

TOWN OF WISCASSET
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 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.

Judy Flanagan moved the minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting as amended. Motion was seconded by Judith Colby. Motion passed 8-0.

Roland Abbott presented the budget for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Roland gave an explanation of the billing process and how the billing service and EMS reconcile their information. EMS has not completed the billing adjustments for the years 2006-2008. The billing service is paid 6.5% of the funds they collect for EMS. There is no written policy in place that sets the number of times a client is billed. Possibly after 3 bills, the matter should be turned over to the Selectmen or the department head of EMS for follow up. There was some question of using a collection agency. Line 50-17 of the budget includes money for a new cardiac monitor. This would replace a 9 year old unit in one of the ambulances. EMS is paying \$11,500 to \$18,000 a year to keep it working. They would like to replace it this year. The second cardiac monitor in the other ambulance is about 2 years newer and they will want to replace it next year.

Bobby Blagden came in to answer questions about the Highway Department Budget. There was an extensive discussion about the need for a full-time person added to the department. This discussion over ran to the request for a full-time employee to be hired at the Wiscasset Solid Waste Transfer Station (WSWTS). It was general thought by Budget Committee members that the full-time person at the WSWTS could be accomplished by retaining the half-time person they have had and outsourcing the driving of the truck to the private sector. It was decided that these items needed to be discussed with the Selectmen. Bobby discussed the Capital Improvements for the roads and sidewalks. It is budgeted at \$150,000. The Highway Department can select some first stage projects on Old Sheepscot Road, Bradford Road, Willow Lane, Fowles Hill Road, Blagden Ridge Road, and Railroad Avenue as well as some sidewalk work. There is not enough money in this year's budget to do all of that work. The \$150,000 will allow the finish stage of the work to be done next year. Some Budget Committee members questioned if that should be raised back up to \$300,000 so the infrastructure may continue to be repaired. This is another item that needs discussion with the Selectmen.

Town Manager Arthur Faucher spoke about hiring a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. There is no need for a full-time CEO. During the winter, several days or even a few weeks may pass without anyone coming in for Code Enforcement.

Town Manager Arthur Faucher spoke about the General Assistance budget. The personnel on this item was moved to the Administration budget. It does not affect the amount reimbursed by the state. Only the assistance money is ever repaid by the state.

The Budget Committee discussed future meeting dates. Meetings were set for the Budget Committee in the Communications Building for Tuesday, April 7, Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 PM. The Budget Committee will meet with the Selectmen on Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 PM.

Nearing the agreed upon 9:00 PM limit, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning, Clerk