

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at the Communications 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.

The Committee met to look over the 2009/2010 budget to see if there were any areas that need clarification. Chair Steve Mehrl took notes of those areas of interest in order to invite the appropriate people to future meeting to answer those questions.

The Committee began by looking over the budget summery report. There was little discussion on this page. The Committee continued on to look at the individual budgets.

Items of interest included:

Assessor:

Do we need a full-time assessor?

Contractual Services

Why is the amount for retirement plan management so high? The market went down, not up.

Why are we paying Tyler to come in and do field work when we have a full-time assessor? Sue Varney should be asked her opinion of the need.

There was a break from the general budgets after Contractual Services. Todd Souza came in to present the budget for the Wiscasset Community Center (WCC). Starting this year the WCC will be billing the Waterfront, the Town Office and the Senior Center for the work done by the WCC for the other departments. The WCC expends over \$19,000 to support the Senior Center and about \$2,000 at the Waterfront and about \$2,000 for the Town Office. The WCC would still like to get a Friends group organized but there is no time to devote to that task. There is also the desire to start an endowment. An endowment might allow the WCC to become independent of the town in the future and would encourage supporters to donate. The revenue line of the budget is underestimated for next year. The person at the town office who was figuring those numbers did not take into account that the busiest months for the WCC are April through June so a large amount of revenue has not come in yet this year.

There was a brief discussion that the town tends to take advantage of the department heads.

The Committee continued with the individual budgets.

Fire Department;

Should the officers of the Fire Department have their stipend raised?

Where is the line that covers matching funds of 5% for the \$77,900 grant that was awarded to the Fire Department?

Highway Department;

Does the Highway Department need another full-time person? They are working very short-handed with one person on light duty and a second person who has left was not replaced.

Community Organizations;

The numbers do not add up.

Airport;

Why does the Airport list real estate tax as a source of revenue? They are underfunded by their proposed budget.

Judith Colby moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Greg Shea. Having no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM