

Wiscasset Board of Selectmen
Budget Minutes, March 24, 2009

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

Chairman David Nichols called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Peter Dalton, the Harbor Master, explained the itemization of his Waterfront and Harbors budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

- There is a 7 gallon credit at the coop over fuel.
- The ferry landing wire configuration will cost some money.
- He has one good granite rock left in surplus to hold the floats. The floats are rough and need to be fixed up and the dolphins are gone.
- There is a ship grant for \$15,000, plus a matching \$15,000 from the State which will be used to survey the commercial pier.
- There is \$8,846 for repairs left in the account.
- He will need to solicit an engineering service to design the memorial pier.
- He is taking in \$46,100 per year to date.
- The Shore and Harbor grant program would allow removal of abandoned moorings.
- There are currently 25 abandoned moorings which would cost about \$100 to \$150 per mooring without the assistance of a diver.
- He is asking for an additional \$1,500 in the budget for a 2nd Shore and Harbor grant which is not currently reflected in the budget.
- The Board unanimously showed support to approve the 2nd grant.

Ron Lear, from the Transfer Station, explained the itemization of his budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

- There were several D.E.P. violations when Ron took over as Department Head for the Transfer Station. He saved tens of thousands of dollars in fees by performing a massive clean-up within the six-month time-limit the D.E.P. stipulated.
- He would like to add an extra 20 hours to hire another person to staff the department correctly and avoid violations. The Transfer Station currently has no drivers. The new hire must have a Class A license. Under the union contract, s/he would be paid \$12.75 per hour for 40 hours. The Transfer Station is already budgeting 20 hours for Morris to work part-time. If another 20 hours were added, they would gain a 40 hour person. Morris would go to the Highway Department, and Bob Blagden would gain a 40 hour person.
- If an outside person were hired, it would cost \$85 an hour and they must provide their own insurance.

- To avoid fines from the D.E.P. and to run the place right, you need another set of eyes. Ron estimates the department is losing approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year, which would more than pay for the additional 20 hours.
- Phil DiVece said he'd like to see the Transfer Station and the Highway Department separate and not blend.
- Ron is currently working on a Class A license.
- Selectman Curtis asked the status of the 91 Peterbuilt truck. Ron said it is still fine, but he spent \$13,325 on vehicle repairs to date.
- Under utilities, all new lighting has been installed. For an additional \$1,800 it can be converted to energy efficient lighting, which will save \$500 per year and will pay for itself shortly.
- There used to be a float alarm in the grey water holding tank for the toilet and flow drain. It is gone and will need to be replaced. There is no leach field. They pump 8,000 gallons every 2 months.
- Selectman Curtis recommended increasing the printing to \$3,000 to display larger signs for fees.
- They need to send out the hacker head on the hopper to bid for repair.
- They cannot reduce the tipping fees.
- In 2009, they did not have to pay for e-waste; in 2010, they will.
- Landfill monitoring should stay the same.
- The change in insurance and health was due to the 20 hour person.
- Ron would like to see more paving done on the grounds.
- Ron would like the town to spend more money on uniforms. Right now, it's 50/50. It would bring more professionalism to the station and the public can tell who works there.
- The Town has to appropriate about \$309,000.
- The Board unanimously showed support to grant the additional hours.

William "Buck" Rines, from the Waste Water Treatment Plant, explained the itemization of his budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

- Due to FICA, the budget went up \$24.
- Utilities went up for electricity.
- They spent less than half of last year for heating oil.
- Insurance went up.
- \$1,000 was added for supplies.
- Repairs and maintenance stayed the same.
- Under impact fees, \$5,000 is available for pump stations.
- Buck estimates \$370,000 for revenues in user fees, instead of \$312,000.
- Buck has applied for stimulous money.
- Buck recommends trying to raise \$75,000 to upgrade pump station #3. The wet well will need to be increased by 4 feet.
- The pump station on Birch Point Road will need \$2,000 in parts for repairs by an electrician.

- The WWTP has approximately 700 to 750 customers, which Buck does not want to lay sole responsibility for raising \$75,000 and requests the Board's advice.
- Most pump stations are 3-phase and 240 volts.
- Pump station #10 on Federal Street is 30 years old. It was installed in 1979 and had a 20 year life expectancy. There have been no upgrades or repairs on it since installation.
- The sewer department currently has \$60,000 in sewer liens, some almost mature. Buck estimates the sewer fees are a high-average.
- The Board approved the use of impact fees to upgrade the pump station at Birch Point Road.
- They haven't yet bought the \$12,000 pump.
- The Chair recommends adding a separate warrant to raise and appropriate \$75,000 to upgrade pump station number 3.
- The Board unanimously showed support to add a warrant.

Minutes by Lisa Garman.