

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
BOARD OF ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
OCTOBER 20, 2011

Present: Chair Judy Colby, Bill Curtis, Pam Dunning, Vice Chair David Nichols, Ed Polewarczyk and Town Manager Laurie Smith

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Town Manager introduced the new town planner Misty Gorski, who spoke briefly to the board.

3. Discussion of Fireworks Ordinance

The board discussed a proposed ordinance allowing the sale and use of fireworks with permits and another, which would ban fireworks sale and use. Several changes were made in the wording of the ordinance to allow sale and use of fireworks.

Judy Colby spoke against allowing the sale and use of fireworks. She cited the rural, wooded nature of Wiscasset and extra police and fire department resources that would be required, and said the revenue the town would receive did not justify allowing fireworks. She added that she would like to see a ban on fireworks with penalties similar to the ones Portland is enacting.

Ed Polewarczyk said he had struggled with the issue because fireworks can be dangerous, but noted that other dangerous things were not prohibited. He was in favor of allowing the voters to decide and if they disagreed, they could turn it down.

David Nichols suggested a moratorium until the town could vote; however, Pam Dunning said it would be unfair for someone to go to the expense of obtaining a permit from the state only to have the town prohibit the sale of fireworks. Al Cohen said the cost of a permit from the state was \$5,000, with a yearly fee of \$1,500 thereafter plus \$2 million of insurance is required.

Bill Curtis opposed allowing fireworks; David Nichols said the people should decide.

Pam Dunning recommended allowing the sale of fireworks but prohibiting the use unless a citizen petition requested it.

Laurie Smith said the Board of Selectmen would establish fees for the permits.

Ed Polewarczyk moved to adopt the ordinance as amended for the regulation of the sale and use of fireworks. David Nichols pointed out that if the ordinance passed, it could be withdrawn or changed in the future. **Vote 3-2-0.**

4. December 13 Warrant Article Approval

Chair Judy Colby read the warrant, which will be voted on on December 13, 2011. Article 3 that asks if the voters approved joining the Maine Public Employees Retirement System called for a recommendation of the board. **David Nichols moved to recommend. Vote 5-0-0.**

Pam Dunning moved to approve the Warrant as written. Vote 5-0-0.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.