

10 January 2013

Meeting called to order at 1702

All present with Geoff Hole and Ray Poulin also in attendance

Motion to accept minutes from 3rd of January by Slack, second Merry, passed 4-0

Poulin handed out and explained a financial sheet, tuition sheet, Wiscasset Budget Analysis, Fiscal Year 2012(FY '12) sheet, estimate concerns

Hole – RSU not meeting with their lawyer until January 17th, question of meeting on the 21st, Hole's partner David Ray will attend the meeting on the 21st at 1800 in his place

Motion to break at 1750 until 1800 by Downing, second Merry, passed 4-0

1810 Public Information Meeting started

Poulin gave summary of the financial sheet

Dominik Lobkowics – to make sure he understood the numbers on the sheet, how would \$1.4 million be reconciled?

- Poulin – expenditures can be reduced, more money from the community, possibility of increased revenue but that is unlikely

Judy Flanagan – Explain Expenditures

- Poulin – used previous school system minus federal money, school budget for FY '12 for Wiscasset, budget is approximately the same as FY '09
- Flanagan – concerned with decrease enrollment and decrease staff why cost is similar
- Poulin – cost increased (i.e.- fuel), difficult to predict

Dennis Dunbar – Asking if cost difference of RSU and cost to be out is \$1.4 million

- Poulin – not a hard number, maybe things to help

- Dunbar – assumes status quo, no consolidating of schools
- Poulin – same as in 2009 when Wiscasset joined the RSU, there may be things once municipal, the numbers are for the moment

Doug Smith – Bangor Daily News headline said RSU 12 deceitful, when do you go to the state and ask for a mediator?

- Hole – state is not involved so we would need to go to court
- Smith – had a different conversation with Department of Education, when do we go further?
- Hole – a lot on the meeting of the 21st, RSU has delayed and if it goes well on the 21st, commissioner will be moving quickly to meet statute
- Smith – low graduation rate, lowest in the state, Cape Elizabeth taxes, Trenton, NJ education, same size school as in 1990 but 40% of the students, No truth from the RSU, Time's up with the RSU, we should file litigation

Sharon Nichols – Figures of transportation, are they from RSU?

- Poulin – from FY '11, share of Wiscasset's
- Nichols – concerned special education and other transportation maybe hidden, numbers maybe different
- Poulin – from FY '09 transportation was \$402,000
- Nichols – decrease in population should decrease the cost
- Poulin – Increase in fuel may make up the difference
- Flanagan – there has to be a reduction in runs

Flanagan – In response to dropout rate, the state has a universal formula now, now we can compare numbers, there is other factors affecting Wiscasset

- Board has a lot of people who want what is best for kids and should not blanket with comments about the whole
- Slack – he had referred to treatment of us by the ad hoc committee
- Smith – he was referring to the administration
- Myers – In the beginning had contacts and duties, but delay in response should be handled by more than one person throwing it into a to do pile

- Hole – If RSU attorney had been called in July we would be done. Mary put a lot of information together. Will know better on the 21st. Any litigation would be from town not from the committee

Dunbar – In your findings will you be giving to the town recommendations of things to help?

- Poulin – School board will make decisions but he can give recommendations and information if it is wanted

Clarky Jones – The State should be responsible for the cost of this

Myers – What if subsidy gets dropped?

- Poulin – State would cut by formula
- Myers – that would increase local contributions
- Poulin – it is unknown what next year will look like, used FY '13 but no idea what FY '14 will look like

Extension

- Deadline is January 17th
- Myers presented two proposed extension requests
- Hole – if things go well on the 21st then 90 days should be sufficient
- Merry – thought 90 days was the limit
- Downing – looking at a June vote so should we ask for longer
- Hole – should not ask for longer
- Myers – it could encourage RSU to take longer
- Mary read proposed extension request
- Motion to accept by Merry, second Downing, Passed 4-0

Update on Ad hoc committee

- Meeting with them on the 21st at 1800
- Hopefully getting a copy of their version of an agreement

Timeline

- Proposed February 14th submission is if the meeting on the 21st goes well
- Lobkowics – If it doesn't go well will you look for an injunction?
- Hole – Up to the town to decide
- Motion to accept the timeline by Slack, second Merry, passed 4-0

Next meeting will be January 24th at 1800

Slack – Is the 21st a closed meeting?

- Hole – it should be started as a public meeting but may need executive sessions

Lobkowics – Did you say the pupil count is down but stabilizing?

- Poulin – Yes

Hole – Glad to see Ray Poulin part of this

Motion to adjourn by Slack, second Merry, passed 4-0 at 1913