

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS & OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
MARCH 15, 2011

(tape recorded meeting)

Present: Bob Blagden, Vice Chairman Judy Colby, Pam Dunning, Chairman David Nichols, Ed Polewarczyk and Town Manager Laurie Smith

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. Public Hearing - Liquor License application of Judith Casella for Village Lighthouse Lobster Shack

The public hearing was called to order at 7 p.m. Lt. John Allen reported the police had had no problems with the restaurant. Tony Casella said the restaurant had been leased the last two years, but this year they planned to operate the restaurant themselves. The application is for beer and wine. The public hearing was closed at 7:02 p.m.

**David Nichols moved to grant the liquor license to Judith Casella for the Village Lighthouse Lobster Shack. Vote 5-0-0.**

4. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: March 8, 2011 and March 15, 2011

**Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant for March 8 and 15, 2011 as presented. Vote 5-0-0.**

5. Approval of Minutes: March 1, 2011

**Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2011. Vote 5-0-0.**

6. Presentation of Awards

Dale Skillin and James Seigars of the American Legion Bradford Sortwell Post 54 presented a 1941 photo of Wiscasset Boy Scouts and letter of gratitude to Town Manager Laurie Smith in recognition and appreciation of outstanding service and assistance with the advancement of the American Legion programs and activities.

Wiscasset Educational Research Panel report on school funding formula recommendations:

Doug Smith discussed the current cost allocation for the schools in RSU 12, which establishes an unfair distribution of cost. The allocation was based on the actual percentage expenses when the towns entered the RSU. Wiscasset has 24% of the students in the RSU but pays 35% of the costs. He presented RSU statistics and described alternative methods of allocating the cost such as by population, median family income, property valuation, and student count, with the latter alternative being the fairest cost allocation. Under the current system and under any proposal for change, Wiscasset, which has the greatest number of students, the greatest cost per student, the highest property valuation and most member votes on the RSU board can still be outvoted by the two smallest towns in the system that would be most negatively affected by any change in cost allocation.

Smith presented the panel's conclusions and recommendation that the only fair basis for allocating expenses within the RSU was to elimination all safety net caps, and base allocation on

student count or on a combination of state valuation and student count, both options to be phased in over a 5-year period.

Smith said that in addition to the costs anticipated by the method of allocation presently in effect, a study concluding that there is \$5 million in deferred maintenance of Wiscasset schools should have been taken into consideration. He added that, in the third year, costs of the RSU will increase by an estimated \$1.6 million when all teachers' contracts must be equalized, bringing the other schools salaries in line with Wiscasset's. Wiscasset will pay 35% of this amount. The panel's complete report will be available on [www.Wiscassetschools.org](http://www.Wiscassetschools.org).

**David Nichols moved to forward the preferred school funding formula to Gerald Nault, Chairman of the RSU 12 finance committee; Thomas Birmingham, RSU 12 Board Chairman; Kim Andersson, Eugene Stover and Kami Peaselee of the RSU board; Greg Potter, Superintendent; and Stephen Bowen, Commissioner of Education as recommended by the Wiscasset Educational Research Panel.** A letter to the Commissioner will explain that the motion was in response to Kim Andersson's letter asking for input from the selectmen and will point out how the 3% cap will result in Wiscasset subsidizing other towns' taxes. Ed Polewarczyk asked for time to consider the motion before voting. **Vote: 4-0-1** (Polewarczyk opposed.)

7. Committee Appointments: Chris Dilts to the Ordinance Review Committee, re-appoint Rick Lang as Building Inspector, and re-appoint Bruce Engert as Deputy Building Inspector

David Nichols moved to appoint Chris Dilts to the Ordinance Review Committee for the completion of an unexpired term (term expires 6/30/2013). In previous meetings, the board had discussed the procedure for appointing committee members that would include the applicant meeting with two selectmen; however, the policy had not been finalized. Ed Polewarczyk recommended that the board ask Laurie Smith to revise the draft policy for appointing committee members to include inviting applicants, scheduling a private interview of the applicant with a subcommittee and a statement that committee re-appointments were not automatic.

Ed Polewarczyk said he and Karl Olson, Chair of ORC, had met with Chris Dilts and he recommended Dilts for the position. David Nichols withdrew his motion. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to suspend the rules in order to appoint Chris Dilts to the Ordinance Review Committee. Vote 5-0-0. David Nichols moved to appoint Chris Dilts to the Ordinance Review Committee. Vote 5-0-0.**

**David Nichols moved to re-appoint Rick Lang as Building Inspector for the term 3/31/2011 to 3/31/2012.** In response to Steve Jarrett's question about the term commencement date, Laurie Smith explained the building inspector was a staff position and the commencement depended on hiring date. **Vote 5-0-0.** The Town Manager will consult with the Town Clerk regarding a change in the date of the Building Inspector's term.

**David Nichols moved to re-appoint Bruce Engert as Deputy Building Inspector for the term 3/31/2011 and 3/31/2012.** Laurie Smith explained that it was common to have more than one Deputy Building Inspector and it was more cost effective to appoint a deputy who had been trained and was familiar with the new building code. **Vote 5-0-0.**

8. Public Comment

Sean Rafter, LCTV representative, said that over the past four years LCTV had made a major effort to improve the quality of the programming, adding educational material and streaming material on the web. He asked that Wiscasset, as one of the founders, support the improved services being provided. LCTV had submitted a budget and Rafter asked for the support of the selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Steve Mehrl said the Budget Committee had one potential member for the nine positions on the committee to be open on July 1 and asked that the selectmen campaign for new members.

9. Department Head or Committee Chair Report

Lt. John Allen introduced newly hired Police Officer Jason Warlick. Warlick had previously worked as a jail supervisor and said he looked forward to working on the Wiscasset police force.

10. Unfinished Business

Huntoon Hill Lease Agreement: **David Nichols moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the Huntoon Hill Lease Agreement as authorized by the Town on 3/1/2011. Vote 5-0-0.**

11. New Business

A. Discussion regarding committee appointments: - discussed under Item 7

B. Police Union Contract

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen adopt the Police Union Contract as presented for the duration of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. Vote 5-0-0.** The contract was signed.

C. Open Aluminum Ramp Bid for the Recreational Pier

The following bids were received:

Dockmaster	\$6,635
Dresden Al-Works	6,422
Kevin Verney	9,800
West Alna Welding	10,000

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize Peter Dalton, the Harbormaster, to award the aluminum ramp bid to be placed at the Recreational Pier to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

D. Open 2010 Town Report Bids

The following bids were received

Xpress Copy	\$3,012.00
Lincoln County Publishing	3,402.32

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Manager to award the 2010 Town Report bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 5-0-0.**

12. Town Manager's Report

A. Land for Maine's Future

Smith has invited Dick Klein to address the selectmen's questions at the next meeting.

B. Annual Report deadline update 3/31/11

The deadline for committee and department reports is March 31, 2011. Smith will prepare the Town Manager/Selectmen's report.

C. Gift from American Legion - See above

D. General Update

Nomination papers will be available on March 21, 2011 for the June 14 Town Meeting. To be elected are two selectmen, two Water District members, one Road Commissioner, eight Budget Committee members, and one RSU Board member.

Smith has been working with the MDOT on replacing the stormwater lines on Federal Street, which was not a part of the original project. The State will televise the lines and fund \$350,000 toward the Federal Street project. Cost is estimated from \$500,000 to \$700,000 and the project will be an amendment to the Water District project.

13. Other Board Business

A. Sign Property Release Deed

The chairman read the release deed for the R05, Lot 037 on which taxes had been paid. **David Nichols moved to sign the release deed for the Kevin James property. Vote 5-0-0.**

B. Executive Session: Personnel

**David Nichols moved that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) to discuss the Town Manager evaluation. Vote 5-0-0.** The board entered executive session at 8:50 p.m. and exited at 8:55 p.m.

14. Adjournment

**Judy Colby moved to adjourn. Vote 5-0-0.**