

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
February 25, 2017

**Present:**

**Selectmen:** Chairman Judy Colby, Vice Chairman David Cherry, Jefferson Slack, Ben Rines, Jr., Larry Gordon

**Town Manager:** Marian Anderson

**Budget Committee:** Bryan Buck, Kristin Draper, John Merry, Fred Quivey, Mackenzie Riley, William Laliberte and Robert Blagden

**Department Heads:** Todd Souza, William Rines, Doug Fowler, Jeff Lange, Toby Martin, TJ Merry and Ron Lear

Chairman Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Discussion on ambulance repair

EMS Director Toby Martin informed the Selectboard that Wiscasset Ambulance #87 was put out of service due to engine problems and that his department was down to one ambulance. He told the Board the problem was most likely a head gasket based on an evaluation from the Town Mechanic and Wiscasset Ford. He received estimates for repairs ranging from \$3,500 to \$7,500. Toby told the Board the ambulance was a 2003 and had 128,000 miles on it. He said the average life expectancy on an ambulance is 7 to 10 years and that #87 had gone beyond its life expectancy.

Toby said because he is requesting a new ambulance as part of the EMS Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming budget, he wanted to seek the Board's direction whether to invest the money to fix the aging ambulance or get authorization to expedite the purchase of a new ambulance.

The Board agreed the purchase of a new ambulance should go before the voters.

Most board members expressed the need to get the repairs done in order to get the ambulance back in service. Selectman Larry Gordon disagreed stating it was a waste of money fixing the old ambulance, when a new one is needed.

A motion was made by David Cherry to authorize up to \$5,000 for the repairs to the 2003 ambulance and to take the money for the repairs from the contingency account. Motion was seconded by Judy Colby. Motion passed by a 4-1 vote (Selectman Larry Gordon opposed)

Selectmen David Cherry recommended that because the Town was down to one Ambulance the Department should cut down on doing transports to avoid being without an ambulance in Town during an emergency. Toby said the Department is currently just responding to 9-1-1 calls and have eliminated a crew until the second ambulance is back in service.

### 3. Budget Discussion

#### a. **Public Works**

Public Works Director Doug Fowler presented a budget with a small decrease over last year, indicating he had new staff with lower wages and insurance costs reductions. Some board members pointed his proposed salary increase of 7.9% was more than what other department heads were getting. Most were getting 2%.

Budget Committee member John Merry asked why the overtime line for 2017 showed a budget amount of \$31,000 when a spreadsheet presented by Fred Quivey using the TRIO software data indicated the budgeted amount for 2017 \$41,658. Town Manager Marian Anderson explained that the difference of \$10,658 was the retro union pay which was a carry forward once the union contract was ratified.

Doug also presented the Cemetery Budget and the Municipal Building Budget. He said the increase in Cemetery was related to wage increases. The Municipal Building Budget had increases in the equipment and supplies line as well as electrical. Doug told the board the Town Office building needed necessary electrical upgrades.

#### b. **Wastewater**

Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor William Rines told the board his budget was flat in most areas, with the exception of wages and insurance. The budget includes hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> person for the treatment plant. He told the board the facility once had four employees. He told the board his position has become more administrative and it has become necessary to have someone else there.

Town Manager Marian Anderson pointed out the Wastewater Treatment Plant has had DEP violations and have been issued two consent agreements in 3 years which outline areas that need improvement.

A typo was pointed out on the General Supplies line 50-16. An amount of \$1,500 was entered and the correct amount should have been \$15,000. This changed the Wastewater Department submitted budget from \$495,490.40 to \$508,990.40. The error was corrected and new department budgets were handed out.

#### c. **Parks & Recreation**

Parks & Recreation Director Todd Souza submitted an increased budget of \$860,621.66. He said what needed to be raised from taxation would be \$648,221.76, as he anticipates the balance to be cover from the Special Revenue Account. He noted the increases are due to the minimum wage impact to the budget as well as wanting to hire a full-time program director.

Todd said that the cost of membership will increase on July 1, 2017.

Selectman Larry Gordon commented that the members from other towns are just paying for their memberships and not contributing towards the cost of operations and maintenance, which he said is unfair to Wiscasset taxpayers. Larry said Wiscasset residents have to pay for operations and maintenance through taxation and also pay for a membership if they want to join. Larry said town's using the facility should be helping maintain and operate the facility and should be paying more than the \$4,100 currently being paid.

Budget Committee Chairman Bob Blagden said it would have been helpful to have seen the projected revenues. Town Manager pointed out that she expected no change

in the projected revenues from last year, which was distributed prior in the budget documents prior to the meeting.

**d. Police**

Police Chief Jeffrey Lange presented a budget with no significant increase. He pointed out several new line items in the police budget which will help him to better track the spending on specific items, which included vehicle maintenance, investigative supplies, ammunition, police equipment.

He also pointed out the budget could change if his staff changed and took different medical plans.

The Chief also laid out a plan for overseeing the duties of the Harbormaster, Shellfish Warden, and Animal Control Officer. He said he would apply for a 2017 Cops' Grant, which would cover 75% of the cost of hiring a new officer who would be responsible for these duties as well as parking enforcement.

**e. EMS**

EMS Director Toby Martin presented an increased budget of 8% over last year. He said the proposed budget increases personnel from 2 to 3 providers for each shift for 24/7. It also includes stipends for \$1,000 each for a Supply Officer and Education Officer.

Other increases include medical billing, supplies, cost of state demanded education, and uniforms for employees.

He reported the department has already collected 92% of the projected revenue for the current year. By adding the third person he projects next year's revenue to be \$320,000 - \$340,000.

**f. Fire**

Fire Chief T.J. Merry presented his budget with minor increases. Increases included raising the officers pay as well raising firefighters pay from \$10.50/hr. to \$12/hr.

Marian Anderson said T.J. initially requested firefighter pay be increased to \$15/hr. She said she conducted a survey to find out what other area towns were paying its firefighters. The survey concluded that area firefighters pay ranged from \$7.50 to \$15/hr. She recommended increasing Wiscasset's firefighter pay to \$12/hr.

**g. Transfer**

Transfer Station Supervisor Ron Lear presented a budget approximately \$5,000 over last year's. Ron said the increase was due to contractual union raises and an increase in tipping fees.

Ron said the cost of operations and maintenance of the Transfer Station is shared with Alna and Westport Island. Currently Wiscasset pays 72.3%; Westport Island pays 13.92%; and Alna pays 13.74%. The calculations are based on population he said.

**4. Adjournment**

At 11:55 a.m. David Cherry made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jeff Slack and passed with a 5-0 vote.