

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 22, 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 7:03 p.m.

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

3. Approve Minutes of December 18, 2007 and January 8 & 15, 2008

David Nichols moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to approve the minutes of December 18, 2007, January 8 and 15, 2008. Vote 4-0-1 (DiVece abstained).

New Business

4. Airport Manager (Mike Muchmore) Request to Address the Board

In Mike Muchmore's absence, Ken Boudin, Jr., Chairman of the Airport Committee, expressed gratitude on Muchmore's behalf for the working relationship he (Muchmore) has had with the town as FBO. Boudin said that in advertising for a replacement, the Board should consider someone with aviation experience. The candidate should be familiar with Maine DOT and FAA grants. David Nichols read a draft ad, which Boudin approved. Phil DiVece recommended that the Airport Committee members interview the candidates and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Bill Curtis moved, David Nichols seconded, to appoint Ervin Deck as interim Airport Manager. Curtis said that Deck, a member of the Airport Committee, has the necessary qualifications and the Airport Committee had approved his appointment. **Vote 5-0.** Deck will be interim airport manager as of February 1, 2008 until a new manager is hired.

5. Consideration of Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Committee request to continue work on how Wiscasset can protect its historic buildings and sites

Town Planner Jeffrey Hinderliter reported that the ad hoc committee, which had been authorized by the Selectmen, had been exploring the creation of and drafting recommendations for a Historic Preservation Committee. He submitted a summary and background of the ad hoc committee's work. Hinderliter asked for an extension to give the ad hoc committee additional time to complete its work in time for the June 2008 Annual Meeting. **Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to let the ad hoc committee continue working and bring back their recommendations to the Board. Vote 5-0.**

6. Consideration of Ad Hoc Conservation Commission request to establish a formal Conservation Commission and adopt Conservation Commission Policy

Jeffrey Hinderliter summarized the ad hoc committee's work in drafting the policy for a conservation commission as recommended by the town's Comprehensive Plan. He submitted a Conservation Commission Policy for the Board's approval. The commission would have advisory but not regulatory powers and could provide opinions on public education and planning and would coordinate its work with town boards and committees. He asked that the Selectmen formally establish the Conservation Commission and adopt the attached policy. **Duane Goud moved, David Nichols seconded, to accept the Conservation Commission policy.** Phil DiVece confirmed that the establishment of the commission would not require an ordinance change. In response to Arthur Faucher's question, Hinderliter said that the Planning budget would be sufficient to assist the Conservation Commission with minor expenses such as conference fees. The reporters present were asked to include in their articles covering the meeting that people with an interest in serving on the committee should contact the town office. In addition, an ad will be placed in the newspapers. **Vote 5-0.**

Jeffrey Hinderliter announced that the Comprehensive Plan had been accepted by the State and the Town.

7. Other Business

Bill Curtis reported that he, David Nichols, Arthur Faucher and Woody Freeman had been working toward reducing the cost and decreasing the tonnage at the Transfer Station. They had met with representatives from Alna and Westport Island and also with Pine Tree Waste regarding its single stream recycle system. The system could reduce the waste stream by 50%. Under the system, garbage is placed in the hopper and all other disposables are loaded on a roll on, roll out vehicle and taken to Auburn, MA for sorting. Pine Tree Waste will make a presentation to the Selectmen in March on this plan that could save the Town \$85 per ton. Arthur Faucher said 12 to 14 communities are on board with single stream recycling and some are realizing up to 20% savings.

In response to Duane Goud's question, Arthur Faucher said he would get an update on the progress on the town website.

With regard to removing the sunken boat from the harbor, Arthur Faucher said Chuck Fuller plans to bring his barge up on January 23rd to remove the vessel.

Duane Goud said February 7, 2008 was the recommended date for a Special Town Meeting to consider the citizens' petition to take \$30,308.12 from surplus. **Nicole Viele moved, Bill Curtis seconded, to have an open Town Meeting on Thursday, February 7 at 7 p.m. at the Middle School Gym to consider the citizen's petition. Vote 5-0.** The Budget Committee has voted to recommend the petition.

David Nichols moved, Nicole Viele seconded, to approve \$30,308.12 to be taken from surplus to fund the Assessor position. Duane Goud said because a reassessment of the town was being done, the Selectmen had been in favor of funding the position at the last Annual Town Meeting; however, the town had voted for the Budget Committee's recommendation, leaving the position unfunded. Nicole Viele said it was necessary to have someone in that position to deal with the abatements, even though there was indication that the voters wanted to reduce staff. Phil DiVece said that a vote could be taken by secret ballot and recommended following the Budget Committee's vote and to take the money out of surplus. **Vote 5-0.**

In response to Arthur Faucher's request, **Duane Goud moved, David Nichols seconded, to approve giving Debi Applebee the three discretionary days in lieu of retroactive pay that had been given to two other employees. Vote 4-0-1** (DiVece abstained).

Duane Goud said the school budget would not be voted on the same time as the Town budget. The schedule is as follows:

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| 4/21/08 | Notice of Public Hearing in newspaper |
| 4/29/08 | Public Hearing on warrant for school articles |
| 4/22 or 4/29/08 | Selectmen Sign warrant |
| 5/1/08 | Post warrant |
| 5/10/08 | Open Town Meeting on 8 questions |
| 5/20/08 | Secret ballot |

The Town schedule is as follows:

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| 3/1/08 | Department head budgets due |
| 3/21/08 | Nomination papers available |
| 4/25/08 | Nomination papers and articles for warrant due |
| 5/12/08 | Absentee ballots available |
| 5/27/08 | Official public hearing on town ballot |
| 6/2/08 | Post warrant |
| 6/10/08 | Election and presidential primary election |

Steve Mehrl pointed out that the absentee ballots would be available 15 days before the public hearing, allowing people to vote without the explanations that would be provided at the public hearing. Duane Goud said that some explanations would be on the ballot and he would look into the possibility of having a public hearing before the absentee ballots were available.

8. Citizen Comments

In response to Dick Hansen's question, Arthur Faucher said approximately \$95,000 had been carried over from the previous year's budget. There was discussion regarding how the surplus was handled, which required voters' approval to spend, vis-à-vis the reserve account. Hansen said he was saddened by the raises of 8%, which were recently given to some town employees. He considered the increases out of line when Social Security increases were only 2.3% and businesses would not give raises that large. The chairman pointed out that it had been more than two years since the employees had been given a raise.

9. Adjourn

At 8:10, **Duane Goud moved, David Nichols seconded, to go into executive sessions in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) D. to discuss labor negotiations: Session 1 regarding the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council No. 93, AFL-CIO, Local (Wiscasset Police Department); Session 2 regarding the Support Staff Unit of District Lodge #4 for the IAMAQ Local Lodge S/98. Vote 5-0.**

The Board exited executive session at 9:55 p.m. Because the Board is meeting next Tuesday, January 29th, to sign the Special Town Meeting warrant, Chairman Goud suggested using that evening to continue working on the Support Staff contract. Selectmen agreed. **David Nichols moved, Phil DiVece seconded, to adjourn at 9:58 p.m. Vote 5-0.**