

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 6, 2009

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Bob Blagden, Bill Curtis, Bob Fairfield and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

Absent: Phil DiVece and Pam Dunning

1. Call to Order

The chairman called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

3. Approve minutes of September 29, 2009

Bill Curtis moved to accept the minutes as printed. Vote 3-0-0.

4. Citizen Comment

Donald Jones, Chairman of the Transportation and Gateway 1 Committees, reported that the committees with four out of five in attendance voted 3-1 to recommend that the selectmen sign the start-up agreement with Gateway 1.

Steve Mehrl commented on the excellent mowing job done at the airport. He also explained why there was a difference in the percentages on the tax bill this year. Because Wiscasset is now part of the RSU, this year's bill does not include \$1.9 million in revenue from tuition and \$3 million in revenue from the state, thereby reducing the percentage of taxes going to the schools to 48%.

5. Board of Selectmen: Warren Dump Body bids

Three bids were received as follows:

David Littlefield	\$822
Sprague Transport and Excavating	505
G & D Cromwell	502

Bob Blagden moved to award the dump body bid to David Littlefield. Blagden said he was not aware that the dump body had been declared surplus by the selectmen and asked that in the future items to be declared surplus be brought to the selectmen. **Vote 3-0-0.**

6. Justin Holmes - The Mid-Coast Economic Development District Brownfields Program Application

Justin Holmes, Midcoast Economic Development District (MCEDD), described the EPA Brownfields program, which empowers communities to assess, clean and redevelop properties polluted by hazardous materials and/or petroleum. Lincoln County and Rockland are members of the Midcoast Brownfields Initiative, with Rockland, Waldo, and Wiscasset selected as targeted communities. During the first phase of the program, community panels will be set up to assess and inventory sites to be tested and will include outreach to the town to plan for their reuse. Holmes said he had visited the Koehling property with the town manager, which would be an ideal site for the program as it is owned by the town and is near a recreational area. Under the program, cleanup would be done at no cost to the town, no matching funds would be necessary. The application, for which he is asking board support, will seek \$400,000 in EPA Brownfields money.

In response to questions, Holmes said that the program works in conjunction with the DEP but operates independently. An engineering firm will be selected by an RFP process. The firm will be one experienced in the field and will have DEP oversight. The same company will be involved in the cleanup

phase. Wiscasset will be represented on the community panel; other towns without industrial sites such as Alna and Whitefield will not be. The \$400,000 is only for the assessment and, assuming that is successful, application will be made for funds for the actual cleanup. Communities will be involved in determining future use of the property; the program is funded with federal dollars but will have local control. Holmes has met with LCEDO, which focuses on regional issues rather than individual communities, and their board will review the MCEDD application and support it if there are no objections. Holmes said it was a unique opportunity for the two organizations to work together. Rick Lang, CEO, recommended support of the application. **Bob Blagden moved that the Wiscasset Board of Selectmen support the Midcoast Economic Development District's application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Program. Vote 3-0-0.**

7. Doug Smith: Cushman Point Road

Doug Smith, resident of Cushman Point Road, was president of the homeowner's association at the time the association negotiated acceptance of the road by the town and paid \$10,000 for its repaving. Smith had recently spoken to the road commissioner who was unaware of the money paid to the town. Smith also spoke with the town treasurer who said the money had been put into the general fund and had not been set aside. Because most of the people Smith dealt with in 2003 were no longer with the town, he asked that \$10,000 be set aside and acknowledged and that a file detailing the agreement be set up.

Bob Blagden said he recalled the acceptance of the road and acknowledged that the funds had been paid. He said that normally a town takes over a newly-paved road; however, the Cushman Point Homeowner's association had paid \$10,000 because the road had aged. He said it wasn't necessary to set aside the funds; the paving would be done when necessary. If a file exists, it would be in the planning board's subdivision file. In response to Mr. Smith's question on scheduling paving, Blagden said that when the town appropriated only \$100,000 for paving this year, paving would be done only when necessary.

8. Town Manager

Highway Department employment update: Spencer Bailey, the only inhouse applicant, will be hired as a full time Class II driver/laborer, a union position, at \$11.50 per hour.

Enterprise/Gross Budgeting Workshop: The workshop for selectmen and budget committee will be held on October 20 at 7 p.m.

Winterize former Superintendent's Office: Arthur Faucher reported that the RSU had removed everything from the office and the alarm system had been removed. He asked for authorization to winterize the building -- drain the pipes and set the heat at 50-55°. Bill Curtis said the ambulance service had asked permission to take over the building and had money in its budget to do so. There was speculation that a superintendent for Wiscasset may be back in the building if the vote to overturn the legislation, which created the RSU, passes in November. It was also pointed out that the ambulance service would have to build a garage for its vehicles. The chairman instructed the town manager to winterize the building.

9. Other Business

Steve Mehrl asked whether the condition of the generator had been determined. Bill Curtis said that several firms had been contacted, none of which could provide any assistance and recommended disconnecting the generator. Arthur Faucher said that MMA had reimbursed the town over \$14,000 for the generator and other items, which had gone into the general fund.

10. Adjourn

At 7:58 p.m., **Bob Fairfield moved to adjourn the meeting. Vote 3-0-0.**