

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Mehrl at 6:41 at the Municipal Building.

Budget Committee Members in attendance: Chairman Steve Mehrl, Judith Colby, George Greene, Sherri Dunbar, Robert Fairfield, and Richard Hanson. Members absent were: Pamela Dunning, Judy Flanagan and Tony True. Town Manager Arthur Faucher was also present for the meeting.

Chair Steve Mehrl went over the key points on the agenda. Acceptance of the agenda for the meeting was moved by Judy Colby, seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business – The need for better communication with and by all sectors of Wiscasset governing bodies was discussed. With recommendations of ensuring email distribution to all members we are very hopeful that the solution is in place. We all are concerned and appreciative of timely information.

New Business - Steve Mehrl was nominated for Chairman by Dick Hanson and Seconded by George Greene – the motion passed 6-0. Pamela Dunning was nominated for Clerk by Judy Colby and seconded by Sherri Dunbar the motion passed 6-0.

Chair Steve Mehrl and the members of the Committee recognized each other for their efforts and their contributions throughout the preceding year. Returning members Judith Colby, Sherri Dunbar and Dick Hanson were welcomed and applauded. New member Judy Flanagan was also recognized and will be joining us at our next meeting.

Chair Steve Mehrl addressed the desire to schedule Wiscasset Budget Committee (WBC) on the third Thursday of each month with a start time of 6:30 pm. The motion was made to accept the recommendation by Judy Colby and seconded by Sherri Dunbar. George Greene opened discussion on the start time of 6:30 pm. All members reached consensus that 6:30 was the best time. The motion passed 6-0. Town Manager – Arthur Faucher acknowledge the action to have this information passed the Town Clerk (Sandra Johnson) to reserve the room and this will also provide for notification of future meetings to be placed on the marquee. It was also agreed to leave the ending time of the meeting open with expectations of 8:30-9:00.

Sherri Dunbar made a motion for the acceptance of meetings minutes within five days of the posting of the minutes via email. The motion was seconded by Judy Colby and carried 6-0. There was discussion about the existing and new town web sites and the disappointment with both. The town web site has been in disarray for a long time. The new site is supposed to be available by September.

Chair Steve Mehrl led off a discussion of establishing significant dates for next years calendar. There was consensus in the group that getting the articles prepared and the information that leads into them took an inordinate amount of time and distracted greatly from attention that needed to be directed to the School budget. In conversation it was expressed that little additional information is needed for the departmental budgets due to review budget expenditures being received monthly. What is desired is that Department heads have any additional budget requests available in **detail** by mid January. Town Manager Arthur Faucher recommended that during the year each Department Head could provide a short brief to the Budget Committee of the status of their area.

Chair Steve Mehrl also requested the Committee members to provide via email any web sites they found useful in seeking, obtaining and understanding any facets of the budget process. (town or school).

Due to the lateness of the meeting Chair Steve Mehrl requested all members to review the list of Cost Centers and reply via email which Cost Center they would like to be most familiar with to support efforts of the Committee as we review each area.

Additionally Town Manager Arthur Faucher requested all members to review the email from LT. Allen with a proposal to be permitted to purchase the police cruiser with money remaining in his budget. There was discussion of how to proceed in this area that needs further guidance. Members were asked to become more familiar with the Police budgets expenditures.

This led to a brief discussion of the town's form of management of cost centers and the existing general fund. This is an area for further discussion.

Town Manager Arthur Faucher provided the following dates for revisiting the School Budget: 1 July the School Warrant, 8 July School Budget public hearing, July 12 School Budget Town Meeting and July 22 Vote on the School Budget.

Chair Steve Mehrl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick Hanson and voted 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:04.

Minutes prepared by Chair Steve Mehrl on 6/22/08