

TOWN OF WISCASSET  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 12, 2008

The meeting began at 2:03 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building

Budget committee members in attendance: Chairman Steve Mehrl, Judith Colby, Pamela Dunning, Robert Fairfield Sr., George Greene, Richard Hanson, Tony True and Karl Tarbox. Member absent was Sherri Dunbar. Also present was Town Manager Arthur Faucher.

Arthur Faucher supplied the committee with copies of the town warrant. The budget committee proceeded to vote the articles of Municipal Operating Budget as follows:

Question 2 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$603,354 for the purposes of General Government, Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$603,354. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 3 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$84,432 for the purposes of Building Maintenance/ Operations, Richard Hanson moved the amount of \$84,432. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 4 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$20,000 for the purposes of Municipal Building Repairs, Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$20,000. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 5 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$133,461 for the purposes of Planning & Development. Judith Colby moved the amount of \$133,461. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 6 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$230,684 for the purposes of Contractual Services. George Greene moved the amount of \$230,684. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 7 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$12,500 for the purposes of Celebrations. Richard Hanson moved the amount of \$12,500. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 8 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$118,859 for the purposes of Debt Service. George Greene moved the amount of \$118,859. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 9 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$140,475 for the purposes of Public Utilities. Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$140,475. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 10 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$301,265 for the purposes of Police Department. George Greene moved the amount of \$301,265. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 11 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$85,393 for the purposes of Fire Department. Judith Colby moved the amount of \$85,393. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 12 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$993,588 for the purposes of Municipal Highway. Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$993,588. Motion was seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 8-0. At this point there was a discussion that the revenue from the highway department should be directly applied to this account to offset the amount raised by taxes. Other Enterprise accounts only ask to raise the amount not covered by revenue.

Question 13 to appropriate and authorize the Selectmen to transfer from the Perpetual Care Trust fund the amount of \$52,227 for the purposes of Cemeteries. Judith Colby moved the amount of \$52,227. Motion was seconded by Richard Hanson. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 14 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$85,000 for the purposes of Wiscasset Public Library. Richard Hanson moved the amount of \$85,000. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 7-0. Since Pamela Dunning is employed by Wiscasset Public Library and a conflict of interest applied to this question, Pamela Dunning excused herself from the vote.

Question 15 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$7,425 for the purposes of Animal Control. George Greene moved the amount of \$7,425. Motion was seconded by Richard Hanson. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 16 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$13,080 for the purposes of Shellfish Conservation. Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$13,080. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 17 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$15,810 for the purposes of Community Organizations. Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$15,810. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion passed 8-0.

The budget committee proceeded to vote the articles of Municipal Enterprise Accounts as follows

Question 18 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$11,370 for the purposes of Senior Center and appropriate the amount of \$45,511 for a total operational budget of \$56,880. Judith Colby moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 19 to appropriate the amount of \$49,118 (to come from airport revenues) for the purposes of Airport. Richard Hanson moved the amount of \$49,118. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 20 to appropriate the amount of \$83,734 (to come from departmental revenues and surplus) for the purposes of Waterfront & Harbors. Pamela Dunning moved the amount of \$83,734. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 21 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$331,643 from taxation for the purposes of Transfer Station and appropriate \$167,618 (to come from departmental revenues) for a total operational budget of \$517,995. Karl Tarbox moved the amount of \$331,643. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 7-1.

Question 22 to appropriate the amount of \$240,424 (to come from departmental revenues) for the purposes of Emergency Medical Services. Richard Hanson moved the amount of \$240,242. Motion was seconded by Karl Tarbox. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 23 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$277,934 for the purposes of Parks & Recreation and appropriate the amount of \$508,075 (to come from departmental revenues) for a total operational budget of \$786,009. George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 5-3.

Question 24 to appropriate the amount of \$365,221 (to come from departmental revenues) for the purposes of Wastewater Treatment Plant. Richard Hanson moved the amount of \$365,221. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 8-0.

The budget committee proceeded to vote the articles of Municipal Capital Improvement as follows:

Question 25 to authorize the Treasurer with the advice and consent of the Selectmen to raise and appropriate the amount of \$30,000 for the Highway Department Capital Reserve account for the future purchase of a highway truck for the Public Works Department. Steve Mehrl moved the question with some corrections in wording. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 6-2.

Question 26 to authorize the Treasurer with the advice and consent of the Selectmen to transfer \$23,045 from the Wastewater Treatment Plant impact fees account for payment of a pump, monitoring meters, and digital phones and alarms. George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Karl Tarbox. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 27 to raise and appropriate \$18,804 for a new police cruiser. George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Pamela Dunning. Motion passed 6-2.

Question 28 to authorize the selectmen to establish a Transfer Station Trailer Capital Reserve Account and to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for a new Transfer Station Ejector

plate trailer. George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 7-1.

Question 29 to authorize the selectmen to establish a Transfer Station Trailer Capital Reserve Account and to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for a new Transfer Station truck. Pamela Dunning moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 6-2.

Question 30 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$42,150 for Capital Improvements – Airport which include runway striping, window replacement and roof improvements. Tony True moved the question as written, Motion was seconded by Robert Fairfield Sr.. Motion passed 5-3.

Question 31 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$5,000 for 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Pamela Dunning moved the question as written, Motion was seconded by Richard Hanson. Motion passed 8-0.

Question 32 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$6,250 for Art Gallery Repairs. Steve Mehrl moved the question as written, Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion failed 4-4. Judith Colby moved to revisit the question. Motion was seconded by Pamela Dunning. Motion passed 8-0. Discussion ensued as to the amount of rent being paid by the inhabitants of the building. The budget committee spoke of the desire for the selectmen to look at all options for this building and for the committee to meet with the selectmen and discuss these options. It was thought that the Art Gallery should pay enough rent to at least pay for the upkeep of the building. There was more discussion about the possibility of selling the building. The building is on the national historic register but there is precedence for selling local historic buildings. The Building was purchased by the town in 1991. The town used to own and has sold the Octagon House and the Customs House. Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion failed 4-4. Budget Committee does not recommend.

Steve Mehrl thanked the committee for all of the hard work that had been done and for the dedication and time that committee members have given to the process this year. Steve Mehrl also thanked the committee for all of the fun they had experienced together and for working so well together.

Having no further business, Judith Colby moved to adjourn. Richard Hanson seconded the motion. Meeting closed at 3:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning