

Wiscasset Board of Selectmen
September 23, 2008

Preliminary Minutes

(Tape recorded meeting)

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. Decide on use of undesignated funds and mill rate for fiscal year 2008-2009

David Nichols moved to set the mill rate at \$13.60 with a \$49,300.88 overlay and one mill would be \$463,450. He said the mill rate would utilize \$600,000 of undesignated funds. Phil DiVece said that was the intent of the voters at the Special Town Meeting. Nicole Viele said she would vote against the motion and not sign the commitment because she was troubled by the actions taken by the assessors on Thursday evening [September 18]. She said she believed the assessments that were decreased at that meeting in one particular neighborhood were going to be challenged, as the original assessments were upheld by the County Commissioners and all appeals were denied. She said this would be a problem for abatements and appeals this year. **Vote 4-1** (Viele opposed). Phil DiVece said he would not sign the commitment as he was concerned about what had transpired at the Thursday meeting. He disagreed with the Board's decision to change assessments in one part of town. The commitment was signed by Nichols, Fairfield and Curtis.

David Nichols said that the Assessors had not lowered the total valuation but raised it by \$461,000.

Judy Colby asked how the assessors could increase and decrease assessments after the appeals had been denied by the County Commissioners. David Nichols said the Board of Assessors could change the assessments. He said the values in question were factored and the properties were not treated equally.

Judy Flanagan asked whether they were signing the commitment as Assessors. David Nichols said they were signing as Selectmen.

Phil DiVece said there were two issues: the changing of assessments in one part of town and the use of surplus funds to reduce taxes.

Bill Curtis said that at the County Commissioner hearing Duane Goud and Nicole Viele stated that there would be adjustments made in the 2008 taxes and this was a factor taken into consideration at the Thursday meeting.

Steve Mehrl said that the different methods of assessing was what was being challenged at the County Commissioner hearing. The Commissioners could only consider the individual appeals and could not look at how the entire town was assessed.

3. Other Board Business

David Nichols said there would be another hearing with the County Commissioners on October 7. Nicole Viele and Duane Goud will attend.

4. Adjourn

Bill Curtis moved to adjourn at 7 p.m. Vote 5-0.