

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 3, 2009

(tape recorded meeting)

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

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 27, 2009

Phil DiVece moved to accept the minutes of October 27, 2009. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Board of Selectmen:

Bid Award for Auditing Services: The Town Manager and Treasurer recommended accepting the low bid. **Pam Dunning moved to accept the low bid of \$54,700 from RHR Smith. Vote 5-0-0.**

Removal of Washington Street 4-way Stop signs: A public hearing is not required for this action. **Bob Fairfield moved to remove two stop signs on Washington Street** (at the Union/Pleasant Street intersection). Ethel Stansfield and John Washburn, residents of Washington Street, expressed their opposition to removal of the signs that act to slow down traffic on this shortcut between Federal Street and Route 1. Pam Dunning said she had received a phone call in opposition and Phil DiVece said it would be a mistake to change and would create an unsafe situation.

Don Jones said stop signs were not the solution to speeding, and according to nationally recognized standards, a 4-way stop was not warranted at the intersection. Bill Sutter also spoke in favor of removing the signs. Bob Blagden said the signs should not have been put up in the first place and he favored removing them. **Vote 3-2-0** (DiVece and Dunning opposed).

5. Citizen Comment

Steve Mehrl, having participated in the bid process for auditing services, suggested that bidders be requested to put a summary of their bid on page 1 for easier reference.

Don Jones pointed out that there is an unsafe sidewalk situation on Fort Hill Street near the Masonic Hall and asked whether the road commissioner could adjust the pitch of the sidewalk. The chairman said he would refer the matter to Greg Griffin.

6. Town Manager

Postponement in hiring police officers: The Town Manager reported he had spoken with Lt. John Allen and it was decided to wait a few weeks before hiring a reserve officer or replacing Officer Simmons in order to give the Sheriff's Department time to respond to questions.

Thanksgiving Collections: Sue Varney will be collecting donations to provide Thanksgiving dinners for needy families. She can be contacted at 882-8200 X101.

Maine Homeless Veterans Stand Down: Arthur Faucher announced this would be held on November 7 and asked that he be contacted about available services or needed transportation to the event.

7. Buck Rines, Todd Souza & Peter Arnold: Stimulus Grant Application Projects

Buck Rines (Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager) said a 50% matching grant up to \$50,000 was available for an energy study of the wastewater treatment plant. If the recommendations of the study are implemented, an additional 25% will be paid by stimulus funds. A separate grant would be applied for in order to implement the recommendations of the study. He said the estimated cost of the study is \$4,000 to \$5,000 and the wastewater treatment plant has funds in its budget to cover the match. He pointed out several areas where savings could be realized by making the plant more energy efficient. **Pam Dunning moved that the department head of the Wastewater Treatment Plant proceed with the Efficiency Maine grant. Vote 5-0-0.**

Todd Souza (Parks and Recreation Director) said that he had decided to postpone a grant application until spring and the request would be downsized to include only a solar cover for the pool. Solar panels will also be investigated and it may be possible to reduce the number of panels needed as a result of the solar blanket. He also said that decisions would be made based on the energy audit of all town buildings being proposed for a grant by Peter Arnold of Chewonki Foundation.

Peter Arnold (Chewonki Foundation) outlined grants available. A grant for \$36,000 is available to study currents to determine the amount of power that would be generated. The use of Chewonki's boat and staff would make up the 10% match required for this grant. A power use study grant of \$5,000 would require a 10% match, which would come from the municipal planner's budget. A \$10,000 grant for an energy audit of the town's buildings would require a \$1,000 match, which would come from the engineer/consultant line item.

In response to Clark Jones' question, Peter Arnold said that the DEP controls submerged lands and the state can elect to use Wiscasset as the permit holder for the tidal project without involving adjoining towns.

The energy audit of the wastewater treatment plant does not qualify for and will not duplicate the audit that will be done of the town's buildings. They will be done by two different review boards.

Phil DiVece moved to continue with the funding application process for the tidal project in cooperation with Chewonki Foundation to be funded in accordance with the town manager's recommendation. Vote 5-0-0.

8. Other Business

In response to Phil DiVece's question regarding state funds for the clean up of the fuel building on Route 27, Arthur Faucher said that an application for Brownfields money had been submitted and Justin Holmes will keep the town advised.

Arthur Faucher said that there had been no responses to an ad listing the former superintendent's office for rent. **Phil DiVece moved to list the former superintendent's building with Roy Farmer Associates as a multiple listing commercial rental. Vote 5-0-0.**

Copies of the contract between Wiscasset and the RSU regarding the adult education building and athletic fields will be given to each selectman.

The Boston Post cane, which was intended to be held by the oldest person in town, has not been given out in decades and is now kept in the town office safe. It was suggested that the cane be displayed at the town office, that a certificate be given to the oldest person in town and that he or

she be allowed to carry the cane while being driven in the 4th of July parade during the 250th anniversary celebration in 2010.

Copies of the town's historical documents are available on disk at the Copy Shop and may be displayed for the 250th celebration.

Bob Blagden noted that according to the minutes of the Waterfront Committee, the harbormaster plans to move three moorings that had been dragged into the channel. He said that unless given permission by the owner, the harbormaster should not plan to move the moorings. Blagden also said the taxpayers should not be paying the executive secretary to take minutes of the waterfront committee meetings; a member of the committee should take minutes, as is the case with other committees. The town manager will so advise the Waterfront Committee. He said that the executive secretary is salaried so no overtime was paid.

Phil DiVece asked whether the changes to the application process for moorings and harbor regulation were reflected in the ordinance. Bob Blagden said the committee had not recommended changes to the waterfront policy; it will be taken up during the winter and the committee recommended that the vendors be allowed to stay on the pier for the winter.

Steve Mehrl said there would be no Budget Committee meeting on November 5. He asked that a schedule be established for the budget meetings, that standardized wording be developed for all budget articles and that there be an article for anticipated revenues.

Bob Fairfield reminded the board that a decision should be made on the dedication of the town report.

9. Adjourn

Phil DiVece moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.