

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE GENERAL INFORMATION/COST
CENTERMEETING
October 03, 2008

This writing is for general notes of the meeting to serve as a memory jogger.

Members attending: Judy Colby, Dick Hanson, George Greene, Steve Mehrl. Greg Shea attending as future member (Tuesday October 7, Selectmen's Meeting). Sherri Dunbar joined the meeting in progress approximately 7:30.

General Discussion

Budget Committee charter - What governs the manner and responsibilities of the Budget Committee

- The town ordinances establish the basic premise of the Budget Committee. There is also additional writing available that needs to be reviewed. Action: Steve search MMA for representative information.
- The committee is advisory to the Town Manager, Selectmen and Citizens. Communication with Town Manager and Selectmen in the past has been sparse in that there is very little discussion or sharing of positions of either group on financial concerns.
 - o Additional note - The Town Manager has made himself available whenever I have asked for his time.
 - o There is no convenient way, other than attending Selectmen Meetings to be made aware of upcoming concerns/expenditures to be better prepared with an opinion.
- Communication with the Town Treasure and Town Office members, Jim and Becky are helpful in responding to questions with supportive information. The mutually difficult part here is posing questions that can be answered within the framework of the methodology of record keeping practices. The better we understand the reports available the better they can serve us. [As I am writing I think we should start our Cost Center Visit with the Town Offices to address the previous sentence.]

- For Budget Committee to correctly function a representative number of members attend both the Selectmen Meetings and the School board meeting. This attendance and weekly newspaper articles are the only source of shared information (my intent here is that meeting minutes are not current information by the time they are posted. Perhaps this will be improved with the posting of DRAFT minutes with the anticipated availability of the new web site next month). Members of the Selectmen's Board or the School Board seldom attend Budget Committee meetings unless requested.

Last years Summary Expenditure Report

- It is realized that without additional information the report creates many questions that can only be answered with documentation such as a General Ledger or other documentation that connects the inflow/outflow of money. This is an area that we will expand on to achieve better understanding.

Discussions throughout the evening were a good exchange to create greater understanding and set our course.

Not part of the meeting. - Continue effort to meet with Cost Centers

- Start with understanding of accounting systems and reports available.
- Second Cost Center to visit is the Waste Water Treatment Center (WWTC) to realize the outcome of a recent visit to the by (I think) EPA representatives.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

Notes prepared by: Steve Mehrl Chairman