

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 3, 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 David Nichols called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

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

3. Public Hearing and Selectmen's Consideration - Sarah's Café and Twin Schooner
Pub Liquor License Renewal and Special Amusement Permit

The public hearing opened at 7:01 pm. Town Planner Jeffrey Hinderliter said that the application was complete and that he had contacted Police Lt. John Allen who had no problem with the renewal. There were no other comments or questions. The public hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

Bob Fairfield moved to grant the liquor license renewal and special amusement permit to Sarah's Café and Twin Schooner Pub. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Approve minutes of February 3, 17 and 26, 2009

Nicole Viele moved to accept the minutes of February 3, 2009. Vote 5-0-0. Bill Curtis moved to accept the minutes of February 17, 2009 as written. Vote 3-0-2 (Fairfield and Viele abstained). Nicole Viele moved to accept the minutes of February 26, 2009. Vote 4-0-1 (Fairfield abstained).

5. Citizen Comment

Paul Grover pointed out an error in the list of past due sewer accounts. He inquired if any thought had been given to his suggestion that salaries be frozen for a couple of years until the current financial situation is stabilized. David Nichols said that the board is in negotiations with the union and he was not at liberty to say anything further. Arthur Faucher said Mr. Grover's comment was being taken into consideration.

George Green said he had checked on Riverbank Power (the company proposing an energy plant for Wiscasset) in Sparta, New Jersey where the company has a smaller plant than is proposed for Wiscasset and received a good recommendation. He advised the town to obtain benefits from the company before they start construction such as giving town residents priority in hiring for the permanent positions. He also recommended finding out what happens to the hole if the project is abandoned and if the town would be part owner of the gravel removed from the site or would be able to use the gravel.

Paul Grover asked what interest was being charged on past due real estate taxes and upon being advised it was 9%, asked if Point East was being charged 9% on its back taxes. Arthur Faucher said everyone was charged 9% on past due taxes.

Ray Soule, representing Doug White, owner of the Wiscasset racetrack, said Mr. White had an interest in utilizing the track for country and western concerts. Concerts would run from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday nights; there would be parking for campers within the confines of the track; crowd control would be provided as would port-o-potties. Jeffrey Hinderliter said that the selectmen had jurisdiction as their approval of the special amusement and liquor permits would be necessary. He had advised the applicant to address the board on issues to be considered such as security, parking, noise, hours, and dates; and a public hearing would be required.

Bob Blagden said the board had voted on December 16 to hire a replacement highway worker, but nothing had happened since that time. He asked each selectman to respond publicly why this had not been done.

Nicole Viele said an in-house transfer had been made to fill Ron Lear's position when he was appointed Transfer Station Superintendent. A union position to work from Tuesday through Saturday had been advertised and 25 applications had been received for the position, which would be shared between the road crew and the transfer station. In response to Bob Blagden's noting that that applicant would be replacing a Monday through Friday person, Nicole Viele said there were needs at both departments and the town did not have the fiscal capacity to fill two positions.

Phil DiVece said two weeks ago he had supported the Road Commissioner and had recommended that the selectmen, Town Manager and Road Commissioner discuss the situation and come up with a solution, which had not happened. He repeated the recommendation.

Bill Curtis said in light of local and national economy, and the opinion of some that town wages should be frozen, the selectmen should consider putting off hiring. He said they hadn't yet looked at the budget, they have a rough idea what they may lose from the state, and he would like to see where they stand before hiring a replacement.

Bob Fairfield said he agreed; the town had to cut back and weigh the issues further.

David Nichols said the selectmen were in negotiations with the union and would have to see what the union wanted to do. He added that if the union workers don't get a raise, he couldn't see hiring another person.

Arthur Faucher said that he and the road commissioner, Bob Blagden, had agreed on a compromise, i.e. to advertise for a full time Tuesday through Saturday position that would be shared between the transfer station (two days) and public works (three days). Twenty-five applications had been received. Personally, he said he would like to be able to hire two employees for public works and one for the transfer station, but he would settle for one public works employee. However, he said, the decision was up to the board. Faucher recognized that with employees out for illness or personal reasons, it was difficult to keep up with the snow plowing.

Roy Barnes, Bill Barnes and Richard Hanson spoke in support of the road commissioner and criticized the board for not acting on the matter.

Although it is possible for the road commissioner to solicit other union members to help plow and there is money to hire contract workers, Bob Blagden said that would be a major policy shift. Phil DiVece said that in an extraordinary situation when the department was down two workers, and considering the time it would take to screen and

interview applicants, other options should be explored, and if there is money in the budget, the road commissioner should spend it on hiring for snow removal.

New Business

6. Chairman Nichols: Time line for elections and position openings

David Nichols announced that nomination papers will be available on March 16, 2009. The following positions will be voted on on June 9, 2009:

Budget Committee - Two three-year terms expiring in 2012
One vacancy expiring in 2012
One vacancy expiring in 2010

Road Commissioner - One-year term

Selectmen - Two two-year terms expiring in 2011

Water District Trustee - One three-year term expiring in 2012

7. Opening of diesel fuel bids

The board received three bids for 16,475 gallons of diesel fuel as follows:

Dead River - \$1.8137 on a cost plus basis
Dennis K. Burke - \$2.375 fixed price
M. W. Sewell - \$2.499 fixed price

A decision on the bids was postponed until the town manager contacts Dead River for a fixed price bid.

8. Town Manager's Report

- Edward Jones Monthly and Quarterly Statements: Arthur Faucher reported that in response to his request for monthly statements, Edward Jones Trust Company had asked that a formal request be made in writing. David Nichols read the prepared letter. **He moved that we the members of the Wiscasset Board of Selectmen hereby request that the Edward Jones Trust Company newly establish and deliver monthly evaluation statements on the following funds: Town of Wiscasset Reserve Fund #650027006 and Town of Wiscasset Endowment Fund #650028004. Vote 5-0.** Phil DiVece said he had requested at the previous meeting that a representative of Edward Jones make a presentation to the town on the town's portfolio and that the meeting be well publicized. Arthur Faucher said that the firm was not prepared to send someone from the Midwest and had offered an interoffice phone call instead, but he was reminded by DiVece that there was an Edward Jones office in Bath. **Phil DiVece moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the town manager to arrange for a representative from the Edward Jones investment firm come to Wiscasset and make a public presentation on the Town of Wiscasset's investments and review its portfolio without charge to the town. Vote 5-0.**
- Gateway 1 Draft Plan: Don Jones outlined the various transportation committees up to the appointment of the Wiscasset Transportation Committee as the Gateway 1 committee. Don Jones was elected chair of the committee and appointed to the steering

committee of the whole corridor. He has since resigned. He said Phase I of Gateway 1 was devoted to data collection and computer modeling. Phase II is studying how to create the desired results which will require people to live and travel in different ways. The Steering Committee decided on a transportation-oriented corridor with concentrated growth that may require interlocal agreements or a corridor commission to carry out the plan.

Jeffrey Hinderliter, primary representative to the Gateway 1 Committee, said that the Gateway 1 plan deals with land use and zoning issues, which, if accepted, may require changes in the Comprehensive Plan to recognize the existence of Gateway 1, and amended zoning ordinances to add performance standards along Route 1 and perhaps include amendments to the zoning districts.

Anne Leslie, secondary representative to the Gateway 1 committee, described the changes needed to link land use and transportation policy to avoid congestion and use of other town roads, which could have a harmful economic effect. Incentives to participate in the Gateway 1 plan are the possibility of funds and priority in funding.

Arthur Faucher said that \$2 million is proposed by the MDOT to help in corridor improvements, but funds will not be released unless at least 12 communities agree to participate in the Gateway 1 plan. Added value to the town could be the funding of the Railroad Avenue parking area.

9. Other Business

Phil DiVece noted that 88% of the General Assistance budget had been spent; he was concerned that remaining funds would be inadequate for the rest of the year. Arthur Faucher said there was \$1700 left, and although some of the funds spent would be reimbursable by the state, if additional funds were needed, it would be necessary to overdraft the account. DiVece also asked why the budget still showed funds for repairs to the ladder truck when that had been paid. The town manager will check on that.

An abatement for the Yacht Club will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Assessors. The treasurer will be invited to attend the meeting on March 17 to explain the TIF agreement and the procedure the town follows if the payments are not made. Arthur Faucher said he expects a letter from Daniel Schuyler, CEO of NATIONAL RE/sources, within a few weeks with details on how the \$250,000 due since last October and the outstanding taxes will be paid. Bill Curtis asked that the town manager follow up on progress in this matter at the end of the week.

10. Adjourn

At 8:40 p.m. **Nicole Viele moved to adjourn. Vote 4-1-0.** (DiVece opposed).