

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR  
Capital Improvement Plan Discussion March 13, 2017

**Present:**

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

**Town Manager:** Marian Anderson

**Department Heads:** Todd Souza, William Rines, Doug Fowler, Jeff Lange, Toby Martin, TJ Merry, Ben Averill, Frank Costa

Chairman Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Following the Pledge of Allegiance Chairman Judy Colby announced the Budget Workshop planned for Tuesday, March 14 would be postponed until Thursday, March 16 due to the impending storm.

2. Investment Review

Daniel M. Lay, Esq., H.M. Payson Managing Director reviewed the town's account activity and explained potential income loss if they decided to take a withdrawal from the Capital Reserve Account.

He said the town had \$1.8 million in available to withdraw. He advised, however, if the town chose to withdraw the \$1.8 million it should be not taking any more from the investments for four years.

He also advised the board if it was considering taking a bond for the Capital Improvement projects it should do so sooner or later, as interest rates are on the rise.

3. Capital Improvement Plan discussion

After Mr. Lay's presentation the Board discussed its options for financing the proposed Capital Improvement Plan which total \$3,333,650 for FY 18; \$835,000 for FY 19; \$838,000 for FY 20 and \$469,000 for FY 21. Options discussed were taking \$1.8 million from the Capital reserve account; taking out a bond to fund the CIP then using the annual withdrawal from the Capital Reserve to make the bond payment; and to just prioritize the most urgent needs and fund within the existing Investment Policy limits.

Acknowledging the large dollar amount of Capital Improvement projects requested, the board consensus was to ask the department heads to choose 3 capital improvement priorities to see what the total amount would be to better determine how to fund the CIP.

- a. **Administration**-Town Manager Marian Anderson expressed the electrical upgrades at the Municipal Building was a top priority. She said there are several issues that need to be resolved to become compliant with the Bureau of Labor Standards. The situation with the outdated electrical has become a safety issue. The estimated cost of the project is \$40,000. The other two administration priorities discussed were computer/technology upgrades (\$14,000) and a town-wide upgrade of the telephone system (\$100,000).
- b. **Airport**- Airport Manager Frank Costa said the airport's priorities were a truck (\$24,000); installation of a security fence (\$12,165); and the purchase of a "man lift" (\$12,000).
- c. **Transfer Station**- The Transfer Station has requested the installation of a generator transfer switch (\$12,500) and the replacement of the tar ramps in front of the outside bins with cement (\$17,000).
- d. **Planning**-Town Planner Ben Averill said if the Board wanted to accept any of the three EPA Brownfields Clean-up Grants there is a required 15% match which totals \$40,000 each.
- e. **Fire**- Fire Chief T.J. Merry told the board the replacement of the ladder truck and heavy rescue truck could be pushed out a couple of years but he wanted to put it on the radar. He stated his priorities to be purchase of the Plymo vent exhaust system (\$35,000); radio upgrade (\$15,650); and the purchase of 20 portable radios (\$30,000).
- f. **Wastewater Treatment Plant**- Supervisor William Rines stated his priorities as the replacement of bubbler stones in two aeration basins (\$9,000); installation of standby power at the plant, (\$20,000); and the replacement of #2 aeration blower. Town Manager Marian Anderson suggested also the consideration of the installation of a new portable pump (\$25,000)
- g. **Parks and Recreation**-Director Todd Souza said the priorities for the Wiscasset Community Center included the replacement of carpet (\$12,000); replacement of lockers (\$40,000); and fitness class equipment (\$12,000).
- h. **Public Works**- Public Works Director Doug Fowler said road paving and construction (\$375,000) was his number one priority. He said Gibbs Road and Old Bath Road are in need of major repairs. Doug said the replacement of the 1995 and 1996 dump/plow trucks (\$160,000/each) is his other priorities. He said it is getting very difficult to find replacement parts.
- i. **EMS**- EMS Director Toby Martin had to leave to cover and ambulance call so did not present his 3 priorities at this meeting. According to the handout prepared by the Town Manager his FY 2018 CIP requests include a new ambulance (\$200,000); PPE Extrication (\$40,000); Plymo-vent (\$16,000); and Technology/computers (\$6,000)
- j. **Police**-Police Chief Jeffrey Lange said with four year he would need to have two police cruisers (\$30,000 to \$35,000 each). His immediate priorities include computer upgrades (\$8,000) and portable/mobile communications upgrade (\$10,000)

The consensus of the board was to take some time to think about the best way to finance the needs of the town with the least impact taxes. Town Manager Marian Anderson said if the school's energy project was approved it may be beneficial to combine that financing with the town's capital in order to get a lower interest rate on a bond.

The board agreed to get through the operational budgets and come back to the CIP once those budgets are finalized.

4. Adjournment

At 7:04 p.m. Jeff Slack made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Judy Colby and passed with a 5-0 vote.