

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Mehrl at 6:30 PM at the Wiscasset Fire Department.

Budget committee Members in attendance: Chairman Steve Mehrl, Judith Colby, George Green. Sherri Dunbar joined the meeting shortly after it convened. Members absent were, Robert Fairfield Sr., Richard Hanson, Karl Tarbox, Pamela Dunning and Tony True. Town Manager Arthur Faucher was also present for the meeting.

Chair Steve Mehrl went over the key points on the agenda. Acceptance of the agenda for the meeting was moved by Judy Colby, seconded by George Green. Motion passed 3-0.

Chair Steve Mehrl/Arthur Faucher introduced Fire Chief Tim Merry as we gathered in the dispatch area. After a few opening remarks, Tim provided us with a tour of the fire fighting apparatus. This included a pumper truck, a fire truck, a ladder truck, the fire truck purchased so the town would have a second responder, the equipment truck and a pick up truck. We talked about the age of the equipment and the costs to maintain it. Tim spoke to the repairs recently made to the rotating water fitting at the base of the ladder that had corroded internally and a new one had to be made. Tim was joined by another member and they exhibited the equipment that each Fire Fighter must wear (approximately 60 lbs) that come at a cost of approximately \$3000.00 per uniform. We discussed the Scott air packs, the air compressor and the fees to have the air purity checked. While look at the uniforms we talked about the size of the volunteer force and that the costs to outfit a Fire Fighter was a limiting factor in how many people could be on the force. We then went over the department budget information and the future needs to be addressed in his budget. We thanked Chief Merry for his presentation and tour.

Completing this area we then went to the Police Department area of the Municipal Building complex. LT John Allen met and toured us through the spaces, except the front area which was in use at the moment. As we started to go over the Police Department Budget LT Allen shared with the committee adjustments that had been made to the department to function with out a Chief. This appears to be working well. LT Allen presented where the department was in the expenditure budget so far and how they currently are poised to come in under budget. There have been changes in work assignments and agreements in the use of reserve officers that have benefited the operation of the department. We spoke to the new cruiser that LT Allen had requested quotes for and also that this is contingent on the results of the town voting on the ballot article. After going over the expense report and discussing areas such as the length of time members had been on the force, covering vacation time and how well the department was functioning we thanked LT Allen for his presentation.

The motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Committee Chairman Steve Mehrl