

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 6, 2009

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 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

3. Approve minutes of December 16, 2008

Nicole Viele moved to accept the minutes of December 16, 2008. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Citizen Comments

Paul Grover asked whether the town was locked into the oil contract, which was higher than the current price of \$2.64 per gallon. Arthur Faucher said he had not been able to get out of the contract, although the town had benefited by contracts in six previous years.

Steve Mehrl invited everyone to the Budget Committee meeting on Thursday with Superintendent of Schools Jay McIntire regarding the school budget. With regard to the stimulus package, Mehrl asked what the process was for shovel-ready projects. Arthur Faucher said that projects ready to go were the rehabilitation of Federal Street including sewer and water and storm drains, the storm drain and resurfacing on Main Street, the Railroad Avenue parking area and the outfall pipe and replacing lines on Birch Point Road. Mehrl also asked whether there was time to apply for funds to make the necessary repairs to the schools.

Joe Carter said the farmer's market on Route 1 was installing sauna tubes rather than a reinforced concrete slab as shown on the drawings. He asked how the plans were changed, who changed them and who authorized the change. The chairman will check with Town Planner Jeffrey Hinderliter and Code Enforcement Officer Stuart Wyman. Carter suggested as an option for the future that the town look on line for oil, which has recently been 40-50¢ cheaper

Luanne Clifford, owner of the Wine Outlet, described the damage to her store as a result of a sewage backup caused by the power outage during the recent ice storm. The floor, carpeting, bathroom, and heating ducts were damaged and sewage had flooded the basement dirt floor. She presented an estimate for repair of the damage as well as for lost wages and lost business totaling \$15,328. She said it is estimated that the store will have to be closed 7-1/2 days for the repairs. Buck Rines said \$800 had been paid to date for cleanup so the shop could be open over the holidays. He had contacted MMA who said that the town's insurance would not cover the damage.

Bill Curtis recommended sending Ms. Clifford's claim in writing to MMA and appealing the earlier decision to not cover the damage caused by the town. David Nichols said the town would pay but he would rather have invoices than estimates. The town manager will contact

MMA for a meeting as soon as possible and will meet with Ms. Clifford and Buck Rines on Wednesday, January 7. In response to the town manager's question, Rines said there was \$35,000 in the sewer department impact fee account.

Nicole Viele said she was in favor of covering the cost of the physical damage but would like to wait until she had more information before approving the payment for lost wages and business. **David Nichols moved to authorize the Town Manager to discuss with Buck Rines and Luanne Clifford making structural repairs to the building using Sewer Dept. impact fees. Vote 5-0-0.**

In response to Greg Curtis' question, David Nichols said the Town would go out for bids on the work to be done at the wine shop.

5. Public Hearing and Selectmen's Consideration: Mark Anthony's Italian Cuisine Restaurant Liquor License Renewal and Special Amusement Permit

The public hearing was opened at 7:32. Police Lt. John Allen said there had been no problems with this establishment. There were no other comments or questions. The public hearing closed at 7:34 p.m.

Phil DiVece moved to grant the liquor license renewal and special amusement permit to Mark Anthony's restaurant on Route 27. Vote 5-0-0.

Old Business

6. Selectman Bill Curtis: Update on the municipal office generator

Bill Curtis said the committee recommended purchasing a Kohler 45 KW LPG Generator Set with an 800 amp transfer switch for the Municipal Building. Requests for bids with the appropriate specifications will be sent out on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

New Business

7. Board of Selectmen

- Approval of ballot clerks for the January 13, 2009 special election for the Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit - The following ballot clerks were recommended: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, Susan Hammond and Belinda Haggett; 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Katharine Martin-Savage and Sara George. **Nicole Viele moved to accept the ballot clerks as recommended. Vote 5-0-0.**
- Revise the Bank Certificates of Authority for town personnel - **Bill Curtis moved that James George, Rebekah Applin and Arthur Faucher be authorized to sign checks.** In response to Phil DiVece's question, the town manager said the checks were signed with a rubber stamp, which was properly secured in the vault. **Vote 5-0-0.** The Deposit Resolution and Certificate of Authority were signed.

8. Lt. John Allen: Appointment of a part-time patrol officer to the Wiscasset PD

Lt. Allen requested the appointment of Todd Bayha as part-time patrol officer. Bayha currently works for the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Office. **Phil DiVece moved that, on recommendation of**

John Allen, the Board of Selectmen appoint Todd Bayha of Woolwich as part-time patrol officer. Vote 5-0-0.

9. Town Manager's Report

- Inter-department Job Posting for a Highway Class II Driver/Laborer: The ten-day in-house posting for this position was made. As of the January 6 noon deadline, two applications were received and will be reviewed.
- Recommendation on the Town Office Administrative Assistant: The town manager recommended Lisa Garman for this position. **Phil DiVece moved on recommendation of the town manager and town planner to hire Lisa Garman of Wiscasset as the new executive assistant at \$31,000 to include medical and dental benefits and with six months' probation. Vote 5-0-0.** Ms. Garman will begin work on January 12, 2009.
- Department of Conservation Submerged Lands Lease Application for Wiscasset: The town manager said these 20-year leases should have been renewed in 2005. He and Harbormaster Peter Dalton have completed and submitted the application for the Memorial Pier; the application for Ferry Landing will be submitted as soon as the map has been updated. The leases will expire in 2035.

10. Other Business

Phil DiVece suggested that the auditor be invited to a selectmen's meeting to go over the audit. In response to his question, the town manager said the audit was done and the town report should be completed this month. He added that town salaries will be included in the report as requested by the selectmen. DiVece requested that a representative from Edward Jones be invited to a selectmen's meeting to review the reserve accounts as of the final quarter of the year.

11. Adjourn

At 8 p.m. **Nicole Viele moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0-0.**