

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
OCTOBER 13, 2009

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Chairman Bob Blagden, Vice Chairman Phil DiVece, Pam Dunning and Town Manager Arthur Faucher

Absent: Bill Curtis and Bob Fairfield

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 October 6, 2009

Postponed until October 20 meeting.

4. Citizen Comments

In response to Richard Hanson's question about the ambulance, Arthur Faucher said it was still at the repair shop. Estimated cost was \$2500 to \$3500.

The town manager reported that Bob Fairfield was at the County Budget Committee and Bill Curtis was out of town.

5. Board of Selectmen: Powder House Roofing Bids

(Pam Dunning recused herself from participating in consideration of this item.) Three bids were received as follows:

James A. Cromwell	\$14,450
Doug Merrill & Son	4,720
Restoration Resources	10,431

In response to Richard Hanson's question, Bob Blagden said Greg Griffin had drawn up specifications for the roofing work, which included a mandatory meeting with the road commissioner at the site. Arthur Faucher said that \$12,500 was budgeted for building repairs, although no specific figure was given for the powderhouse roof. A motion to accept the low bid failed (2-0-1) and a second vote on the bids will be taken at the next meeting.

6. Main Street Pier Tenants: Occupancy request

Dick Lutes, representing the waterfront committee, said the vendors on the pier would appreciate being allowed to leave their buildings on the pier for the winter and then renting the spaces on a year-round basis from May to May. He said that in the present economy, it would be a hardship for the vendors to have to remove their buildings and that taking them off every year and putting them up again the next year tears up the timber on the pier. The vendors that had insurance were allowed to leave their buildings on the pier last winter.

Bob Blagden read the policy that requires vendors to remove their buildings for the winter and suggested the waterfront committee revise the policy that had been approved by the selectmen in 2003. He recommended that the policy also address year round fees and the possibility of holiday decorations so that the subject would not have to be continually discussed.

Dick Lutes said the waterfront committee would make a recommendation for changes in the policy at their next meeting, which will take place the second week of November. **Pam Dunning moved to take up the waterfront policy at the second Selectmen meeting in November to allow the waterfront committee time to make recommendations on the existing policy, and to allow the vendors now on the pier to remain until then. Vote 3-0-0.**

7. Town Manager

Junkyard/Automobile Graveyard permit application public hearings: **Bob Blagden moved to sign the notice of public hearing to be held on October 27, 2009 at 7 p.m. Vote 3-0-0.**

Bypass documents: Copies of the documents are available for viewing in the town office and at the public library.

Informational meeting on Gateway I: Arthur Faucher said Stacy Benjamin would be available for a public informational meeting on Gateway 1 on October 22. Phil DiVece said he opposed Gateway 1 and he had heard from business people that were unhappy with the plan. Pam Dunning said that although some businesses may be interested in a meeting, the amount of money to assist towns for research was ridiculously low. Bob Blagden said the attempt by the MDOT to limit curb cuts would shut down businesses and the cost of curb cuts was in some cases more than the property was worth. **Bob Blagden moved that the Town of Wiscasset not join the Gateway I project. Vote 3-0-0.**

Future Enterprise/Gross Budgeting Workshop: The workshop will be held on October 20 after a short meeting that will include bid openings on the fuel tank.

Koehling Property: The former owner had been given until October 6 to remove his property from the site. Arthur Faucher said there is not enough left to put out to bid and asked to have the highway department remove whatever is left. The water and electricity have been turned off. **Phil DiVece moved to authorize the town manager to make arrangements with the highway department to pick up what is left from the Koehling property on Route 27. Vote 3-0-0.** The town attorney will be advised.

8. Other Business

Bob Blagden recommended advertising or contacting a local realtor to find a tenant for the superintendent's building. He said that if the RSU is defeated in November, it would take a year for the RSU to dismantle, and with fewer students, the superintendent's office could be located in one of the schools. There was a consensus that the building should be occupied and provide income for the town rather than leaving it vacant. **Bob Blagden moved to run an advertisement to try to find a tenant for the previous superintendent's building.** The town manager was authorized to come up with appropriate language for a one-year lease and amount of rent. Tenant will pay utilities and be responsible for snow removal. **Vote 3-0-0.**

The town will be advertising for bids for auditing services, which will be due October 27 at noon.

In response to a question on the sinkhole at the town garage, Arthur Faucher said that according to MMA, it was not covered by insurance and would be put on the list of projects to be done next year.

Phil DiVece asked why the revenue report he had received showed that the user fees to the Wastewater Treatment as of September 29 were zero. DiVece said the water district had made three monthly payments in July, August and September totaling over \$85,000 that should have been reflected in user fees; and he asked the town manager where the revenues were going. He asked for a clearer response than the handwritten note on the form that said user fees went to the general ledger and were credited to the Wastewater Treatment Plant during reconciliation. He

also asked why these funds were not treated the same as other enterprise accounts. Steve Mehrl recommended including this matter in the discussion on accounting at the workshop on October 20.

Pam Dunning moved to adopt the proposed bid policy as amended. Vote 3-0-0.

In response to Bob Blagden's question regarding the contractor list, Arthur Faucher said that department heads had submitted the types of services they would be asking for bids, and a notice would be put in the papers asking for names of local individuals or companies for inclusion on list of contractors being compiled for town bid solicitations.

9. Adjourn

At 8:20 p.m., **Bob Blagden moved to adjourn. Vote 3-0-0.**