

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 16, 2012

Preliminary Minutes

Tape-recorded meeting

Present: Judy Colby, Chair Pam Dunning, Vice Chair Ed Polewarczyk, Jeff Slack and
Town Manager Laurie Smith

Absent: Bill Curtis

1. Call to Order

The chair 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 re: Town Application for Rural Development

A. Discussion of Loan/Grant for upgrading Town's sewer system: Laurie Smith said the town had applied for rural development funding for sewer system upgrades. In 2008, \$1.5 million was needed for capital improvement of the sewer system. Since that time stairs and a generator have been added, but there are still more upgrades needed as required by the state DEP. Towns can borrow USDA loans for 30 years. Wiscasset has requested \$1.1 million but does not anticipate hearing from the USDA until April.

Buck Rines, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, said that capital improvement projects to be funded by the loan/grant include a force main on Birch Point Road, replacement of the Federal Street intercept line and two pump stations (on Federal Street and Willow Lane).

In response to Judy Colby's question on the town's share if it were to receive a \$1.1 million grant, Smith said that the highest would be 45% but that was not likely. The interest is determined at the time the grant is offered and is usually low (1 to 3%). A yearly payment could come from increased sewer rates or from capital funding or a combination of those two sources. The public hearing closed at 7:09 p.m.

4. Public Hearing to adopt MMA's new General Assistance Appendices C

The public hearing opened at 7:10 p.m. Smith said that the State of Maine develops minimum and maximum amounts for assistance. The state has increased the maximum in the housing general assistance this year and has asked that Wiscasset adopt the increase in overall housing maximums. The public hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

Ed Polewarczyk moved to adopt MMA's new October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013 General Assistance Appendices C, increasing the maximum assistance for housing. Vote 4-0-0.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: October 9, 2012 and October 16, 2012

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of October 9, 2012. Vote 4-0-0. Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's Warrant of October 16, 2012. Vote 4-0-0.

6. Approval of Minutes: October 2, 2012 and October 4, 2012

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the Minutes of October 2, 2012 as amended. Vote 4-0-0. Judy Colby moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2012. Vote 4-0-0.

7. Special Presentations or Awards

A. Spirit of America Award Foundation Tribute presentation for the "Two Bridges Regional Jail Program Department Volunteers"

Kathy Martin-Savage, who recommended the volunteers for the award, introduced the volunteers present. Pam Dunning gave a brief description of the work the 40 volunteers perform at the jail. On behalf of the town and the selectmen, she presented to the Two Bridges Regional Jail Program Department Volunteers the Spirit of America Award for outstanding community service since 2006.

8. Appointments

A. Appoint Election Wardens: **Judy Colby moved to appoint Susan Blagden as Election Warden and Joan Barnes as Deputy Warden, effective November 6, 2012. Vote 4-0-0**

9. Public Comment

Referring to discussion at the previous meeting on costs associated with accepting the Montsweag Brook dam, Richard Hanson questioned the \$60,000 cost for an access road and asked where the road would be. Smith clarified that the route would have to be determined and the cost was estimated to be up to \$60,000. She added that Town Attorney Dennis Jumper had worked with CMP to establish where the right-of way would be, and based on the shortest distance possible, it would cost up to \$60,000. Hanson said CMP had always accessed the dam from Freedom Song Road and asked why the town would want to access it from the Woolwich side. In response to Smith's comment that access was needed to work on the other side of the dam, Hanson said that when the dam was opened in 1994, one could drive across without any environmental issues. Pam Dunning said she had learned that equipment could be lifted over the dam to get to the other side. Hanson said that it was ridiculous to treat CMP this way after writing a letter of intent to acquire the dam and then to leave them hanging for another vote. He reminded the board that the dam is also used for fire protection for three roads near the dam.

Cliff Hendricks said that the town should accept the property and could get to the Woolwich side by a crane or walkway; not taking it would be a mistake.

Clarke Jones said no one was going to buy property near the Maine Yankee site and asked why the town could not put in a claim for federal money because of having to store nuclear waste. Pam Dunning said federal money cannot be given to municipalities, only to places that are building and maintaining holding receptacles. A meeting to discuss giving money to towns for this purpose scheduled for last spring did not take place.

Bob Blagden said if the reason the board wanted to reconsider acceptance of the dam was the tremendous cost of access, it should consider low cost options given by Dick Hanson and Cliff Hendricks and take the question off the ballot. He said there was nothing that required heavy machinery to maintain and one could drive right to the dam. The cost issue would just confuse people.

Pam Dunning said there was no way to take the question off the ballot at this time because absentee ballots had already gone out. Hanson said this was poor timing and the board should have done research. Pam Dunning explained that she had asked CMP what the \$100,000 was for and was told there was no work needed and there were no maintenance issues, and it wasn't until after the vote that a state inspector listed work to be done such as building up the embankments and removing trees. She thought the voters should have had this information.

10. Department Head or Committee Chair Report - none

11. Unfinished Business - none

12. New Business

A. Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard Renewals

Judy Colby moved to renew Automobile Graveyard and/or Junkyard licenses for Blagden's Garage, Jim's Auto Trim, Pro Body Works, Grover Auto & Tire, and Norm's Used Cars. The chairman said all sites had been visited and recommended for approval by the Code Enforcement Officer. **Vote 4-0-0.**

B. Municipal Valuation Report

Judy Colby moved to sign the Municipal Valuation Return for the 2012 tax year as submitted. Vote 4-0-0.

C. Open Wiscasset Parks and Recreation Pool Blanket Cover Bid

The following bids were received:

Aquatic Technology, Inc.: Proposal 1 - \$35,084.52; Proposal 2 - \$25,631.60
H2O Blankets, LLC: Proposal 1 - \$65,115.44, Proposal 2 - \$64,315.44
Alta Enterprises: Proposal 1 - \$61,352 ; without auto stop on lap pool \$57,312
Proposal 2 - \$46,212 with two reels on lap pool/ \$38,282 with one reel on lap pool;
Automatic reel system on main pool and manual system on the alcove pool - \$57,192
Without auto on lap pool - \$53,552
Semi-automatic on main pool blanket and manual system on alcove pool \$42,552 with two reels
One reel on lap pool \$34,592

Ed Polewarczyk moved to authorize the Town Manager and Parks & Recreation Manager to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Vote 4-0-0.

13. Town Manager's Report

A. NIMS Training 12/11/12 6-8 p.m.: Smith reported that the date previously requested for the training was unavailable. Training will be offered in Nobleboro on October 29 from 4:30 to 6:30 and in Wiscasset on December 11. Judy Colby and Pam Dunning will participate in the December 11 training; Ed Polewarczyk and Jeff Slack will attend the session in Nobleboro.

B. Superintendent's Office: Board members had visited the building; Todd Souza will clean the carpet and the Highway Department will touch up paint and fix the baseboard. It was the consensus that proposals from local realtors be sought for sale of the property; Pam Dunning and Jeff Slack will meet with realtors.

C. Municipal Building Roof: Smith reported that the shingles on the Route 1 side of the municipal building were deteriorating. The shingles have a 25-year warranty and were installed 10 years ago. According to the installer, some of the shingles used did not have adequate durability and a class action lawsuit against the manufacturer of the shingles is in progress. She was given information on filing a claim and if the claim is successful, the cost of shingles to be replaced would be prorated

D. RSU Public Hearing: On Tuesday, November 23, at 6:30 a public hearing will be held in the high school library on the cost sharing formula to be voted on on November 7.

14. Adjournment

At 8 p.m., **Judy Colby moved to adjourn. Vote 4-0-0.**