



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

Fern Larochelle, Jr., At Large 2010
Charles Smith, At Large 2008
Michael Bowie, At Large 2009
Gina Mason, District 1 2010
Janet Henry, District 1 2009
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010
Norma Wells, District 2 2009

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. The Chairman, Norma Wells, called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Wells, Smith, Bowie, Mason, Henry, and Larochelle. Councilor Crafts was excused. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Mark Stevens, Recreation Director; Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; David Brooks, Police Chief; Ryan Leighton, Town Engineer; Elwood Beal, Public Works Director; Verla Brooks, Park Ranger; Roger Therriault, Town Attorney; and approximately 50 citizens in the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2008-112) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to approve the minutes of August 5, 2008. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

(Final Passage)

VOTE (2008-141) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to adopt the following Administration Ordinance Amendment as presented:

Chapter 2. Administration
Division 8. Lisbon Recreation Committee
Section 2-550. Established; membership; appointment.

The Lisbon Recreation Committee is established. The committee shall consist of seven members and two alternates. The members shall be appointed by the Town Council for the staggered terms of three years.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilors Larochelle, Smith, Bowie, Mason, Henry, Crafts, and Wells. Nays: None. Order Passed - Vote 6-0 (Final Passage).

TREATMENT PLANT BUDGET

VOTE (2008-142) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to approve the Treatment Plant Budget totaling \$1,148,309 and set the sewer rate at \$5.15. **Order passed - Vote 5-1. (Against: Henry)**

Councilor Bowie requested customers be sent notification detailing why the rate increased and how much the sewer rate would be going up in order to pay for this year's service.

SQUAD 3 REPLACEMENT BIDS

VOTE (2008-143) Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to award the bid to Casco Bay Ford for \$39,882 and do the extras later. The Council requested more information for comparison. Councilor Smith withdrew his motion. The Council asked that this item be moved to a future agenda.

DETECTIVE CAR REPLACEMENT BIDS

VOTE (2008-144) Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to award the bid to Quirk Ford to purchase a 2009 Ford Fusion for \$31,508 with trade in. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Councilor Wells suggested a committee be formed to look at how Lisbon rotates its vehicles. Mr. Eldridge agreed that it was time to talk about this again and pointed out that he already had that on his agenda as well. Councilors Smith and Larochelle volunteered to serve on this committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. KATAHDIN ENERGY - WINDMILL OVERVIEW

Mr. Frank Heller from Katahdin Energy Works at 12 Belmont Street in Brunswick gave a brief presentation about windmills in general. He said there were several kinds of windmills available. Some operate from buildings or telephone poles as well. He said most towers around Lisbon would be at least 100 feet or taller. He highlighted bat and bird damage which can be important in some areas for insect control. Soil considerations should be taken into account when installing the base. He said some individuals add home weather stations on them now. He encouraged the Council to have some kind of permitting process that includes inspections every five years to avoid potential rust problems and maintenance issues. He estimated that a 120 foot tower would cover about 90% of the requests.

B. PARKS DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Ms. Brooks said she had been the Park Ranger in Lisbon for 25 years now, that she truly enjoys her work, and that Lisbon is very fortunate to have such a treasure like Beaver Park. She described Beaver Park highlighting its 337 acres, three ponds, ten mile trail system, fitness course, log cabin, lone pine lodge and garage, bath house, machine shed, woodshed, two picnic shelters, and four bath houses. She said most patrons enjoy fishing at the Upper Pond and swimming at the Middle and New Pond. She said over 100 children participate annually in the Fishing Derby. Many local businesses donate prizes and money to sponsor gifts. She said the job can be physically challenging at times, especially when it comes to maintaining the ten mile trail system. She mows the various areas, collects bows for wreath making, cuts wood for the lodge to keep it warm for the many groups that use it, and grooms the trails. She commended Jack Arndt for the many hours of community service he has given to the Town of Lisbon over the years enhancing our park while keeping our tax impact low.

Ms. Brooks pointed out that our Summer Street Park was approximately 30 acres and that it borders the Little Androscoggin River. She said that not that long ago one of our local Boy Scouts and his dad replaced the park sign and installed a picnic table in an open area near the street for patrons to enjoy. She circulated a note book of pictures and encouraged all to come out and visit.

C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Mr. Stevens pointed out that his department was spending ~~fewer~~ tax dollars this year than Lisbon spent in 1996. He said revenues were going up and that programming had increased. He highlighted donations from Angelo's for the soccer team, Walter Morse's collection of \$1,200 for two soccer goals, and the Navy Chief's community service at MTM. He said this year the Navy Chief's were planning to paint MTM's Conference room, fitness room, gym, and the Lisbon Falls Library's fence on Union Street. He pointed out that only two out of the nine football coaches were paid, the rest were volunteers. He said he was working with the staff on goals. He said they have had a great summer this year with over 100 attending playground camp. He commented that approximately 300 runners participated in this year's Moxie 5-K road race. He said 85 children signed up from grades 3 through 8 for football this year. He mentioned that the after school care program filled up within the first week. He reported that 17 new members signed up for the fitness center this month. He talked about MTM's roof repairs and reported that MMA's walk-through had gone well.

D. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Mr. Beal briefly pointed out what they have been up to this year. He said because they had used more sand over the winter, street sweeping took longer. They repaired lawns, mailboxes, culverts, and painted crosswalks as needed. Public Works planted the trees along the walking trail and fixed a lot of washouts this year. They cleaned up the downtown area after the Moxie Day festival was over. He talked about paving and commented that they were busy getting the new polling place at the Superintendent's office updated. He affirmed this work would be completed before Election Day. He noted paving had been completed and pointed out this year's salt price had gone from \$55 to \$70 a ton. He said the back side of Ferry Road had become top priority.

E. TOWN MANAGER'S OVERVIEW

Mr. Eldridge said residents were concerned about the potential noise level from the proposed BMX track on Pinewoods. He pointed out to residents that they should be going to the Planning Board at this point. He said MMA gave Lisbon back \$4,500 and pointed out that credit would go to the Safety Committee for doing such a good job.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Robert Harrington from Goddard Street said the Council's meeting minutes should be verbatim; Councilor Wells disagreed. He questioned the tax bill error. Councilor Wells said it was a mathematical error.

Roger Cote remarked he believed residents were too intimidated to put their name on the recall petition and asked the Council why this was.

Dorothy Fitzgerald said she experienced the same thing when she was collecting signatures. She said there is a crosswalk sign where there is no crosswalk and motorists were not seeing the 25 MPH on School Street; she reported how dangerous it was for the children to use those crosswalks.

Michelle Turmelle questioned the tax bill error and out sourcing this job. She addressed the extra expense incurred for reprinting this bill and suggested Lisbon save this money by doing it in-house.

Robin Tupper asked whether sewer and water bills would be changing as well; not at this time.

Linden ~~HGouled~~ from Park Street asked how he would go about getting permission to create a skateboard park behind the Superintendent's office. The Council referred him to the School Committee.

Bridgett Oliver from Edgecomb Road said she was appalled that the lockers in the boys' locker room at LHS were rusted inside and out. The Council referred her to the School Committee.

Donald Stein thanked Public Works for fixing Main Street.

APPOINTMENTS

BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD

VOTE (2008-145) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to appoint Steven Miles to the Budget Advisory Board District 2 seat until December 1, 2008. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

VOTE (2008-146) Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to appoint Kris Kucera to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term expiring in 2011. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

LIBRARY GOVERNING BOARD

VOTE (2008-147) Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to appoint Robin Tupper to the Library Governing Board for a three-year term expiring in 2011. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mason said the charter commission wrote the charter with the intention that some things would need to be changed as Lisbon moved forward, that it is impossible to micro manage every ~~thing~~ single detail in each office, and that they were trying to tighten their budget as well. She said she noticed all the negative things posted on the Lisbon Reporter and commented that the Council was working just as hard as they ~~werecould~~ to make positive changes. She encouraged constructive criticism, instead of witch hunting. She pointed out that not all decisions seem cut and dry, that this Council has the Town's best interest at heart, and that all this negativity is making all of us miserable.

Councilor Henry thanked the School Committee for doing a positive job, as well, controlling spending. She said officially the Lisbon/Oak Hill Hockey teams were ready to move forward.

Councilor Bowie asked for feedback from the August 25 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) forum held in Lisbon at the Lisbon Community School. He said he would be representing Lisbon's vote on the 10th and asked what the Council wanted him to do. The Council indicated they were not in favor of consolidation at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE (2008-148) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to move into Executive Session per 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (D) Labor Negotiations at 9:49 PM. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.** The Chairman dismissed the Council Secretary. The Council came out of executive session at 10:01 PM and reconvened the meeting at 10:03 PM.

WORKSHOPCHARTER REVIEW

Roger Therriault, Esquire went over 14 charter changes in detail. After much discussion, the Council decided to place 11 items on the November ballot. The Council requested Mr. Therriault to prepare an informal summary for public distribution.

VOTE (2008-148A) Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt the Order for Public Notice regarding the eleven charter amendments (see attached). **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2007-149) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to adjourn at 10:44 PM. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Twila Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM

These minutes are not verbatim. Cassette tapes are filed in the Town Clerk's Office.