

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
JANUARY 22, 2013

Tape recorded meeting

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

1. 6 p.m. Call to order

2. Goal Setting Workshop

3. 7 p.m. Resume meeting

4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

5. Approval of Treasurer's Warrant: January 15, 2013 and January 22, 2013

Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's warrant of January 15, 2013. Vote 5-0-0. Judy Colby moved to approve the Treasurer's warrant of January 22, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

6. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2013

Ed Polewarczyk moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2013. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Executive Session for Personnel

Judy Colby moved that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) to discuss personnel. Vote 5-0-0. The board entered executive session at 7:07 p.m. **Ed Polewarczyk moved to exit executive session at 7:18 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.**

8. Special Presentations or awards

A. Investment Committee Presentation with Daniel Lay from H. M. Payson: Steve Mehrl, Chair of the Investment Committee, introduced committee members Town Manager Laurie Smith, Town Treasurer Shari Fredette, Judy Colby and Frank Barnako and from H. M. Payson, Dan Lay and Peter Robbins. In achievement of the goals, Mehrl said the committee had reduced the cash position from 15% to 1%, reduced the duration of bonds, and increased equity position from 34% to 60%; the maximum return while using funds from capital investment was \$2 million in gains with withdrawals of \$866,000 to offset Town expenses. Market value of the endowment and reserve funds as of December 31, 2012 was \$13,117,559. Mehrl presented slides showing details of the report. Ed Polewarczyk thanked H. M. Payson for help in creating the investment policy, and the committee for its efforts.

B. Firefighter Training Recognition Awards with Chief Rob Bickford: Pam Dunning presented the awards to Wiscasset volunteer firefighters who had completed the 240-hour Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 courses over the past year. Those receiving the award were: Spencer Bailey, Nick Grover, Cody Haggett, Nick Merry, Bob Meisine, James Pray, Sam Schmal, Stephen Smith and Tim Weatherbee.

10. Public Comment

In response to a question by Dominik Lobkowicz, Lincoln County News, Pam Dunning said the town in 2014 would lose \$419,636 in revenue sharing and \$435,228 in 2015. Lobkowicz said the Department of Energy recently released a strategic plan for dealing with spent nuclear fuel across the country. One item in the plan was to develop a pilot interim storage facility, a small trouble-shooting program which could develop into a larger site or be a pilot program for a separate site. Lobkowicz asked, in light of the loss of state funds, whether Wiscasset would be interested in pursuing being the pilot location. Ed Polewarczyk, who he had not finished reading the proposal, questioned whether the voters would approve it. Pam Dunning said it would be up to the Board of Selectmen to offer that to the town if it deemed it appropriate and the townspeople would have to put it in place by vote. She added that the fully functional Maine Yankee paid \$12 million a year, but turning the site into a waste facility, would not equal previous taxes. Lobkowicz mentioned the federal money for jobs and construction, but Dunning said that would be a short term benefit.

Steve Mehrl asked whether the reductions mentioned included school funds and was informed that while it did not include the school funds, cuts would be made in Maine revenue sharing, BETE reimbursement, homestead exemption, excise tax, General Assistance and the rent refund program.

Peter Rines thanked the board for recognizing the firefighters and congratulated the board on the investment program. He asked whether there were plans for a new generator. Dunning said funds for a generator would come from capital improvement package which is 3.5% of the interest from the reserve accounts. Rines emphasized the need for a new generator because without it, if the power fails in a storm, the doors will not open, and phones will not work.

11. Department Head or Committee Chair Report – none

12. Unfinished Business

A. Committee Review Report

1. Information regarding Cemetery funds: Smith said information from town and library files included a 1909 Certificate of Organization of the Cemetery Association, which maintained the cemeteries for many years. In 1955 the Cemetery Association and the Town petitioned the State of Maine for the town to take over the corporation of the Wiscasset Cemetery Association and the Superior Court granted the petition. The town voted to take over the assets of the Wiscasset Cemetery Association in 1956. Since that time the town has taken over the Jackson Cemetery. The town has recently asked the Superior Court for the actual petition and list of assets that should have been with the petition. David Sutter, former Cemetery Committee member, has been asked to look in his files for trust documents. Larry Gordon, former selectman, was unaware of any trust documents, but said they took care of the cemetery funds and were aware of the state statutes. He added that \$20,000 had been put in the cemetery fund for several years. Copies of the State Statute were given to the selectmen. Smith said she did not find any documents relating to the comments made by Mr. Sutter at the previous meeting.

Judy Colby said she could find no reference to a cemetery committee in the documents provided and wondered if an ad hoc committee would suffice to carry out the tasks in Smith's memo such as mapping and reviewing policies.

Pam Dunning pointed out that the documents covered not only the cemeteries owned by the town but any situated in the town. Any cemetery in town can benefit from the funds.

Ed Polewarczyk recommended proceeding with an ad hoc committee whose duties would include creating a map of each cemetery indicating the deceased or owner, determining if lots have deeds with town responsibilities, a type of plan or timeline and quarterly reports to the selectmen. Candidates would have to have mapping or computer skills. Bill Curtis said the Legion has a listing of veterans buried in Wiscasset and suggested the committee contact Neal Page. Pam Dunning said she has information that Jane Tucker compiled on the cemeteries.

After discussion, **Judy Colby moved to institute an ad hoc cemetery committee and advertise for five members. Vote 5-0-0.**

11 New Business

A. Feedback on Selectmen's Goals: This item had been put on the agenda at Mr. Phinney's request; however, Mr. Phinney was not present. Ed Polewarczyk said he would take the list of goals to the Senior Center to get some feedback. Smith asked for other possible locations for feedback on the goals. Jeff Slack suggested putting the goals on the website with space for comments.

B. Wiscasset Airport:

1. Office Lease Agreement: Bill Curtis asked, in reference to No. 4 Rent on the proposed lease between the Town of Wiscasset and Peregrine Turbine Technologies, LLC, for offices at the Wiscasset Airport Terminal Building, whether the rent included electricity for the beacon, runway, windsock, etc. and for the FAA equipment. Ed Polewarczyk said that the tenant would pay any amount that exceeds 1000 kWh, the estimated power for the beacon, runway, FAA, etc. Smith said the tenant has large computers and that was the reason for the wording that any amount that exceeds 1000 kWh per month will be paid by the tenant. Curtis suggested that the wording in No. 6 Maintenance by Tenant be changed to "The tenant shall maintain landlord's facilities and applicable equipment in a condition equal to or better than when he took over." In response to Curtis' question on insurance, Smith said normally the town asks for \$1 million. Curtis also said he did not think it necessary to require that the tenant carry workers' compensation insurance, as it was required by law. Ed Polewarczyk, who works for Peregrine at the airport, will abstain from any votes on the airport lease. He recommended approving the lease. **Bill Curtis moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign a one-year lease agreement between the Town and Peregrine Turbine Technologies, LLC. Vote 4-0-1.**

2. Hangar Land Lease Transfer: The owner of a hangar at the airport who leased the land from the town has sold his hangar, and Airport Manager Erv Deck recommended approving the land lease transfer to the new owner with the same terms and conditions as the original lease. **Judy Colby moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the lease transfer agreement. Vote 5-0-0.**

14. Town Manager's Report

A. Town Report dedication: In response to Smith's question regarding the selection of the person to whom the Annual Report would be dedicated, Pam Dunning and Jeff Slack volunteered to be on the subcommittee soliciting names of possible honorees.

B. RSU Withdrawal Committee time schedule: The preliminary schedule was given to the board, and committee member Jeff Slack said they are hoping for a vote on June 11. Ed Polewarczyk said his concern was how the people of Wiscasset felt at this point. There have been two estimates of cost, both of which would result in a 15% to 20% tax increase. Neither estimate included the effects of the new funding formula. In view of this information, Ed Polewarczyk wondered if the voters had changed their minds, as the vote was for a study to investigate the costs, although the article started the withdrawal process. He said the only way to determine the real cost was to come to an agreement, have the Commissioner approve it, vote to withdraw, elect the school board, and create the first budget. Dunning said once started, the process had to continue.

C. General Update: Smith said she had met with Town Clerk Christine Wolfe regarding the open positions on the Board of Appeal. There are two alternates and Smith asked the board whether these people should be moved up to regular membership. Judy Colby suggested that the clerk call the alternates to determine if they wish to become regular members on the board at which time the board could vote on their membership.

15. Other Business – none

16. Adjournment

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