

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
March 23, 2017

Present:

Selectmen: Chairman Judy Colby, Vice Chairman David Cherry, Jefferson Slack, Ben Rines, Jr., Larry Gordon

Town Manager: Marian Anderson

1. Call to Order

At 5:01 Chairman Judy called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Budget Discussion

A. Administration

Motion made by David Cherry, seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of **\$193,564** on the Town Warrant for the Administration budget. Motion passed, **5-0**.

B. Airport

Selectmen Ben Rines suggested because the current Airport currently has approximately \$100,000 left in this year budget that next year's budget could be cut by \$25,000

Motion made by Judy Colby, second by David to place the amount of **\$254,697** on the Town Warrant for the Airport budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

C. Animal Control

Motion made by David Cherry, seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of **\$11,487** on the Town Warrant for the Animal Control budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

D. Assessing

Motion by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$6,097** on the Town Warrant for the Assessing budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

E. Boards and Committees

Motion made by David Cherry, seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of **\$1,361** on the Town Warrant for the Boards and Committees budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

F. Capital Improvement

No action taken. Capital Improvement will be discussed on March 28 at 5 p.m.

G. Celebrations

Selectman Jeff Slack asked Duane Goud how many people attended the fireworks during Winterfest. Goud said 100 to 150. Jeff suggested eliminating the Winterfest at a cost of \$2,500.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$12,000** on the Town Warrant for the Celebrations budget. **Motion passed, 4-1 (Judy Colby opposed)**

H. Cemeteries

Motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of **\$58,663** on the Town Warrant for the Cemeteries budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

I. Clerk

Motion was made by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$83,902** on the Town Warrant for the Clerk budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

J. Code Enforcement

Motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$50,485** on the Town Warrant for the Code Enforcement budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

K. Community Organizations

Larry Gordon made a motion, seconded by Ben Rines to remove the LifeFlight request of \$933. Motion passed, 5-0.

Jeff Slack made a motion, seconded by Ben Rines to reduce the request of Mid Coast Community action from \$1,350 to \$1,000. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

Judy Colby made a motion, seconded by Ben Rines to place a total amount of **\$70,300** on the Town Warrant for the Community Organizations budget, with each request being listed separately on the warrant. **Motion passed, 4-0-1 (David Cherry abstained).**

It was the consensus of the Board that if a Community Organization fails on the warrant, it should not be considered the following year.

L. Contingency

Jeff Slack suggested the Contingency budget be reduced from \$35,000 to \$20,000 and if the Town needed additional funds to cover emergencies a special Town Meeting could be held.

Motion made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$20,000** on the Town Warrant for the Contingency budget. **Motion passed 3-2**

M. Contractual

With possible lower cost for the Auditing Services than earlier projected the board agreed to reduce the amount of the contractual services budget.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of **\$116,000** on the Town Warrant for the Contractual budget. **Motion passed, 4-1 (Larry Gordon opposed)**

N. Elections

David cherry made a motion, seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of **\$21,226** on the Town Warrant for the Elections budget. Motion passed, 5-0

O. EMA/EMS

David Cherry made a motion, seconded by Ben Rines to make a 5% deduction in the EMS Budget, bringing it down to \$527,659. **Motion failed, 2-3.**

After the failed motion the Board discussed a number \$544,250 which represented a decrease of \$11,181 from the original budget was discussed.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of **\$544,250** on the Town Warrant for the EMA/EMS budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

P. Finance

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$226,198** on the Town Warrant for the Finance budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

Q. Fire Department

Budget Committee Chairman Bob Blagden commented the proposed raise for the Fire Chief represents more than 20% and was asking for justification of the increase.

Selectman Larry Gordon said the fire department has not had raises for quite some time.

The Board then discussed the chief's and other officers' pay and agreed to decrease Line 10-04 by \$2,620. This reduction allows for increases ½ of requested amount. The new pay for offices will be: chief, \$11,500; deputy chief, \$1,750; two assistant chiefs, \$1,350/each; two captains, \$900/each; two safety officers, \$900 each; two lieutenants, \$650/each and training/education officer, \$240.

A motion was made by David Cherry, seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of **\$137,616** on the Town Warrant for the Fire Department budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

R. General Assistance

A Motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$25,076** on the Town Warrant for the General Assistance budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

S. Municipal Building

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$61, 452** on the Town Warrant for the Municipal Building budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to also place on the Town Warrant in separate articles the following: Repairs to the Powder House, \$200; Repairs to the Maine Art Gallery/Red Brick School House, \$2,000; Repairs to the Town Clock, \$4,000; and Repairs to Scout Hall, \$500. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

T. Municipal Insurance

A Motion was made by David Cherry, seconded by Jeff Slack to place the amount of **\$42,381** on the Town Warrant for the Municipal Insurance Budget. Note: This total includes unemployment insurance. Motion passed, 5-0.

Note: The Retiree Health Insurance total will be adjusted to reflect one former employee reaching the age of 65. This money comes from the Health Insurance Reserve Account.

A motion was made David Cherry, seconded by Judy Colby to place an amount not to exceed \$41,519 on the Town Warrant for Retiree Health Insurance which is to be appropriated from the Health Insurance Reserve Account. *Note: The amount is to be adjusted with the elimination of one employee in Oct. 2017.*

U. Parks and Recreation

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$648,222** on the Town Warrant for the Parks and Recreation budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

Note: Also on the warrant will be an article for the appropriation \$175, 307 to fund the Parks & Recreation Special Revolving budget with funds to be taken from the Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Account

V. Planning

Budget Committee Chairman told the Board of Selectmen the Town Planner was “a colossal waste of money.” He said the Town didn’t need a planner and at one time the Town voted out the position. Bob also said the planner was wasting the town’s money by creating unnecessary work to keep busy. He said it wasn’t a planner’s job to try to market the airport property for tenants.

Judy Flanagan told the Board the planner has done lots of good things including bringing about \$100,000 in grant money to the town. She said if the Town wanted to attract more businesses it needed to keep the planner position.

A motion was made by David Cherry, seconded by Judy Colby to place the amount of \$66,764 on the Town Warrant for the Planning budget. **Motion failed 2-3.**

Selectman Larry Gordon agreed with Blagden commenting the Town didn’t need a full-time planner and suggested setting aside \$20,000 to seek help if the Town needed it on a project. Selectmen Jeff Slack suggested cutting planners hours to 30 hours per week.

Town Manager Marian Anderson addressed comments made by Blagden, telling the Board the planner was approached by the Airport Committee to help them find a tenant for the Airport. She said he is willing to accept any task which would help the Town. She said he also oversees many town committees which, by ordinance, require a planner.

Slack suggested putting a question on the ballot asking voters if they supported the planner position and the Board agreed.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$66,764** on the Town Warrant for the Planning Budget. **Motion passed, 3-2 (Gordon and Rines opposed).**

W. Police

Selectman Larry Gordon questioned the need for a School Resource Officer. Judy Colby said she supported the SRO because the kids in school need the support the officer offers.

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of **\$446,992** on the Town Warrant for the Police budget. **Motion passed, 3-2 (Slack and Gordon opposed)**

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to have a separate Warrant Article for the School Resource Officer. **Motion passed, 4-1.**

Note: The cost associated for the School Resource Office will be deducted from the \$446,992 and listed as a separate article (Cost of SRO for 35 weeks a year=\$40,954).

X. Public Utilities

Town Manager Marian Anderson told the Board she has made a request to Central Maine Power to conduct a street light inventory to be better able to analyze the Town's needs. She also reminded the Board the cost of fire protection has been estimated, as the rate is expected to increase, but no final determination has been made.

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$220,800** on the Town Warrant for the Public Utilities budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

Y. Public Works

Selectmen Rines expressed opposition to the 7.9% raise for the Public Works Director, saying it was unfair to other employees and Department Heads who are receiving 2%. Budget Committee Chairman Bob Blagden expressed concern of the potential discourse between other departments.

EMS Director Toby Martin said Department Head wages should be analyzed with other Towns to see where Wiscasset falls. He said bringing up the wages should be gradual and not overnight. He said when he was hired he asked for \$69,000 and agreed to \$61,000.

The Board agreed to a 2% raise for the Public Works Director.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Judy Colby to place an amount not to exceed **666,421** on the Town Warrant for the Public Works budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

Note: The \$666,421 will be further reduced by Medicare, FICA, Retirement (total after all adjustments \$665,997).

Z. Selectmen

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$27,247** on the Town Warrant for the Selectmen budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

AA. Senior Center

A motion was made by Judy Colby, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$11,482** on the Town Warrant for the Senior Center budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

BB. Shellfish

The Board agreed to reduce the Shellfish Budget by \$2,000 and raise the licensing fees. Board members expressed that this budget should eventually be eliminated or self-sufficient.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place the amount of **\$8,605** on the Town Warrant for the Shellfish budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

CC. Transfer Station

Budget Committee Chairman Bob Blagden told the Board he felt the Transfer Station is over staffed and it could be saving overtime cost by limiting the number of employees taking the same days off.

The Board agreed to hold the Transfer Station budget to last year's budgeted amount.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by Ben to place the amount of **\$555, 873** on the Town Warrant for the Transfer Station budget. **Motion passed, 5-0.**

DD. Wastewater Treatment

The Board agreed to hold off the hiring another full-time employee for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, until after the operations audit.

A motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry to place an amount not to exceed \$478, 830 on the Town Warrant for the Wastewater Treatment budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

Note: The \$478, 830 will be further reduce after calculations of FICA, Medicare, retirement, health and dental insurance (total after all adjustments, \$451,831).

EE. Waterfront and Harbors

A motion was made by David Cherry, seconded by Ben Rines to place the amount of \$39,555 on the Town Warrant for the Waterfront and Harbors budget. **Motion passed, 5-0**

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by David Cherry, seconded by Judy Colby to enter into executive session pursuant to **1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed, 5-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m. No action taken.

4. Adjournment

At 8:36 p.m. a motion was made by Jeff Slack, seconded by David Cherry, to adjourn. Motion passed, 5-0.