

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 5, 2008

(Tape Recorded Meeting)

Present: Bill Curtis, Phil DiVece, Chairman Duane Goud, Vice Chairman David Nichols,
Nicole Viele and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

1. Call to Order

Chairman Duane Goud called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

3 Public Hearings - Liquor License Renewal and Special Amusement Permit for Mark Antony's Italian Cuisine

The chairman opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m. There were no questions or comments. The public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

David Nichols moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to approve the permit. Vote 5-0.

4. Approve Minutes of January 29, 2008

David Nichols moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to approve the minutes as read. Phil DiVece moved, David Nichols seconded, to amend the minutes by adding to the third paragraph under Citizen Comments "for town employees" (so that the sentence would read, "Phil DiVece asked whether raises for town employees were discussed..."). Vote on the amendment 5-0. Vote on the amended minutes 5-0.

Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to correct the name of the interim Airport Manager, Ervin Deck, in the minutes of January 22, 2008. Vote 5-0.

New Business

5. Town Manager's Report

- Hesper and Luther Little Memorabilia Correction: Because the demand for pens exceeded the supply, David Nichols recommended that names be drawn for the pens and for the key chains.
- Update on Oest Associates Engineering: **Bill Curtis moved, Duane Goud seconded, to pay Oest Associates \$43,853.40 which includes \$6,630.50 for the taxiway and \$37,223.90 for the beacon.** The Town has received an invoice for \$5,000 from Bridgecorp, reimbursable by the FAA, which will be paid when the work is completed. Bill Barnes asked whether the area Bridgecorp was working on was supposed to be mowable. He said that it would cost more than \$5,000 to clean up the area, and that the last job had not been done right; stumps were left which prevented mowing. **Vote 5-0.**
- Single Stream Recycling: A public informational meeting hosted by the Selectmen and sponsored by Pine Tree Waste will be held on February 12 at 6:30 p.m. Echo Maine will make a presentation at a public meeting tentatively scheduled for February 21 at 6:30. Local commercial haulers will be invited.
- The Town has received a \$30,000 Small Harbor Improvement Program award for design of the Memorial Pier.

6. Other Business

Ken Boudin, Chairman of the Airport Committee, reported that he had received one response to his request for proposals for the position of Fixed Base Operator. David Nichols, Bill Curtis, Arthur Faucher and he had met with David Stott, Ocean Point Aviation, whom the Airport Committee recommended. **Duane Goud moved, Phil DiVece seconded, to accept David Stott as the new FBO pending approval of the lease agreement.** Board members will review the lease and contact Ken Boudin or Dennis Jumper if they have questions. **Vote 5-0.** David Stott thanked the Town Manager and Selectmen and said he looked forward to the future with the Town of Wiscasset.

Phil DiVece asked that the office have an information sheet available for residents who have questions about the abatement process and schedules. Duane Goud said letters are sent to residents scheduling abatement hearings.

DiVece said he had looked into the three overdrawn accounts mentioned at the last meeting, had met with Town Treasurer Jim George and reviewed last year's summary report from RHR Smith & Co. He said the Public Safety overdraft was in the police budget. He and the treasurer were unable to determine the reason for the TIF overdraft or for the overdraft in the Overlay account. He said that according to the expense reports for the last 31 weeks, most accounts were where they should be, although the Assessment account was overdrawn by \$529 and the Selectmen should keep an eye on the Code Enforcement budget. The treasurer will alert the Town Manager and Selectmen if an account is in danger of being overdrawn. DiVece said that no account except for snow removal account should purposely be overdrawn without the approval of the voters. He added that according to MMA, the Board of Selectmen exposes itself to liability if it approves disbursement warrants for expenditures over budget amounts.

Nicole Viele said she would be unable to attend the special town meeting because of a regional planning committee meeting for school consolidation that must complete its work by March 28 in order to get the plan to the voters in June.

7. Citizen Comments

Bill Barnes recommended that the masts for the Luther Little and Hesper still at the Sweets property in Dresden should be brought back to Wiscasset before they are further deteriorated by the weather. Duane Goud said the Town is trying to contact the Sweets who have moved to Massachusetts. Barnes also asked whether there had been a fine for the boat that sank in the harbor and was recently removed. The chairman said there were no fines.

Benjamin L. Rines, Jr. thanked Phil DiVece for his report but asked why the overdrafts ended up in the audit report. He said the Board must have been aware of the carryover of overdrafts before the budget was made. Duane Goud said the overdraft in the Public Safety budget was money paid to the Chief of Police when his employment with the Town ended, funds for the TIF account had not come in when the payment was due, and he was looking into the overlay account. Ben Rines said the point was not where the money went, it was why it was spent without going to the voters. He added that the books were closed seven months ago and it still had not been addressed.

Ben Rines, Jr., asked for confirmation of the rumor that the Board was going after the benefits of the Road Commissioner. Duane Goud said that it was his opinion that the position should be appointed rather than elected. He said the chain of command was difficult to maintain with an elected Road Commissioner. In response to Rines' question, Goud said that the voters were not unhappy with the Road Commissioner's performance.

Arthur Faucher said that the report Ben Rines was referring to covered the period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 and he was not employed by the Town for six months of that period.

Faucher said he had more important things on his plate during his first six months than to wonder if the Town was going to exceed the budget. He said he had questioned the treasurer about the overlay but was unable to get an answer. He said the Assessor is able to make small abatements from the overlay account, and he asked if part of the overlay was used to subsidize the mill rate.

Ben Rines said that the bills listed on the weekly warrant were assigned to specific accounts, and the Town Manager should be reviewing the warrants to make sure the bills are assigned to the right accounts and that there is enough money in the accounts. The system of checks and balances is not in place. Duane Goud agreed that the checks and balances were not being made. **Phil DiVece moved, Duane Goud seconded, that the Board of Selectmen be provided with biweekly expense summary reports for review. Vote 5-0.**

Bob Blagden asked about the holes in the chain of command referred to by the chairman. Duane Goud said he wanted to address the matter with several individuals before discussing it, and that would happen in the next month. In response to Blagden's question regarding bringing the masts to Wiscasset, Goud said he would advise him when they could be picked up.

Bill Barnes said he was surprised at the chairman's intention to do away with the road commissioner's benefits. He said no one was more respected than the road commissioner.

Dick Hansen criticized the chairman for considering going back to an appointed road commissioner when that was against the voters' wishes. He suggested that he concentrate on more important issues such as the overdrafts. He said it was pathetic that the Selectmen couldn't provide the information requested.

Phil DiVece said that the Board used to meet monthly with department heads to discuss issues and problems with the budget. He suggested that the practice be revived. Duane Goud said the Board had tried in the past to meet with the department heads, but the practice had broken down when schedules couldn't be coordinated. Arthur Faucher said that in other towns he had scheduled meetings with department heads on a quarterly basis to discuss progress reports and the budget, and he could do that in Wiscasset if the Selectmen approved.

Lynn Orne, a Southport selectman, spoke briefly on her candidacy for County Commissioner. She has served on the County Budget Committee and hopes to represent Wiscasset as well as five other towns as commissioner. She said the commissioners oversee County departments, budgets, tax abatement appeals and, generally, the well being of the Lincoln County citizens. One of her goals is to educate the public on the work of the commissioners, and she would like to publicize the work by making minutes of the meetings available to the public.

Dick Hanson asked whether Bob Blagden could be present at the meetings Duane Goud was planning to hold relative to the road commissioner's position. Goud said he would meet with Blagden and others on a one to one basis. Hanson asked why the TIF money did not come in on schedule. Goud replied that the ball was dropped on both sides.

Paula Gibbs asked for a clarification about fines connected with the sunken vessel. Duane Goud said the Coast Guard had jurisdiction and had imposed no fine. Gibbs asked about fines under the Town Ordinance, and Goud said it had not been discussed.

Phil DiVece said the Board had not discussed any of the Town departments, the budget process or appointed vs. elected positions since he had been elected, and when the Board did discuss them, it would be in open session.

At 8:15 p.m. Duane Goud moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to go into executive session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A Section 405(6)D to discuss labor negotiations regarding the Support Staff Unit of District Lodge #4 for the IAMAW Local Lodge S/89. Vote 5-0.

8. Adjourn

The Board exited executive session at 9:58 p.m. The Selectmen agreed to meet again on Tuesday, February 12, to continue work on the union contract after the public informational meeting on single stream recycling. **Duane Goud moved, Phil DiVece seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 10 p.m. Vote 5-0.**