

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2008

The meeting began at 6:30 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building.

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

There was a brief discussion about the article in the Lincoln County News about taking money from the reserve account. The meeting is advertised as taking place on September 11, 2008.

Committee members corrected and amended the minutes from the August 7, 2008 meeting. No vote for approval was taken at this point as a quorum was not present.

There was a brief discussion about Chair Steve Mehrl's annual report to the Town of Wiscasset.

Members looked at the calendar to check on upcoming meetings of interest of the committee.

There a discussion about closing 2 schools and maintaining a K through 8 school. That would give Wiscasset high school students a choice of schools to attend.

At this point (6:42 PM), George Greene joined the meeting and a quorum was present and official business could be achieved.

Discussion continued about the closing of a school. The importance of having a high school in order to attract businesses was brought forth.

Judith Colby moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Pamela Dunning. Motion passed 5-0.

Judy Flanagan moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 4-0-1.

Discussion about the calendar of meetings was revisited.

A Budget Committee meeting was tentatively set for September 11 to vote the school closure. This meeting is contingent upon a conflict with other meetings. Chair Steve Mehrl voiced that he would go to the school department and make sure that we are understanding the purposes of the upcoming meetings. He would further ask for copies of the end of the year revenue and expense information.

Discussion began on the learning objectives for the upcoming year. Members would like to better understand the undesignated funds and reserve account monies.

There was discussion about the cost center items not funded from last year. There was some discussion about whether the Budget Committee needs to keep track of these items and follow through on when they are completed and what money funds the work. The discussion continued about the \$4000 cost of a new door for the police department. It was thought by many that the amount was high and that the committee should find out why the door will be so expensive.

There was a brief discussion about whether there is a town policy in place that limits the amount the Selectmen and Town Manager may spend without a public vote. It was thought that once the public voted money for a budget, the Selectmen and Town Manager could spend it without any further need for clearance.

At this point Chair Steve Mehrl made the motion that committee members set aside a day during the first week of each month (preferable Thursday) on which to visit cost centers of interest. Motion was seconded by Judy Flanagan. Motion passed 5-0. Members agreed that these would not be formal meetings and any members who want to attend may do so, while others may decline if they so choose. Cost centers of interest were listed as Waste Water Treatment Plant, Transfer Station, Highway Department, Ambulance Department, Police Department, and Wiscasset Community Center.

There was discussion on the need to better understand the mil rate and how it is calculated.

Having no further business, the meeting concluded at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning.