

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
November 10, 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 November 3, 2009

**Phil DiVece moved to approve the minutes as amended. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Citizen Comment

Matt Corwin, Chairman of the Waterfront Committee, said that at a special meeting of the committee a motion was passed recommending allowing the vendors to stay on the pier during the winter while the committee reviews the waterfront policy. He cited the difficulty in moving the buildings off the pier and said a couple of the vendors would be happy to pay a fee. A motion by Bill Curtis to allow the vendors to stay on the pier for this winter failed for lack of a second. There are currently three vendors on the pier. The committee will discuss fees for winter rates but recommended that this winter the vendors be allowed to stay without a fee.

Peter Dalton recommended that vendors pay a year's fee in advance before winter, so the town will know who will be staying for the year

Bryan Buck asked why policy review was on the waterfront committee agenda and why the town manager was putting the agenda together without the chairman's okay. Arthur Faucher said that as he had had no word from the chairman, he had set the agenda. Buck said the Waterfront Committee was a citizen advisory committee and one member and the office should not be spoon-feeding the members an agenda. He said it was not a good policy to allow vendors to stay from year to year, as it was not fair to the town or to other vendors.

Matt Corwin said the committee had reviewed the pier policy last spring and was caught off guard by the emergency meeting called to discuss pier policy.

Bob Blagden said that he was unaware the committee had made recommendations last June and he was mistaken in assuming the committee had not addressed the issue. He said the board should discuss the current revised policy, and he asked that it be put on the agenda for board discussion in two weeks.

Pam Dunning said a policy should be in place so that it would not be left to the discretion of one individual to respond to requests. It should be fair and easy to follow. She asked that the item appear on the agenda and the board take a position in two weeks on whether or not to allow the vendors to stay on the pier during the winter. She said she would like to hear from the road crew regarding maintenance of the pier, to which Peter Dalton responded that he was responsible for maintenance. He said the pier was built for vendors and fees from the vendors pay for maintenance.

Two vendors spoke, asking to remain on the pier over the winter, citing the difficulty of moving their buildings and the possibility of not returning if the building had to be removed.

## 5. Jeffrey Hinderliter

Replacement of Planning Board and Ordinance Review Committee members: Hinderliter said Jill Lorum, a member of the two committees had not attended meetings for months and although he had tried to contact her to determine her intentions, he had had no response. He asked the board to begin the process to replace her. **Bob Blagden moved to declare a vacancy on the Planning Board and Ordinance Review Committee and to fill the seats as soon as possible. Vote 5-0-0.** Arthur Faucher will start the process of filling the vacant seats.

Creation of Wiscasset Energy Commission: Hinderliter asked for the board's approval to begin investigating the possibility of forming an energy commission. The commission could explore what energy projects would mean to Wiscasset in terms of tax relief and employment. The commission could also be a contact and resource for developers, develop informational brochures about energy conservation, and apply for grants.

Bill Curtis supported the idea and the possible expansion into a community economic development committee to market what Wiscasset has to offer. He suggested that the town manager, a selectman, a planning board member and others experienced in finance and management be on the committee. He said it was necessary to bring money into the town in order to control the tax rate.

In response to Pam Dunning's question, Hinderliter said the responsibilities of the proposed commission would not duplicate that being done the Planning Board and CEO, as their responsibilities were reactive, not the development of policies.

Steve Mehrl said that members of the proposed commission would need to have engineering and legal experience to look at the projects being brought before the town because once the projects begin, it would be impossible to stop them. He said people with knowledge of the possible projects had written to the newspaper both for and against, and these could be added to the think tank to meet with developers and get answers.

George Green supported the idea of an energy commission. He said Wiscasset had many advantages for energy-related industries and should be able to be prepared to dictate terms to developers. Carla Dickstein, CEI, urged the town to be proactive, to use knowledgeable people in the community, as economic development is being framed by energy.

The board will look into energy commissions in other towns and will put the matter on an agenda at a later date.

## 6. Town Manager

The Ferry Road Development Co., LLC due payment: Board members were given a copy of Town Attorney Dennis Jumper's letter to Ferry Road Development advising that company that if the full amount of its debt is not paid on or before November 30, 2009, foreclosure action will commence. The total amount due is \$306,197.91. Phil DiVece asked that the Treasurer provide the board with a list of unpaid property taxes and the status of the lien process.

Expense and Revenue Summary Reports: Questions on overdrafts were addressed by a memo from Becky Applin. The contractual write-offs of the EMS were explained as those bills that were uncollectible after the agency has attempted collection for six months. To hire a private agency to try further was thought to be not cost effective. Phil DiVece asked for a comparison of this figure with the previous year's contractual overdrafts. It was requested that Roland Abbott, director of EMS, meet with the board to discuss this matter.

Steve Mehrl asked if the item showing receipt of 100% of taxes due was correct. The town manager will review this number with the treasurer.

Mooring Permit Application(s): Copies of the former and current mooring permit applications were reviewed. The latter application includes conditions of the ordinance. Fees have not been changed. Phil DiVece noted that the information on the permit application was not consistent with the amendment to the mooring ordinance approved at the last town meeting that allowed the transfer of a mooring. Bob Blagden asked that the No. 1 on the application be amended to read that transfer of a mooring was not allowed except as allowed by town ordinance.

#### 7. Other Business

Executive sessions of the board were scheduled for November 17 at 6 p.m. on assessing with Sue Varney and at 7 p.m. with Attorney Peter Lowe. Phil DiVece asked that the town attorney be asked to attend the 6 p.m. session.

**Phil DiVece moved to grant a permit to the Huntoon Hill Grange on Huntoon Hill Road for the operation of Beano/Bingo and Games of Chance from January 2010 to December 2010 as requested by Hal A. Thayer. Vote 5-0-0.**

In response to Steve Mehrl's question, the town manager said the town audit had been completed and he was awaiting the school audit. The Town Report is being edited.

Bob Fairfield announced that he would not be present at the November 24 meeting because he would be attending the county budget meeting.

#### 8. Adjourn

At 8:40 p.m., **Phil DiVece moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**