

TOWN OF WISCASSET  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM at the High School Cafeteria.

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.

Assessor Sue Varney addressed the Budget Committee on the need to hire Tyler to do the assessor field work. She will do as much data entry as is possible to save money. Tyler will do the sketches and field work. The town had planned to use Tyler for one year but circumstances call for their use for a second year. The circumstances are caused by the absence of the Town Clerk since October. The Town Clerk's work has been done by the remaining 3 employees in the town office which has put them all behind in their own work. The Selectmen looked over every card that was worked on by Tyler last year. Approximately ½ of the properties to be assessed are follow-ups from last year. These will take about ½ of the time of a first visit. The hours needed by Tyler could be dropped to 90. At \$105 an hour, Tyler would cost \$9,450. The Budget Committee are considering recommending that the amount being raised to pay Tyler be lowered from \$17,000 to \$10,000.

There was a brief discussion about the Police Department budget. The 2008 salaries and full-time pay add up to \$158,000 which is what was budgeted the previous year to fund a Chief of Police. Now that we have no police chief, shouldn't the amount have gone down? This needs to be revisited.

The Budget Committee continued to look through department budgets. There was a consensus that the Wiscasset Solid Waste Transfer Station (WSWTS) should not increase by a full-time position and that the Highway Department replace the missing full-time position that was lost when an employee went to the WSWTS. There was a question as to if it would be more efficient to hire an outside firm to do code enforcement instead of hiring an employee. There was a question as to where the matching funds that are necessary to accept the grant for the Fire Department are listed in the budget. There were no questions about Cemeteries.

George Greene moved to raise the amount to Lincoln County TV to \$5,000. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion failed 2-6. A poll vote to leave the amount at \$2,000 was held and passed 6-2.

Under Capital Improvements, there was a discussion about the generator for the Municipal Building. There was a question about buying a single service generator instead of one that may be moved to areas of need. There were also questions about the amount being paid for the generator. Committee members believe that a generator can be purchased for much less. There was also a discussion about raising the amount raised for Roads and Sidewalks repairs to \$300,000. It was decided to see where the mil rate was going to settle before adding to the budget.

There was a question about why the Airport account is showing a revenue line for Real Estate taxes. The Airport is not a municipality and can not charge taxes. There is also a question as to why the Airport budget is budgeting for much reduced Electric.

Nearing the agreed upon 9:00 PM limit, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Dunning, Clerk