

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JULY 8, 2008

(Tape recorded meeting)

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

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. Public Hearing: Karen's Kitchen Liquor License Renewal

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

David Nichols moved, Phil DiVece seconded, to allow the license to go through after Karen Bloom signs the application. Vote 5-0.

4. Approve Minutes of June 24, 2008 and July 1, 2008

The minutes of June 24, 2008 were amended to indicate in item 5 that DiVece opposed the motion and in Item 6 that Viele abstained. **David Nichols moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to accept as changed. Vote 5-0.**

New Business

5. Set Polling Hours for July 22, 2008 Secret Ballot Vote

David Nichols moved, Bob Fairfield seconded, to set 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. as the polling hours for the July 22, 2008 secret ballot vote. Vote 5-0.

6. Approve Ballot Clerks for July 22, 2008 Secret Ballot Vote

The proposed ballot clerks are Belinda Haggett and Susan Hammond from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sara George and Katherine Martin-Savage from 3 p.m. to end. **Nicole Viele moved, David Nichols seconded, to accept the ballot clerk list. Vote 5-0.**

7. Discussion and set language on Revised Parks and Recreation Department 2008/2009 Budget Warrant Article

Todd Souza offered to answer questions on the budget. Prior Morrell objected to the addition of Recreation to the name of this department and asked that the trucks be changed to just the Parks Department. In response to his question on the phone bill at the Community Center, Todd Souza said it was approximately \$3500 per year. Morrell asked to see copies of the bills.

In response to Budget Committee Chairman Steve Mehrl's question, Souza explained that in Question 2 of the ballot, he had listed the beginning balance to clarify what funds were available.

Bob Blagden, Road Commissioner, objected to Question 6 on the ballot, which was to raise and appropriate \$64,135 for the shortfall in heating oil accounts of the Public Works Department, Municipal Building and Community Center. He said the amounts to be raised should be in the departmental budgets, not as a separate article, especially because the Parks and Recreation Department budget is on this warrant and the increased cost of heating oil is not shown as part of that budget. He also objected to including all three departments in one article, and said he had not asked for an increase for the Public Works Department.

Bill Barnes asked whether there were still plans to have the Community Center self-sufficient in five years. Souza listed the goals that have been achieved, and he said the objective was to reduce the town's contribution from tax revenue to \$50,000 by 2012.

George Green asked if the Selectmen thought the voters would approve a budget larger than that which they turned down in June and if the article was clear enough to indicate that the costs were less but the increased cost of oil was added. Souza said \$23,000 in cuts were made. If the budget were not approved, Souza said the Community Center would have to cut operations, but that would reduce revenues. Steve Mehrl pointed out that the breakdown of expenses shown in Question 2 indicates that approximately \$346,000 of the budget was for expenses not connected with the Community Center.

In response to Prior Morrell's question about the pool temperature, Bob McDonald gave him corrected numbers and said that a solar blanket was being investigated.

Bill Curtis moved, Phil DiVece seconded, to add \$41,680 for fuel into Question 2 cost center. Vote 5-0. There will be an explanation on the ballot indicating that the increase was necessary due to the lateness of the fuel bids coming in.

Question 2 was changed to read, "Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an amount of \$295,899 for the Parks and Recreation Department budget and appropriate the sum of \$513,076 which the department will earn from recreational programs, fund raising activities, sport services and memberships? This year's total operational budget is \$808,975." This will be followed by a breakdown of the 2008 expenses and estimated revenues and a note to indicate the article shows a reduction of \$23,715.12 on the town appropriation, equaling an 8.5% reduction and an increase of \$41,680 for added fuel costs.

8. Discussion and Set Language on Airport Terminal Window Replacement Warrant Article

Erv Deck, Airport Manager, said roof repairs had been removed from Question 3 on the ballot, leaving the request for \$8,000 for 16 double-paned windows for the terminal building. **Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to accept Question 3 as written. Vote 5-0.**

Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to recommend Question 5 as written. Vote 5-0.

Question 6 was amended to reflect the removal of the fuel cost for the Community Center and the addition of an adjusted estimate of fuel usage at the bid price the town had received. **Nicole Viele moved, David Nichols seconded, to accept \$17,920 for the Public Works department and municipal building. Vote 5-0.**

Phil DiVece said that Question 7 should indicate that the town should vote to appropriate from the undesignated fund balance \$20,879 for repairs to the ladder truck for the Fire Department. He said \$16,265.71 had been received from the sale of a truck to Dresden and an additional \$4,612.51 from the undesignated fund balance was needed for the repair to the ladder truck which involved having a special part manufactured. He asked that an explanation be added to the question on the ballot. **Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to accept Question 7 with the explanation. Vote 5-0.**

Judy Flanagan asked whether the wording in all articles should be changed from surplus to undesignated fund balance. The word "surplus" was deleted from Question 3 and the ballot will indicate funds are coming from the Airport fund balance. "Surplus" will be deleted from Question 4 and the ballot will indicate that funds are coming from the funds remaining in the 07-08 Police budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Duane Goud said that Question 8 should not be on the warrant as it had already been voted to take this amount out of contingency by the Selectmen. **David Nichols moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to eliminate Question 8. Vote 4-1 (DiVece opposed).** Steve Mehrl asked for the latest printout with information on the overlay account.

Nicole Viele moved, David Nichols seconded, to accept Question 2 with the explanation. Vote 5-0.

9. Sign Notice of July 15 Public Hearing to be held at 6:30 p.m. in the municipal building

Nicole Viele moved, Phil DiVece seconded to sign the notice of the July 15 public hearing. Vote 5-0.

10. Town Manager's Report

Two bids had been received for the 2008 airport mowing as follows:

William Barnes	\$2,145
Roy Barnes	2,339

David Nichols moved, Bob Fairfield seconded, to accept William Barnes' bid of \$2,145. Vote 5-0.

A grant of \$6,000 has been received by Wiscasset for a redesign of the Wiscasset harbor mooring fields and anchoring grounds which will require \$1,500 in matching funds. A sample Request for Qualifications has been received listing the situation analysis and project description with a request that a project grant committee be appointed to issue the RFQ advertisement, interview applicants, recommend a consultant to the selectmen and establish public hearings. The committee will be made up of a selectman, the Town Manager, the Harbor Master and two Waterfront Committee members. **David Nichols moved, Phil DiVece seconded, that Bob Fairfield, Selectman; Arthur Faucher, Town Manager; Peter Dalton, Harbor Master; and two members of the Waterfront Committee be appointed to the Shore and Harbor Grant Committee with authority to proceed with the requirements listed. Vote 5-0.**

11. Other Board Business

Bob Blagden asked that masts, logs, hardwood, a pile of pine, dump truck body and a 14" fiberglass boat at the transfer station be declared surplus so that they can be disposed of. **David Nichols moved, Phil DiVece seconded, to request the Town Manager to advertise these items for sale by sealed bids. Vote 5-0.** Deadline for bids to be received is July 28.

Bob Fairfield brought up the subject of a vote of the Board of Assessors and was advised that that subject would be handled not by the Selectmen but by the Board of Assessors. He was advised that the office was waiting for information from MMA before any action could be taken.

Phil DiVece said the approach road to the bridge to White's Island needed grading, as it floods at high tide and leaves pools of water on the road. Duane Goud said the owner of White's Island had a DEP permit to install riprap but if he had damaged the road, he should be required to fix it. He said the road and the bridges belong to the Town. In response to Bob Blagden's question, David Nichols said that the pilings should be fixed first and then they would address the road.

Nicole Viele reported that the Regional Planning Committee would meet in Whitefield on Thursday, July 10 at which time the attorney would present his recommendation on the school consolidation plan.

The chairman declared a ten minutes recess.

After reconvening, Steve Mehrl said the Budget Committee had voted 6 to 0 on Questions 2 through 7 on the ballot.

13. Adjourn

At 9:07 p.m. **Phil DiVece moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to adjourn. Vote 5-0.**