

WISCASSET SELECTBOARD,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 28, 2023
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Present: James Andretta, Terry Heller, Vice Chair Dusty Jones, Bill Maloney, Chair Sarah Whitfield, Town Manager Dennis Simmons and members of the Budget Committee

1. Call to Order

Sarah Whitfield called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Budget Discussion

a. Community Organizations

The list includes the American Legion Flag Project, Food Pantry, Healthy Kids, Library, Spectrum Generations, LCTV, New Hope for Women, Life Flight of Maine, and Waldo County CAP. There were no additions, subtractions or changes.

b. Planning

Dennis Simmons had previously proposed \$66,500 for Planning; however, inasmuch as salaries in the area are higher, Wiscasset's figure might have to be raised. Bill Maloney said it was necessary to have a planner or economic development person to widen the tax base. Simmons said there was money in the TIF and he will have the figure at the next meeting. Tom Joyce recommended authorizing up to a certain amount.

c. Parks and Recreation

Fees have not been raised for four or five years. Proposed fee increases include \$3/mo, (\$36/yr) which are less than YMCAs in the area; however the Ys offer more than the Community Center. Duane Goud said he is trying to stay competitive. The increase in projected fees would increase income by 27%. Kim Dolce said the 8% increase in fees proposed would be less than the lowest rate at the Damariscotta YMCA. She suggested increasing fees 15% for a family rate this year and increases in the following years.

Simmons said keeping the revenue the same (\$650,000) with a tax subsidy of \$511,421 would bring the request down to \$161,421. One full-time employee has been moved to part-time reducing benefits cost. Cutting more labor costs will result in decreased programs offered and decreased revenue. Bill Maloney suggested accepting Goud's increased family rates for residents and raise fees for out-of-town residents by 15% over last year's rate. Bryan Adams recommended raising fees 15% across the board. Sarah Whitfield recommended, inasmuch as all were in favor of Goud's increased rates, that the board vote on the budget that evening and vote on the fees at the meeting the following week.

D. Capital Requests

Police Department truck – No one was in favor.

Community Center Sign – Withdrawn

Public Works - Loader – Checking with another vendor.

Administration – Updated Computers
Revaluation – Waiting for cost
Digital sign – Postponed
Paving Community Parking Lot – withdrawn
Refrigerator for Senior Center
EMS Chest Compression Device
Fire Department - Need to make decision on funding
Public Works Loader
Culvert Replacement
Wastewater Treatment Plant pump station controls
Maine Art Gallery – (two requests --28,800 matched and \$40,000, + \$40,000 next year
David Pope clarified language in lease – capital improvements vs. maintenance.
Whitfield clarified \$28,800 in budget for matching grant, more discussion needed on
\$40,000 request.
Broadband - \$183,300

Total Capital Requests -\$2,067,300 (not including the Art Gallery) (\$1.1 million will probably sit in that account for two years.)

Waterfront fees: Susan Robson, chair of Waterfront Committee, said the committee had decided to not increase fees which are \$1500/yr for 30 x 34 foot space and \$1000/yr for 10 x 20 foot space. Electricity and meter deposits are in addition to the fees. Kim Dolce quoted higher rates from Rockland and asked why Wiscasset's fees were not being increased and why the discrepancy between the two rates per square foot. Robson explained the committee's rationale for the rates – smaller spaces were not for buildings. Dolce recommended \$5/per square foot for all spaces. In response to questions on mooring fees, Robson said mooring spaces (not moorings) were rented and the town's moorings were rented per night. It was suggested the town rent more mooring spaces to increase mooring fees. Launch fees and worm boxes were rented at \$10/day. Dusty Jones moved to request another proposal with revised fees. Vote 5-0-0. Public Hearing on fees was scheduled for April 18.

Bill Maloney submitted two warrant articles for the June 2023 town warrant:

Should the town of Wiscasset, sell, as is, the old fire station building on Lincoln Street commonly known as the Scout Hall at appraised market rate.

Should the town of Wiscasset sell, as is, the Old Academy building on Warren Street commonly known as the Maine Art Gallery at appraised market rate. The group known as the Maine Art Gallery would be given the right of first refusal.

Sarah Whitfield said she did not support the articles as the board is in mid-stream in the budget process and there is not adequate time to consider the articles. Dennis Simmons suggested a non-binding referendum in November, which would allow time for research on covenants on the deeds.

Terry Heller moved to place \$238,082 on the town warrant for the administration budget. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the administration budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to place \$106,500 on the town warrant for the airport budget. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the airport budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. Budget Comm. 5-1-0.

Terry Heller moved to place \$16,726 on the town warrant for animal control budget. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the animal control budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$7,850 on the town warrant for Assessing. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the assessing budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$4,863 on the town warrant for Boards and Committees. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the Boards and Committees budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$20,225 on the town warrant for celebrations. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the celebrations budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$106,438 on the town warrant for Clerk. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the clerk budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$43,630 for Code Enforcement on the town warrant. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the code enforcement budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$63,000 on the town warrant for Wiscasset Public Library. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the Wiscasset Public Library budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$13,026 on the town warrant for other community organizations. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the community organizations budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$50,000 on the town warrant for contingency budget. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the contingency budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$264,100 on the town warrant for contractual services. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the contractual services budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$231,868 on the town warrant for debt service. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the debt service budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$22,191 on the town warrant for elections. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the elections budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$850,091 on the town warrant for EMS. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the EMS budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BS 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$170,698 on the town warrant for fire. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the fire budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$280,961 on the town warrant for finance. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the finance budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$28,762 on the town warrant for general assistance. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the general assistance budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$99,148 on the town warrant for municipal building. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the municipal building budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$106,300 on the town warrant for municipal insurance. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the municipal insurance budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$1,161,421 on the town warrant for parks and recreation. Vote 4-1-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the parks and recreation budget as stated. Vote 4-1-0. BC 4-2.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$698,813 on the town warrant for police. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the police budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$66,170 on the town warrant for SRO. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the SRO budget as stated. Vote 4-1-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$352,024 on the town warrant for public utilities. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the public utilities budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$711,484 on the town warrant for public works. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the public works budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$27,829 on the town warrant for selectmen. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the selectmen budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$14,585 on the town warrant for senior center. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the senior center budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$4,640 on the town warrant for shellfish. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the shellfish budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$781,725 on the town warrant for transfer station. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the transfer station budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$68,623 on the town warrant for waterfront. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the waterfront budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$139,654 on the town warrant for cemetery. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the cemetery budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Terry Heller moved to place the amount of \$920,958 on the warrant for wastewater treatment plant. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the wastewater treatment plant budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Terry Heller moved to place \$20,000 on the town warrant for updated computer services to come from capital reserves. Vote 5-0-0

Terry Heller moved to recommend the updated computer services budget from capital reserves as stated. Vote 5-0-0 BC 6-0

Dusty Jones moved to place \$300,000 from capital reserves for revaluation on the town warrant. Vote 5-0-0.

Dusty Jones moved to recommend the revaluation budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Dusty Jones moved to place \$5,000 from capital reserves on the warrant for senior center refrigeration. Vote 5-0-0.

Dusty Jones moved to recommend the senior center refrigerator budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Dusty Jones moved to place \$160,000 from capital reserves on the warrant for a loader for public works. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the amount from capital reserves for the public works loader budget as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 5-1.

Dusty Jones moved to place \$50,000 from capital reserves on the warrant for major culvert replacement. Vote 5-0-0

Dusty Jones moved to recommend the amount for culvert repair budget from capital reserves as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Dusty Jones moved to place \$465,000 from capital reserves on the town warrant for paving. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the budget for paving from the capital reserves as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BV 6-0.

Dusty Jones moved to place \$87,000 from capital reserves on the town warrant for pump station controls. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the budget for pump station controls from capital reserves as stated. Vote 5-0-0. BC 6-0.

Dusty Jones moved to place \$183,300 from capital reserves on the town warrant for broadband. Vote 5-0-0.

Terry Heller moved to recommend the budget for broadband from capital reserves as stated. Vote 5-0-0 BC 5-1.

The \$40,000 for the Art Gallery will be on the next agenda. BC 0-6.

Also on the next agenda will be Planning, Pumper, and Waterfront Fees.

4. Adjournment

James Andretta moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.