

**Wiscasset Budget Committee
Meeting Room
March 3, 2014**

Chairman Blagden called WBC to order at 18:00.

Members Present: Richard Hanson, Todd Travis, John Merry, Bill Barnes, Norman Guidoboni, Neil Page, Ray Soule, Cliff Hendricks.

Guests: Wayne Dorr, School Superintendent; Steve Smith, Vice-Chairman; Tim Merry, Selectman.

Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 17th. Ray Soule moved to accept as written, Seconded by Bill Barnes 9-0.

Chairman Blagden introduced School Superintendent Dorr and Vice Chairman Smith to the table. Superintendent Dorr took the floor by cautioning the Board that the figure of \$10,072,327.04 is far from realistic. Federal, State, and Grant monies are not factored in.

Anticipated cuts of \$300,000 plus are on the block.

Labor is by far the largest budget line.

Possibly two or more retirements are in the future.

Example of waste: \$58,000 for a deaf child. No child in system.

Business Manager Office is \$130,000 to \$140,000. Could be funded another way?

Can joining an AOS save money?

Centralized Superintendent and office staff a possibility? \$6,700 (Elementary) \$8,200 (Secondary) reimbursement set by the State.

Wiscasset appropriates \$14,732, subsidizing other towns. Can or will Wiscasset continue this trend to entice students from neighboring communities to come?

Asides:

- High School 17 teachers full time
- High School 8? teachers part time
- 37% of all school staff top three steps \$57-\$61k
- Benefits \$9k
- Part time prorated
- New hires \$31k
- Principals (3), Special Services, Maintenance, and Transportation must manage their respective departments responsibly. No overruns. Any monies left should be saved. Not encouraged to spend with the thought that if you don't use your budget up, you won't get as much next year. Vice-Chairman Smith said "Closing a school is not going to happen this year." WBC suggests cooperation between boards, i.e. WBC, Selectboard, and School Board.

Chairman Blagden warmly thanked Superintendent Dorr and Vice-Chairman Smith for supporting dialogue with the Budget Committee.

Next meeting 3rd Thursday, March 20th at 6 p.m. in the Firehouse.
John Merry moved to adjourn, seconded by Richard Hanson. 19:47, 9-0.

Respectfully,
N. Guidoboni, Clerk