

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2008

The meeting began at 6:35 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building

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

There was a brief discussion about the town taking over roads and what is required for a road to meet specifications. This was deemed not to be budget committee business and the discussion ended.

Arthur Faucher supplied the committee with copies of his notes on the April 22 voting of the town warrant by the Selectmen. The budget committee proceeded to vote the questions on the warrant that need attention as follows:

Question 4 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$15,000 for the purposes of Municipal Building special repairs and upgrades, George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 6 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$160,684 for the purposes of Contractual Services, George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Steve Mehrl. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 7 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$70,000 for the purposes of Municipal Insurance, Pamela Dunning moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Richard Hanson. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 13 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$693,588 for the purposes of Municipal Highway Department, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 14 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$300,000 for the purposes of Road & Sidewalk Repair, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Pamela Dunning. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 16 Steve Mehrl moved to revisit Wiscasset Public Library. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 6-0. Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 6-0.

Question 20 to appropriate the amount of 142,179 and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$60,815 for the purposes of Adult Education, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 5-2.

Question 21 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$35,380 for the purposes of Wiscasset Community Center Lockers, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Pamela Dunning. Motion passed 5-2.

Question 25 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$16,734 for the purposes of Waterfront & Harbors and appropriate a total operational budget of \$68,734, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 27 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$240,974 for the purposes of Emergency Medical Services, Judith Colby moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion failed 0-7.

Question 28 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$250,974 for the purposes of Emergency Medical Services to fund the director at a full-time position, Judith Colby moved the amount of \$250,974. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 7-0.

A discussion took place during this vote that the Budget Committee recommends to fund this position at full-time with the understanding that this is a one year probationary period and that the director would meet with the Town Manager to set some goals and benchmarks to measure the success of this position at full-time with its expanded responsibilities.

Question 33 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$108,000 for the purposes of Transfer Station Truck, Judith Colby moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 5-2.

There was a discussion at this point that the committee would like to see the warrant finalized earlier in the process so there would be more time to proofread the changes before being sent to the printers. There was some discussion about the department heads not having price comparisons available and being unprepared with information as to prices.

Question 34 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$27,150 for the purposes of Municipal Airport repairs, George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Pamela Dunning. Motion passed 6-1.

Question 37 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$2,500 for the purposes of Downtown Landscaping, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 38 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$16,000 for the purposes of School Catch Basin Repairs, George Greene moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 4-3.

There was some discussion that the schools have a carry forward this year that could have been used to pay for this work.

Question 39 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$71,500 for the purposes of School Paving Repairs, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion failed with a vote of 1-6.

Question 40 to raise and appropriate the amount of \$24,000 for the purposes of School Roof Maintenance, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 4-3.

Question 42 to allow the Town Manager to pursue grants, Pamela Dunning moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 7-0.

Question 44 to appropriate the amount of \$444,950 from undesignated fund balance (surplus) for the purposes of reducing 2008 property taxes, Steve Mehrl moved the question as written. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 7-0.

There was a request from the Budget Committee to Arthur that department heads be required to bring Capital Improvements forward at least 3 month prior to the end of the fiscal year and that they bring comparison quotes with the request. It was further requested that the warrant work be started sooner next year so there would be at least a week between final voting of the articles and the warrant being sent to the printers.

The Budget Committee resolved to continue to meet monthly, beginning in July, to keep apprised of the town's business in expenditures and revenues

Judith Colby moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Tony True. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting closed at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning