

WISCASSET SELECT BOARD,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
Budget Workshop March 20, 2017

Present:

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

Town Manager: Marian Anderson

Department Heads: Jeff Lange, Toby Martin, Doug Fowler, Shari Fredette

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Budget Workshop

General Assistance: About the same as last year, no discussion

Municipal Building: Line 50-05 "Equipment" increased from \$1,500 to \$3,500. Board members asked for an explanation on the increase. Public Works Director Doug Fowler said this line represents the cost of cleaning and maintenance supplies for the Municipal Building complex. He said it was raised this year because the expenses have typically gone over the budget amount.

It was also suggested the explanation on the budget document be changed from "equipment" to "supplies."

It was also agreed the budgeted cost of repairs to the Town Clock, Scout Hall, Red Brick School House (Maine Art Gallery) and the Powder House would be separate warrant articles.

The Board also asked for clarity as to how the Municipal Building maintenance employee wages were budgeted to make sure these wages were not also budgeted with other departments. Doug said the wages were properly distributed between Municipal Building, Cemetery and Public works.

It was suggested the explanation for line 10-03 be re-worded to "Wages for maintenance worker at Municipal Building."

Municipal Insurance, Retiree Health Insurance, Unemployment: Selectman Ben Rines asked how long the town paid for the retiree health insurance. Town Manager Marian Anderson said until the retiree is eligible for Medicare.

Public Utilities: Town Manager told the Board the Wiscasset Water District has indicated there would be an increase in fire protection b only an estimate.

Public Works: Board members had questions about a proposed 7.9% raise for the Public Works director when most department heads were only getting 2%. Town Manager Marian Anderson told the Board she approved the raise because the PW Director is not paid for any overtime and is responsible for all town facilities and he was deserving of the raise.

Selectmen Ben Rines stated the raise was totally out of line. He said the Director agreed to a certain salary when he was hired and has not complained about his wages prior to this year. Rines expressed concern that other department heads will want big raises next year.

Selectman David Cherry pointed out that even with the pay increase request the Public Works operational budget was down and he expressed support of the raise.

Selectmen: No change, no discussion.

Senior Center: Decrease budget, no discussion.

Shellfish: It was suggested to look into raising shellfish licensing fees to help offset the budget.

Waterfront: Slight decrease, no discussion.

Anderson reminded the board a decision needed to be made as to whether or not the Town should replace the Harbormaster boat that was sold last year.

EMS: EMS Director Toby Martin said his increased budget represents adding a third person to each shift. He said his projected revenue of \$315,000 is a conservative number and the potential is there for more. Toby said he needs a full year to accurately assess his revenue.

Selectman Rines expressed concern the EMS increased budget is not being offset by revenue.

Selectman Larry Gordon said the Ambulance has grown considerably but other town's should be still paying the same amount and should be contributing more towards the cost of maintaining 24/7 coverage.

Martin said he had approached the Board to raise the other town's appropriation, but the Board voted to keep it same. He said concern was expressed other towns could go with a different service and the Town of Wiscasset could lose up to \$72,000 in revenue.

Martin said he doesn't like the flat rate formula the town is currently using. The town should be moving more towards a per capita formula, he said.

Martin suggested to the Board if cuts were to be made to the budgets that the Department Heads should determine where to make the cuts.

The board will meet Thursday, March 23 at 5 p.m. for budget discussions.

3. Adjournment

At 7: 05 p.m. David Cherry made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jeff Slack and passed with a 4-0 vote (Selectman Larry Gordon didn't vote).