

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 4, 2008

Preliminary Minutes

(Tape recorded meeting)

Present: Bill Curtis, Phil DiVece, Bob Fairfield, Chairman David Nichols and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

Absent: Nicole Viele

1. Call to Order

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

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

3. Approve Minutes of October 21, 2008

Phil DiVece moved to accept the minutes of October 21, 2008. Vote 4-0.

4. Citizen Comments

Bill Phinney distributed a letter to the selectmen requesting that various sections of the Wiscasset ordinances be adhered to with regard to the work being done on the water main on Lee Street. He said he was concerned with the overall liability of the town, the town responsibility and lack of permits issued. David Nichols replied that this was the responsibility of the Water District, and Chris Cossette, Superintendent of the Water District, said that the Mr. Phinney could address his concerns at a meeting of the Water District and that the contract was available for inspection at the Water District office.

Nicole Walsh said that the contractors working on Lee Street had done a fantastic job and had been very polite in their dealings with residents. She added that the quality of water is better than it ever was.

George Green complimented the board on placing the citizen comments at the beginning of the agenda.

Roger Williams who has property at Fore and Pleasant Streets complimented the work of the contractor working on the water main, said the crew was polite, and the blasting done was not enough to damage walls, cellars, etc.

New Business

5. Request for \$4300 from the Larrabee Band Endowment Fund - Carole Drury and Jay McIntire

Jay McIntire, Superintendent of Schools, said that the schools were requesting \$8,418 for equipment to be used over a two-year period by the music departments of the three schools. There is \$349,370.08 in the fund. **Phil DiVece moved to approve the School Committee request in the amount of \$8,418 from the Larrabee Fund for the purchase of equipment for the music department. Vote 4-0.**

6. Update on Wiscasset's new web site: Jeffrey Hinderliter

Because a piece of equipment to connect the laptop to the projector was missing, the presentation on the Recreation Department website was postponed. A presentation on both the Recreation Department and the Town websites will be made at the next selectmen's meeting.

7. Department Head Reports

- Buck Rines - Sewer Treatment Facility: Rines reported that to date the department had taken in \$119,932 in revenues, expenditures were \$98,981. A broken sewer line on Water Street had been repaired. He had applied for a grant for an engineering study of the repair necessary for the discharge pipe under the river. One of the major issues of his department is the alarms in the pump stations that do not work with the department's digital phones. Rines is investigating options to address this problem. In response to Phil DiVece's question, Rines said that the pump station on the Maine Yankee property had been discontinued and a new one had been installed at the entrance to the i.park; Maine Yankee has its own booster; and the sewer line extends to the Maine Yankee office, but the town is not responsible for maintenance.
- John Allen - Wiscasset Police Department: Allen said that the department is 28% over budget due to overtime and vehicle maintenance. He said serious crimes were up (burglaries, theft and assaults) but overall crime was down. The number of sex offenders in the town has been reduced from 18 to 14. Glen L. Glidden, a reserve officer, has resigned and a replacement will be discussed with the Town Manager. Regarding the town's proposed sex offender ordinance, Allen said he would discuss its status with Jeffrey Hinderliter.
- Bob Blagden - Highway Department: Blagden said the Transfer Station was functioning well in the absence of a superintendent. The highway crew had cleaned the catch basins at the schools, built a new walkway at the pier, replaced pile caps on the White's Island bridge as well as carrying out the regular mowing and sweeping. Several big projects were the overlays on sections of Willow Lane, Old Dresden Road, Indian Road and Ferry Landing, and a basecoat on Shady Lane and Chewonki neck Road, which involved replacing culverts and ditching. Another major project was the brick sidewalk repair on Route 1 from Fort Hill Road to Pleasant Street. Sand and salt have been put up for the winter, two dump bodies were purchased and two more will be needed. Blagden said a highway truck and a transfer station truck needed replacing; all of the big trucks have over 100,000 miles on them, but rust is the major factor. He would like to replace these trucks while they are still running so they can be used as spares. Phil DiVece expressed his appreciation for the highway crew filling in at the transfer station.

8. Town Manager's Report

- The Garden Club of Wiscasset - Pink Tulip Project: The Garden Club has asked permission to plant and maintain a bed of pink tulips around the flagpole in front of the municipal building. **Bill Curtis moved to grant the Garden Club approval to provide services outlined in its memo to us. Vote 4-0.**
- Final compensation due to Deborah Applebee: Arthur Faucher said that final compensation of \$1,458.16 was due to Deborah Applebee for vacation and holiday hours. **David Nichols moved to approve payment of \$1,458.16 to Debi Applebee as her final compensation. Vote 4-0.**

- New lighting at the town wharf: Peter Dalton, Harbormaster, said he had met with Sandra Levesque at CMP about new lighting to cut down on vandalism at the town pier. He proposed to replace the current 175-watt lights with 400-watt lights to be installed on CMP poles and CMP would be responsible for the lights. The cost is \$31.74 for each fixture with a \$33 per month lease for each light. Anne Leslie asked that the lights be shielded so as not to bother neighbors. It was suggested that the police check the pier for vandals after the 10 p.m. closing hour. Peter Dalton will contact CMP regarding brightness of the lights and direction of illumination. **Phil DiVece moved to approve installation of lights at the pier on recommendation of the Harbormaster at \$31.74 each. Vote 4-0.**

- Federal Street and Main Street engineering: Arthur Faucher said that he, the Road Commissioner, the Town Planner, Transportation Committee chairman Don Jones, and Bill Curtis had interviewed engineers to work with the town and the Maine Department of Transportation on the Main and Federal Street project for 2010 and 2011. **Bill Curtis moved that the Town of Wiscasset hire Wright-Pierce Engineering for the purpose of providing engineering services for the Federal Street and Main Street projects.** Arthur Faucher said the objective was to meet with the MDOT to confirm what it requires and then to contact the water and sewer departments. In response to Steve Mehrl's question, Faucher said there was money in the budget for the engineering services. **Vote 4-0.**

9. Other Business

David Nichols said Tony True had sent a letter of resignation from the Budget Committee. **Nichols moved to accept the resignation of Tony True with regret.** This will leave a position open on the committee. A letter of appreciation will be sent. **Vote 4-0.**

Phil DiVece said he and Bill Curtis had met with Attorney Peter Murray regarding the brownfield status of the Maine Yankee property. DiVece recommended that the town not sign off on the subordination agreement with Maine Yankee and that it not spend any more legal funds on the matter. Curtis said that Sarah McDaniel, Murray, Plumb and Murray, had done a thorough job backtracking events leading to the closing of Maine Yankee, but it appeared the town would be stuck with brownfields that could be used only for industrial purposes. DiVece added that with regard to town utilities, the town would assume liability for pollutants if it signed the agreement.

- Selectmen's Recommendation for a new Transfer Station Supervisor: **David Nichols moved to appoint Ron Lear for the Transfer Station Supervisor.** Compensation, probationary period and evaluation will be discussed in executive session on Thursday, November 6, at 5:30 p.m. **Vote 3-1** (DiVece opposed). Phil DiVece said he had no objection to hiring Ron Lear for the position but preferred to hire two laborers instead. He said he thought the transfer station would find itself short on manpower for operation of the scales and collection of fees.

- Selectmen's Recommendation for an application for a preliminary permit before the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding a Tidal Resources Project: Peter Arnold, Chewonki, distributed letters of support for Wiscasset's Federal Power Act preliminary application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from Riverbank Energy Center, LLC; University of Maine School of Marine Science; Maine Tidal Energy Project; and Lincoln County Economic Development Office.

Arthur Faucher said he, Selectman Curtis, and Town Planner Jeffrey Hinderliter had met with Commissioner John Richardson, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, on several matters, one of which was the town's preliminary permit application to FERC. Richardson encouraged the town to apply for the permit to explore energy possibilities and then request proposals from the private sector.

David Nichols confirmed with Peter Arnold that if the selectmen approved filing an application for a preliminary permit, it would require no funding from the town; and if it did not file for a permit, it would not have any say in a tidal energy project by others. Peter Arnold said Chewonki has a grant for research and the University of Maine and the Department of Economic and Community Development will assist with searching for funding. The next step is to submit the application signed by the Town Manager. Peter Arnold will continue as Project Manager and will report to the Town Manager. Arnold said that Maine is hosting an international ocean energy conference in 2009 at the Samoset Resort, and Wiscasset's dramatic move toward ocean energy would play a prominent role.

Steve Mehrl said funding of \$30,000 to \$50,000 had been mentioned for the research and asked whether the grant Arnold had received was for that amount. Arnold said the grant he had received from private sources was for less, that UMO and DECD had offered to help look for funding and that he thought it was premature to ask for funding before the application was made. In response to a second question from Mehrl, Arnold said the study area would have to be defined in both the Back and Sheepscot Rivers.

Jay McIntire said that the School Department had no position on this matter, but he and High School Principal Poppish had met with Peter Arnold and were interested in possible vocational education and internship options if the project were to come to fruition in Wiscasset. Bill Curtis said the DECD people had mentioned possible spin-offs if the project went ahead and an educational element was one of them.

Anne Leslie encouraged Wiscasset to file for the permit to insure that the town could entertain all proposals. She said it was a huge opportunity for Wiscasset; it would create benefits for local businesses, create jobs and educational possibilities and provide additional tax money to the town.

Steve Mehrl asked whether the town attorney had been consulted on the application. Arthur Faucher said the application had been prepared by an attorney in Portland who specialized in preparing these applications.

Phil DiVece moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the preliminary permit application as prepared by the Chewonki Foundation to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Town of Wiscasset Tidal Resources Project. Vote 4-0.

10. Adjourn

Bob Fairfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Vote 4-0.