

Wiscasset Budget Committee
Town Office
November 16th, 2011

Members present:

Chair, Constance Schumann, Robert Blagden, Bill Barnes, Richard Hanson, Ray Soule, Norman Guidoboni, and Joe Piccirillo. Absent: Cliff Hendricks.

Guests:

George Green and Clark Jones.

R. Soule moved to approve the October 20th Minutes. Seconded by J. Piccirillo. 7-0.

Public Comment:

Voters asked to approve leaving the Acadia Trust retirement system in favor to joining the Maine Employees Retirement Plan with an estimated savings of \$22,000.00.

The Town Manager offered to set up tour dates for the Wiscasset Budget Committee (“WBC”) members. WBC declined. Members opted to visit the Scout hall, Art Center, Supt. Office on Monday, November 21st at 2:30 pm on their own. R. Blagden moved to approve. Seconded by J. Piccirillo. 7-0.

October Financials:

R. Blagden zeroed in on one line item as an example. Conclusion- items are within line as expected. No value on line-by-line expenditures monthly. A clearer picture is to look at the weekly warrant. If Department Heads correctly itemize their expenditures, mistakes are less likely. Chair Schumann believes a monthly overview has its advantages.

Tax payers suggestions:

J. Piccirillo – Is Mason Station a good fit for a casino? Rail, water, roads, and Airport are all in place. Ownership and liens apparently muddy the waters.

Non tax-exempt profits:

Right now our hands are tied. However, as an example, on the recommendation of the State of Maine’s Farmland and Open Space Program, taxes could be assessed as private property.

Statistical data on similar sized towns in Maine:

G. Green and C. Jones have assumed the responsibility of researching neighboring towns’ data. Follow up on FOAA requested items. Chair Schumann presented the Board with job

descriptions for Road Commissioner, Transfer Station, Harbor Master, Town Planner and Administrative Assistant. Her effort was well received with appreciation.

Sewer Arrears, Ambulance, and Rec. Center discussions followed. Board members voiced opinions; just that.

Recommendations to Selectmen and Town Manager will be forth-coming.

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, November 21st at 2:30 pm at the Supt. Office.

Thursday, December 1st at 6:30 pm

Next Meeting December 15th at 6:30 pm.

B. Barnes moved to adjourn. Seconded by R. Soule at 8:40 pm. 7-0.

Respectfully submitted: Norman Guidoboni, Clerk