

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2009

Prior to the meeting Superintendent of Schools, Jay McIntire arrived at the Municipal Building and offered to update members of the committee status of the new Economic Stimulus. Mr. McIntire took the floor to present his information.

Mr. McIntire has prepared a tentative proposal containing 5 pages of information to the state for \$3.7 million to enable the School Department to bring the High School up to code and do some upgrades to the building. Upgrades and repairs include replacing the broken bleachers and upgrading the science labs. The interim Superintendent for the RSU stated that she thought it inappropriate for Mr. McIntire to apply for these funds as the RSU may want to apply for money for use in another area. Mr. McIntire voiced his opinion that he was currently working for the Wiscasset School Department and he saw it as part of his responsibility to try to acquire some of this money for Wiscasset. Part of the stimulus includes \$50 million for school construction. This is not money for new construction.

Mr. McIntire spoke about the education summit meeting Scheduled for February 28, 2009. Since Wiscasset will no longer have its own school board, it is important to stress Wiscasset's educational priorities to the Wiscasset members of the RSU board. There will be a workshop held on February 11, 2009 that will help set the agenda for the meeting on the 28th. Mr. McIntire expressed interest in have the Budget Committee represented at the meeting on the 11th.

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building.

Budget Committee members in attendance: Sherri Dunbar, Pamela Dunning, Judy Flanagan, George Greene, Richard Hanson, Steve Mehrl and Greg Shea. Member absent was Judith Colby. There is currently one vacant seat on the Committee.

Chair Steve Mehrl passed out copies of the agenda and some pages from which to work during the meeting.

The Budget Committee joined Jim George and Becky Applin in their office. Jim and Becky proceeded to educate committee members as to the inner workings of the TRIO financial software. The committee were shown examples of Expense summary reports Journal entries, Revenue summary reports, Expense/Summary reports, and data entry screen for the Receipting module. There was some discussion about the labor involved in keeping the entries current and the limits of the programs reports. There was a brief discussion about the auditing firm and the work they do in the program. The audits also works for the town in an advisory level. The software developer makes upgrades to the program and the auditors change the way they want information input. This makes it harder at times for the office staff to keep up with the changes.

The committee went back to the meeting room to proceed with the meeting.

There was some discussion about the number of seats that will be open for election this year. Two seats will expire this year and 1 seat remains empty at this time. It was suggested that committee members continue to search out people they think might be interested in serving on the committee and talk to them about it.

There was a brief discussion about the fund evaluation statement for the endowment accounts. The statement shows a considerable loss of moneys in these accounts. The Fund Evaluation statement for the Reserve Account shows an increase in value. This caused quite a bit of confusion. It could not be understood how one set of accounts could lose money while the other gained. This created more questions than answers.

Visits to some of the cost centers were discussed. It was decided that committee members would visit the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Highway Department and the Solid Waste Transfer Station on Friday, February 13 starting at 8:00 AM.

There was some discussion about the joint meeting between Selectmen and the Budget Committee on February 10 at 6:30 PM. The first item on the agenda is to be about doing away with enterprise accounts in the budget. There is a need to understand the process in changing these accounts and how the revenue will be handled. Enterprise accounts were only so named a few years ago. We would be going back the older way of tracking these accounts. The meeting may progress to other items if there is time.

There was some discussion about the Wednesday, February 11 meeting to set the agenda for the educational summit meeting. Budget Committee members decided to send Chair Steve Mehrl and Judy Flanagan to the meeting to represent the Budget Committee.

Greg Shea moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 7-0.

Judy Flanagan moved to approve the minutes of the January 22 2009 meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Greg Shea. Motion passed 7-0.

Greg Shea moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Having no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning, Clerk