscasset Ambulance Service is now doing transfers and have already made 2 trips to Boston and 1 trip to Eastern Maine Medical. The department has received 70 EMS subscriptions which has netted an additional \$3,340. He reported the two power cots are now in service.

Toby indicated that the capital needs in the near future were a new ambulance and Primo vents. The Department applied for the Stephen King grant to purchase the Primo vents, but was denied. Other grant considerations are possible, but if the grant option falls through a plan to purchase the Primo vents should be considered.

He said the average life span on an ambulance is 7 to 8 years. A new truck is estimated to cost between \$180,000 and \$200,000.

Police Chief Jeffrey Lange gave a tour of the Police Department. He indicated his capital plan included a drug collection box in the lobby, a “hot phone,” outdoor cameras and new carpeting in the offices.

Under his 10-year strategic plan Jeff said his department will need 4 computers, a server and one offline computer for digital evidence only.

Fire Chief T.J. Merry also gave a tour of the Fire Department facility. It was noted that there was no exhaust in the shower rooms, which should be considered in the future.

His capital list includes a ladder truck, a truck that can carry water with a six-man cab, Primo vents. T.J. also indicated that #93, #94, and #96 were within four years of replacement. He indicated the department had no back stock in fire gear, which costs \$3,000 a set. The Department has order three sets.

July Flanagan suggested looking into joining with other departments to purchase a regional ladder truck. Steve Merhl also said shared assets were available.

4. Adjournment:

At 6:50 p.m. David Cherry made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Judy Colby. Motion carried, 5-0.