

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES, OCTOBER 7, 2008

Preliminary Minutes

(Tape recorded meeting)

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

Absent: Phil DiVece

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 September 11, 16, 18(2) and 23, 2008

Nicole Viele moved to accept the minutes of September 11, 2008 as written. Vote 4-0.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the minutes of September 16, 2008 as written. Vote 4-0.

Bill Curtis moved to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2008 Selectmen's meeting as written. Vote 3-0-1 (Viele abstained). David Nichols moved to accept the September 18, 2008 Board of Assessors' meeting as written. Vote 3-0-1 (Viele abstained). Nicole Viele moved to accept the minutes of September 23, 2008 as written. Vote 4-0.

David Nichols moved to go into executive session for a poverty abatement at 7:05 p.m. Vote 4-0. The board exited executive session at 7:07 p.m. **Nicole Viele moved to grant the poverty abatement for Case A. Vote 4-0.**

Old Business

4. Request for \$7000 from Mary Bailey Fund

Susan Poppish, Principal of the Wiscasset High School, requested \$7,000 from the Mary Bailey endowment that was established with the goal of raising standards at Wiscasset High School. Because of cuts in funding and the loss of state grants, she said \$5,000 was being sought for Early College, which is offered to all seniors to increase post-secondary options and aspirations for those who may feel less capable of handling the college experience. She requested \$2,000 for a Kaplan SAT prep course on-line for all juniors to ensure that students are competitive on the state-mandated SAT. Arthur Faucher said the balance in the Mary Bailey fund at this time is \$205,068.45. **David Nichols moved to grant the request for \$7,000 from the Mary Bailey fund to go to the school. Vote 4-0.**

New Business

5. Finalize November 4, 2008 Secret Ballot Election Procedure

- Nicole Viele moved to accept October 16, 2008 as the date for the public hearing. Vote 4-0.
- Bill Curtis moved to accept ballot clerks Joan Grondin and Patricia Bridgham for absentee ballots on November 3, 2008. Vote 4-0.
- Nicole Viele moved to accept ballot clerks Belinda Haggett, Patricia Bridgham, Sara George and Katharine Martin-Savage and warden Susan Blagden for the election on November 4, 2008. Vote 4-0.
- David Nichols moved to set the polling hours on November 4, 2008 from 8 am to 8 pm. Vote 4-0.
- David Nichols moved to sign the warrant for the Town of Wiscasset Special Town Meeting. Vote 4-0.

6. Sign Abatement granted by the Lincoln County Commissioners

Nicole Viele moved to sign the abatement granted by the Commissioners to Mr. Zehler. Vote 4-0.

7. Sign Municipal Valuation Return

David Nichols moved to sign the Municipal Valuation Return. Vote 3-0-1 (Viele abstained)

8. Appoint Henry Gregory Shea to the Budget Committee

David Nichols moved to appoint Henry Gregory Shea to the Budget Committee. Vote 4-0.

9. Approve Application for CMP Pole Location

Nicole Viele moved to accept the application for the pole location for CMP. Vote 4-0.

10. Huntoon Hill Grange #398 Application to hold Beano and Games of Chance for Calendar Year 2009.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the application for Beano and Games of Chance for 2009. Vote 4-0.

11. Sign Release Deed for Robert and Misty Gagnon Property

David Nichols moved to sign the release deed. Vote 4-0.

12. Town Manager's Report

- Property Sale at 26 Federal Street - Eliot Field Law Office: Attorney Field requested that the Town sign a "No Action" letter with regard to an encroachment onto the right of way for Union Street by a privacy fence and shed. He submitted to the town a letter for the selectmen to sign indicating that the town would not take any action to require or force the removal of the structures that are located within the outer limits of the right of way and will allow the shed to be reconstructed or replaced so long as the footprint of it is not expanded in any direction within the outer limits of the right of way. He indicated

that the house is in the process of being sold and the new owners wish to convert the shed to a laundry room. **David Nichols moved to sign the No Action letter on the Jason property. Vote 4-0.**

- Lemar Request for Gate at Montsweag Arch Project: The board has received a letter from MDOT indicating that George Lemar had requested the MDOT to install a gate across the temporary road acquired for the Montsweag Arch Project after the construction work is completed. Mr. Lemar feels that the gate would reduce the possibility of trespassing and liabilities associated with improved access to this area. The DOT has agreed to the request and plans to install a gate at the location indicated on a ROW map which was enclosed with the letter. Arthur Faucher said part of the fence would be on town property, but MDOT would pay for the gate. The town would have a key for the Highway Department. Bill Curtis asked that police, fire and ambulance services also have a key. A motion to approve the installation of a gate was defeated upon Road Commissioner Bob Blagden's informing the board that the gate would be on town property and therefore on the town right of way and the town cannot prevent the public from accessing a public right of way.

In response to Ben Rines' question regarding the vote on the No Action letter, David Nichols read a memo from the Code Enforcement Officer indicating that he (Wyman) had reviewed the request and did not object but asked that the dimensions of the existing buildings be put on the plan and that he be notified before the old building is torn down so the dimensions can be verified. Ben Rines asked if the board had authority to sign the no action letter and whether the town attorney had been consulted. Arthur Faucher said that the letter had been prepared by the buyer's attorney and, according to the Code Enforcement Officer, this sort of thing had been done for years.

- Natural Currents Energy Services, LLC: Jim Collins, shareholder and officer, and Roger Bason, president, of Natural Currents spoke of their interest in the area and in tidal power, a renewable energy project that requires no fuel and is environmentally benign. They cited their experience in this field in various parts of the world over the past seven years. The installation consists of underwater turbines with an estimated life of 20 years. The turbines would be accessible from docks or barges. Wiscasset is one of several sites being investigated and is suitable not only because of the tidal water but also because of the transmission lines which are in place. Roger Bason said that his company had applied for a three-year permit to research the possibilities and while he understood the Town may also be applying for a permit, he hoped his company and Wiscasset could work together. Bason said the project would provide jobs in Wiscasset and the turbines could be made at the Bath Iron Works.

Jay McIntire expressed interest in related job training at the Bath Regional Vocational Center, which could be helpful to high school students. Dick Thomas who lives on the narrows and works at Chewonki said this appears to be an ideal place to harvest energy and the town should decide what is in its best interests and look at all options. Bob Blagden said that Natural Currents seemed to be experienced in the field and recommended that the town not compete for the permit.

13. Other Board Business

Arthur Faucher announced that the MDOT would be patching sections of Route 1 on October 9.

Lincoln County Commissioners found in favor of the town in a recent abatement appeal; the owner was not present.

The school consolidation public hearing will be held on October 25, 9 am, at the Middle School Gym.

14. Citizen Comment

15. Adjourn

Nicole Viele moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Vote 4-0.