

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2008

The meeting began at 6:35 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building

Budget committee members in attendance: Chairman Steve Mehrl, Judith Colby, Sherri Dunbar, Pamela Dunning, Judy Flanagan, George Greene and Richard Hanson and. Member absent was Tony True.

There was a discussion on whether the Budget Committee should vote a recommended amount for each article of the school budget. There was a general consensus by most members that the committee should do so.

Committee members discussed amounts they would like to see cut. Discussion centered heavily on the \$375,000 overlay and the possibility of taking that amount away from the budget. Last year the school was voted a \$9,323,801 budget. The \$375,000 shows that the schools were actually run on \$8,900,000. At this point, the school is asking for \$9,388,890. Removing the \$375,000 from that amount would give the school department a \$9,013,890 budget.

Committee members further discussed areas that might be cut. This discussion centered on the positions of curriculum coordinator and a principle. School systems as small as Wiscasset, with only 516 resident students and 208 tuition students) do not usually have a full-time curriculum coordinator. That work is usually done by the superintendent of schools. It is felt that Wiscasset schools could do without this position. It was also the opinion of some members that 1 principal could handle the students in the Primary and Middle schools. There was considerable talk about one of our principles being the president of the Maine Principals Association and therefore only being available about 3 days a week in Wiscasset. While this is recognized as an honor for our principal and as an important position, it is questioned whether the citizens of the town of Wiscasset can afford to pay someone to work for this other association while our own schools could be using their time and expertise.

Discussion returned to the possibility of finding time to vote a recommendation for each article. Chair Steve Mehrl requested a meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 6:30 pm for that purpose.

Judy Flanagan pointed out that the ordinance that governs the Budget Committee should be looked at and may need to be rewritten so the committee can continue to fulfill its mission within the new school laws.

Having no further business, Pamela Dunning moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar Motion passed 7-0. Meeting closed at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning