

**Wiscasset Police Department**

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Jeffrey E. Lange Alfred Simmons

Chief of Police Sergeant

WISCASSET PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

JULY 25, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 530pm by Chief Lange.

**POLICE UPDATE:** Chief Jeff Lange

Advised council that he tried to get Diane’s administrative assistant position full time but it was not approved and Diane has since given her resignation and will now be the HR Manager at Hodgdon Yachts in East Boothbay. Currently Diane is training one of the reserve officers and if he is hired to fill the vacancy Diane will continue to train him, especially with the all the DOL, MMA and other training/inspection requirements.

**EMS UPDATE:** Chief Toby Martin

Discussed tours of the public safety buildings after tonight’s meeting.

Personnel: EMS is still hiring for paramedics and it’s becoming increasingly harder and harder to get qualified / certified personnel.

Fleet update: EMS will proceed forward to replace the 2013 ambulance with a used a truck at about $100,000 which is half the cost of a new one. EMS is trying to convince the Select Board to move ahead with this purchase this year and save some money next year in hope of having the other ambulance remounted on a used chasse for 2019 and hopefully buy us a few more years.

Services: We have been contracted out with Dresden to provide them with EMS service and the contract is in the mail. There was a problem with mutual aid and charges from other mutual aid agencies. One thing we are working on with Boothbay who is our mutual aid agency is if we have both our trucks tied up one of their trucks will come to the Edgecomb town line and standby in the event there is a call in Boothbay, Edgecomb or Wiscasset they are at the half way point instead of having to travel from Boothbay to Wiscasset when a call comes in and we in turn will do the same for them. When they have their trucks tied up we will go to Edgecomb because we are their mutual aid agency.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief TJ Merry

Fleet update: Three trucks that will require service in the month. Breaks were just completed on the 1996 truck, but it still need maintenance. I’m taking a 2008 to Scarborough to have the rack and pinion (steering mechanism) repaired which will put it out of service for two or three weeks. And we also have a tank truck with compressor issues. At the next Selectman’s Board meeting I will be reporting that we will have expended over half of our fleet budget of $10,000 by September with still 9 months to go. It’s going to be a tough year and we will likely have to go back to the Selectman asking for more money to keep the trucks on the road.

Personnel: I’ve lost two and gained one and now have 23 volunteers. One of the tours we will take tonight is of the fire department and at that time we can discuss some of the ideas that have been presented to the Select Board.

Accidents have been down from prior years. The lights have helped decrease the number of accidents, and none reported there for this tourist season.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Advised the Council that Frank Costa (Manager of the Airport) was scheduled to come and speak and update on his Department however, he was unable to make it and will be invited to the next meeting.

PERSONNEL:

Besides the resignation of Diane Hammond, the Police Department has taken over the supervision of the Harbormaster and Shellfish Warden positions and the PD is now overseeing the budgets for both of those departments. Both positions are filled by reserve police officers. Levon Travis, lives in Wiscasset has become Harbormaster certified and will fill that position. Jason Miller, also reserve officer for the PD and works also for Wiscasset EMS has been certified as a Shellfish Warden.

With the PD overseeing these departments, we are hoping to increase revenue. Right now, we don’t know how many moorings are paid for, moorings aren’t numbered, nothing is being tracked very well. We hired an attendant to sit in the Harbormaster office Tuesday through Saturday from 8 am to 1pm. She’s there to answer questions and collect fees.

The prior Harbormaster purchased an 8’ dingy with a 2.5 hp motor because he had money left over in his budget from last year. Nothing wrong with that, but a 2.5 hp isn’t going to get us anywhere, it’s too small, hoping to return it so we can get store credit and use that credit to outfit a boat if need be.

I have received approval and authorization to get on the DOD website and can now review the LESO (Law Enforcement Surplus) and hopes of getting us a used boat from the Federal Government. It would cost nothing except delivery. The State of Maine surplus is also an avenue we are researching with the possibility of obtaining a boat from DMR/Marine Patrol.

There is $13,000 still in the harbor master budget from the sale of another boat some time ago and is in a reserve account and could be used to purchase a new one or the supplies for it if needed.

IF&W is training our officers on boater safety on August 8 and 15th from 6pm to 9pm both nights in the Ambulance training room, that training is also open to the public. The PD is in the process of developing a policy for it’s officers that requires a boat operator to be certified.

(Forgot to mention) The PD is hosting an open meeting and have invited all the Wiscasset Waterfront Community members (which includes all commercial fisherman, wormers, clammers, and recreational boaters, those that pay a fee for something) to introduce ourselves and discuss the PD’s goals and objectives since taking over the two positions. This meeting is also open to the public and is scheduled for August 15, 2017 at 6pm in the Fire Department Meeting room.

The PSAC meeting room was vacated and the Council began their tour of the Public Safety Departments.