

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 1, 2009

Present: Bill Curtis, Bob Fairfield, Phil DiVece, Chairman David Nichols, Vice
Chairman Nicole Viele, and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 6:04 p.m.

2. Closing Reviews, Recommendations and Endorsements to the 2009-2010 Municipal
Department Budgets

General Government

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Administration at \$174,215 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Office of Selectmen at \$26,923 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Assessment at \$72,162 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Finance & Tax Collection at \$157,460 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Town Clerk at \$71,823 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Elections at \$19,387 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the budget for Contingency at \$65,000 for 2009-2010. Vote 4-1-0. (Phil DiVece opposed). Phil DiVece was in favor of using the 2007-2008 budget of \$37,500.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Municipal Building at \$75,987 for 2009-2010. Bill Curtis asked how they could vote on this item without the estimate for the roof repair. Town Manager Arthur Faucher said that item would be part of the capital improvements budget as a special project. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Municipal Planning at \$85,697 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Contractual Services at \$128,600 for 2009-2010. Phil DiVece asked that this category be itemized on the warrant, breaking it down into financial services, legal assistance, auditing, consultants, etc. Arthur Faucher said Contractual Services would be broken down on the warrant. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Celebrations at \$17,500 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the budget for Boards and Committees at \$2,365 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the budget for Code Enforcement at \$42,188 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the budget for General Assistance of \$21,750 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the budget for Municipal Insurance/Debt Service/Utilities of \$262,418 for 2009-2010. Vote 4-0-1 (DiVece abstained because this vote involves his position as a member of the Water District).

Public Safety

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Police Department budget at \$302,979 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Fire Department budget at \$80,925 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Animal Control budget at \$7,425 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Public Works

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Highway budget at \$653,703 for 2009-2010. In response to Phil DiVece's comments that he would prefer a full-time position at the highway department which this budget did not cover, Arthur Faucher said the board had unanimously approved the advertising for one person to be shared between the highway department and the transfer station because of insufficient funds. The employee to be hired would be a transfer station employee but would work three days at the highway department. This budget covers no new employee at the highway department. **Vote 2-3-0** (Fairfield, DiVece and Curtis opposed). Line 30-08 was reduced from \$8,000 to \$5,000.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Cemetery budget at \$52,187 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Unclassified

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Shellfish budget at \$10,581 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Community Organization budget for \$100,710 for 2009-2010. Phil DiVece said he preferred to see the library budget as a separate item. **5-0-0.**

Capital Improvement Projects

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Road and Sidewalk Repair budget at \$150,000 for 2009-2010. The Road Commissioner had requested \$84,000 for street repair and the balance for the unexpected and sidewalk repairs. David Nichols said if it wasn't absolutely necessary, it could wait a year. **Vote 4-1-0** (Nichols opposed).

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Capital Improvement Projects budget at \$293,600 for 2009-2010. Nicole Viele recommended using the Edward Jones account for the sewer pump and generator, as the accounts were set up for that purpose. **Vote 4-1-0** (Nichols opposed). There was a consensus of the board that these will be two separate articles: The sewer pump under the Equipment Reserve line and the generator under the Equipment Reserve line. The balance will be raised and appropriated from tax dollars.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Airport budget at \$58,833 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Phil DiVece moved to accept the Waterfront and Harbors budget at \$68,767 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget at \$381,854 for 2009-2010. This is an enterprise account and the vote will be to appropriate the budgeted amount. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Nicole Viele moved to accept the Parks and Recreation budget at \$744,390 for 2009-2010. This number is based on the anticipated revenue of \$301,000, which will be

shown in the article. Nicole Viele said this is an example of gross budgeting, which the auditors had recommended for years and which should be explained to the voters. She said the voters should also be advised that the rec center would never be self-sustaining. There was extensive discussion on this item. David Nichols said the article as written would constitute a blank check for the Parks and Recreation Department. **Vote 2-3-0** (Curtis, Fairfield and Nichols opposed). It was suggested that the ballot show read the same as the previous year, i.e. that \$443,390 be raised and appropriated and \$301,000 be appropriated. Under this scenario, the budget would be treated as an enterprise account rather than gross budgeting. **Bill Curtis moved to reconsider the Parks and Recreation Budget. Vote 4-1-0** (DiVece opposed). **Bill Curtis moved to use the same language as last year with the new numbers. Vote 3-2-0** (DiVece and Viele opposed). **Nicole Viele moved to appropriate \$301,000 and raise and appropriate \$443,390** (for the 2009-2010 Parks and Recreation budget). **Vote 5-0-0.**

A vote on the Transfer Station will be delayed until April 7. The Transfer Station budget was last reviewed on March 27.

Bob Fairfield moved to accept the Senior Center budget of \$57,040 for 2009-2010. Vote 5-0-0.

Phil DiVece moved to accept the EMS budget of \$274,444 for 2009-2010. Arthur Faucher said the director's salary had been separated out as requested, and the cardiac monitor had been included in Other Equipment. **Vote 5-0-0.**

Arthur Faucher said that Todd Souza was meeting with the Budget Committee that evening and that he and the Road Commissioner would be meeting with the Budget Committee on April 2 at the Communications Building. A combined meeting with the Select Board and Budget Committee will be held the following week. An executive session with Linda McGill will be held following the regular meeting on April 7.

3. Executive Session

At 7:50 p.m., **David Nichols moved to go into executive session under Title 1: Chapter 13: Section 405 (6)(A)(1) to discuss the appointment and evaluation of the town manager. Vote 5-0-0.**

Chairman David Nichols asked for a motion to come out of executive session.

Vice Chairman Nicole Viele moved to come out of executive session at 9:10 p.m. Selectman Robert Fairfield made a second to the motion. So Voted: 5-0.

Chairman Nichols asked "what were the Board's wishes" regarding Arthur's contract. Currently the town manager's contract is to the end of December 2009. **Vice Chairman Nicole Viele moved to extend the Town Manager's contract to the end of December 2010. Selectman Robert Fairfield made a second to the motion.**

Discussion: Selectman Phil DiVece said that he could not vote on the motion until he reviewed the existing contract. The Town Manager asked Selectman DiVece why he had not mentioned it until tonight. He could have prepared a copy for him and he can now. Selectman DiVece said he would much prefer to wait until December 2009 to consider the contract. The Town Manager understood and accepted the wait until

tonight because there's been a lot going on but having to wait until December is disrespectful. He's not asking for anything more than what he has. Selectman DiVece said that's how he felt and added that he could not obligate another Board to a contract.

Listening to Selectmen DiVece's comments created a troubling atmosphere for others in the room and there was a mix of sensible remarks directed to Selectmen DiVece from other Board members. As discussion continued, it became obvious that Selectman DiVece preferred having a Finance Director instead of a Town Manager and returning to the Three-Man Board.

Chairman Nichols called for a vote: Chairman David Nichols, Vice Chairman Viele, Selectman William Curtis and Selectman Robert Fairfield voted in favor of extending Town Manager Arthur Faucher's contract to December 2010. Selectman Phil DiVece opposed. **Motion carried 4-1.**

4. Adjourn

Having no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. **Selectman Fairfield moved to adjourn.** Vice Chairman Viele made a second to the motion. **So Voted 5-0.**