

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2008

The meeting began at 6:34 PM at the Wiscasset Fire Station

Budget committee members in attendance: Chairman Steve Mehrl, Judith Colby, Sherri Dunbar, Pamela Dunning, George Greene Richard Hanson and Tony True. Members absent were Robert Fairfield Sr., and Karl Tarbox. Also present were John Merry and Jamie Sonia.

Discussion began on the articles for the school warrant to be voted at the May 27 secret ballot. The most confusion centered on question 2 that asks the voter if they approve the amount voted at the last open town meeting that exceeds Essential programs and Services (EPS.) Some members thought that the wording gave the school department the amount from EPS if the question failed. Others thought that failure of the question gave the school department nothing. Chair Steve Mehrl called Superintendent Jay McIntire and asked for clarification on this point. Jay confirmed that failure of the question leaves the school with no budget at all. Question 1 on the ballot gives the school department 3/12 of the previous year's budget to work on until such time as the school department can bring a new budget to the public for approval.

The Budget Committee turned their attention to an article for the local papers that had been drafted by Chair Steve Mehrl. Committee members worked diligently to try to word the article in a clear and concise manner. The article basically stated that the Budget Committee does not recommend the school budget as it is being presented to the public at the open town meeting on May 17, 2008. The article goes on to state that the Budget Committee would like to see further cuts to the budget.

Having no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning