

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2009

There was a brief announcement that corrected versions of the budget were available to anyone who wanted to swap, or corrected pages for those who preferred to keep the original copy.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM at the Wiscasset Municipal Building.

Budget Committee members in attendance: Judith Colby, Sherri Dunbar, Pamela Dunning, Judy Flanagan, George Greene, Richard Hanson, Steve Mehrl and Greg Shea. There is currently one vacant seat on the Committee.

Greg Shea moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Agenda passed 8-0.

Sherri Dunbar moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 8-0.

Greg Shea moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2009 meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by George Greene. Motion passed 7-0-1.

Ron Lear, department head of the Wiscasset Solid Waste Transfer Station (WSWTS) presented his preliminary budget to the committee. The WSWTS currently has a Tuesday – Saturday Class A driver/laborer that is ½ time. He would like to see this become a full-time position. The ½ time driver/laborer would be sent back to the Highway Department to become full-time there and a new person would be hired for this spot. The added hours would allow the employees to catch up with some work that has not been done. Ron passed out a copy of a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that charges WSWTS with several violations. These violations need to be cleared up and continue to stay clear. The added hours will also allow for better collection of user fees as there is not always someone available to catch users as they go through the station. There is some question about the “use of fund balance” line in the budget. Every budget shows the same amount of fund balance this year as they had last year. This is assumed to be another error in the budgets. There was a question about the amount under user’s fees for 08/09 budget. It was very low in comparison to expected. Commercial fees are to stay at \$300 for now. Repairs to the rails in the hopper will be around \$5,000. This should go out to bid. It might take 2 workers three days to complete the repair. Kenny Cooper has the parts to reset the ram. He just needs to take it to his shop to do it. The holding tank resealing is done. It just needs to be pumped. The amounts charged to Alna and Westport are computed using the 2000 census numbers and figured by percentage of use.

Buck Rines, department head for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) came in to present his preliminary budget. He would like to add \$5,000 to the line 75-60 to pay for more pump station repairs. The radio read system is installed in the pump stations. It replaces the old phone system that can no longer function. The town of Edgecomb pre-bought 22,000 gallons a day. When that amount is exceeded, Edgecomb will owe more impact fees. The total average of all waste handled by the WWTP is 276,000 a day. The outflow pipe and Birch Point pump station upgrades are done. DEP is strongly suggesting generators for each pumping stations to avoid another spill such as what happened last year at the Wiscasset Wine Depot. There has been very little sewer line cleaning for the last two years. The station is

recommended to have a staff of 3.9 workers. It has three. There is just not enough man hours here to get through all of the maintenance that should be done each year.

There was a brief discussion about the department heads we would like to meet with to discuss their budgets. Committee members talked about going to some of the Selectmen budget meetings in the next week in order to listen to the Selectmen's and department head's comments and concerns.

Greg Shea moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Having no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning, Clerk