

Wiscasset Budget Committee Meeting
Wiscasset Municipal Building
September 14, 2009

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

Budget Committee members in attendance: Steve Mehrl, Greg Shea, Judith Colby, Sherri Dunbar and Ed Polewarczyk. Absent was Richard Hansom. Currently there are three vacant seats on the Committee. Also, present was the Town Manager, Arthur Faucher; Town Treasurer, Jim George; Wiscasset Airport Manager, Ervin Deck and Airport Committee member Ken Boudin Jr.

Steve requested a motion be made to amend the agenda to include Item 4 under New Business which refers to reimbursement costs being brought to the town from the RSU. Steve Mehrl made the motion. The motion was seconded by Greg Shea. Motion passed 5-0.

Greg Shea made the motion to accept the minutes of September 8th as written. Motion was seconded by Sherri Dunbar. Motion passed 5-0.

The Chairman requested that Item 3 of the agenda be taken out of order. The committee and those present discussed the Airport revenue shortfall of \$12,040. The voters declined to appropriate the sum from surplus on the last Town Warrant of September 8th. Arthur stated that the Chairman of the Board of Selectman was in favor of taking the shortfall out of the contingency fund, but the Budget Committee recommends that the 2009-2010 budget be reduced by the shortfall and transfers \$12,040 (revenue shortfall) and \$1,875 (local share of grant for snow removal building) from the Airport Capital Account.

A discussion regarding the rewording of Article 4 of the Town Warrant for September 23rd was agreed upon by the Budget Committee, Arthur Faucher and Jim George. The recommended article should state the following:

Shall the town vote to modify the “Airport Runway Repairs” capital reserve account to the “Airport Capital Account” to expand the scope of the airport related repair expenses and capital renovations, as necessary, at the Wiscasset Municipal Airport?

Steve Mehrl made the motion to accept the article as amended. The motion was seconded by Greg Shea. Motion passed 5-0.

The committee, Arthur and Jim George discussed the transfer of funds to reduce the mil rate. Jim George stated that the Fund Balance Accounts for EMS Ambulance Replacement, Road/Sidewalk Replacements, EMS Pager Replacement and Transfer Station were reduced and the money was transferred into the Undesignated Fund Balance Account of which \$250,000 will be used to reduce the 2009-2010 Property Taxes.

The motion was made by Greg Shea to approve the transfer of the \$250,000 to reduce property taxes. Motion was seconded by Sherrie Dunbar. Motion passed 5-0.

The committee, Arthur and Jim George discussed the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Edward Jones Designated Capital Reserve Accounts to reduce the 2009-2010 Property Taxes. The committee suggested that no money be removed from the Equipment Capital Reserve Account. Also, questioned the remaining balances in two Middle School accounts and the possibility of transferring the amounts into other accounts.

The motion was made by Greg Shea to approve the transfer of the \$1,000,000 to reduce property taxes. Motion was seconded by Sherrie Dunbar. Motion passed 5-0.

Steve Mehrl stated that he and Arthur will be meeting Wednesday with representatives of the RSU to discuss the \$306,705.44 in costs that the RSU believe that the Town is responsible for payment. Several items include Bus Garage fuel, tuition to Spurwink, Apple Computers, Alt Ed computer equipment, Health insurance premiums, unemployment insurance payments, dental insurance and generator for the Primary School.

Having no further business Greg Shea made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Ed Polewarczyk. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Judith Colby, Clerk