



**TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2010**

Michael Bowie, Chair District 2 2012
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010
Fern Laroche, Jr., At Large 2010
Roger Cote, At large 2011
Mark Lunt, District 1 2012
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010
Lori Pomelow, At Large 2012

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

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Bowie, Mason, Laroche, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Councilor Crafts was excused. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; and approximately 30 citizens in the audience.

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2010-2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Item taken up after the School Budget

ADOPT THE SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 1 - STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Student and Staff Support (Guidance, Health, Library, Improvement of Instruction, Curriculum Coordinator, Technology System Administrator, Technology Funds, and Curriculum Funds).

VOTE (2010-81) Councilor Laroche, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to adopt Article 1 for \$1,006,229.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Laroche, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 2 - SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for System Administration (School Committee and Superintendent).

VOTE (2010-82) Councilor Laroche, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to adopt Article 2 for \$388,831.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Laroche, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 3 – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for School Administration (Principals).

VOTE (2010-83) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adopt Article 3 for \$725,379.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 4 – FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Facilities Maintenance (Operation & Maintenance).

VOTE (2010-84) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Lunt moved to adopt Article 4 for \$1,521,533.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 5- TRANSPORTATION & BUSES

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Transportation and Buses.

VOTE (2010-85) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to adopt Article 5 for \$632,043.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 6 – ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES (SCHOOL NUTRITION)

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for All Other Expenditures (School Nutrition).

VOTE (2010-86) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adopt Article 6 for \$319,967.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 7 - DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to spend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

VOTE (2010-87) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to adopt Article 7 for \$1,113,268.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 8 - REGULAR INSTRUCTION
(ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, GIFTED & TALENTED)

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Regular Instruction (Elementary, Secondary, Gifted & Talented).

VOTE (2010-88) Councilor Pomelow, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to adopt Article 8 for \$5,865,580.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 9 - SPECIAL EDUCATION

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Special Education (Special Education).

VOTE (2010-89) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adopt Article 9 for \$1,924,059.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 10 - OTHER INSTRUCTION (CO-CURRICULAR)

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Other Instruction (Co-Curricular).

VOTE (2010-90) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Lunt moved to adopt Article 10 for \$399,453.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 11 - PUBLIC FUNDING OF K-12
AS DESCRIBED IN THE ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES FUNDING ACT

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (Recommend \$12,540,475) and to see what sum the Council will raise as the town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

"Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars."

VOTE (2010-91) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt Article 11 for **\$4,324,230**.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 12 - DEBT SERVICES

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

"Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the municipality/district long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that is not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters or other legislative body."

VOTE (2010-92) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to adopt Article 12 for **\$104,529**.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 13 - FUNDS EXCEEDING THE STATE'S
ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES ALLOCATION MODEL

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to raise and appropriate for in additional local funds (recommend \$748,412), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$465,410 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee.

The School Committee recommends \$748,412 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$465,410.

The Lisbon School Department is above EPS by \$465,410 because the EPS formula does not provide enough subsidy to cover Co-Curricular activities fully and does not provide any subsidy for Nutrition.

"Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Lisbon School Department's budget for educational programs."

VOTE (2010-93) Councilor Laroche, seconded by Councilor Lunt moved to adopt Article 13 for \$748,412.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Laroche, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 14 - AUTHORIZE SUM TO EXPEND FOR FY 2010-2011
FROM THE TOWN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE TOTAL COST OF
FUNDING PUBLIC EDUCATION FROM K-12

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

VOTE (2010-94) Councilor Lunt, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to set the budget as submitted for \$13,896,342.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Laroche, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 15 - AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR
ADULT EDUCATION & RAISE FUNDS
AS THE LOCAL SHARE

To see if the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to appropriate \$144,349 for Adult Education and raise \$98,610 as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

VOTE (2010-95) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to adopt Article 15 for \$98,610.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 16 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR
ADULT EDUCATION

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Adult Education.

VOTE (2010-96) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adopt Article 16 for \$159,287.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

ARTICLE 17 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND
FEDERAL STABILIZATION FUNDS

In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the Council authorize the School Committee to expend federal stabilization funds and such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Note: It is currently estimated that the School Committee will receive \$317,110 in federal stabilization funds, which are included in the expenditures authorized by this article.

VOTE (2010-97) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt Article 17 for \$317,110.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Cote, Pomelow and Lunt. Nays: None. Vote 6-0. Order Passed.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2010-2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Councilor Bowie said before we go into the municipal budget, we had previously gotten information from the Advisory Board on their support of the school budget, but I think they have some outstanding questions that they would like to get some answers to prior to their giving us their formal opinion on the municipal budget. Is that correct?

Don Fellows said we wanted to give you a summary of what we did discuss and what we did decide. The other night we had a lively meeting and in consideration of \$262,598 local additional amount from the school addition to our budget, and in consideration of \$195,189 or thereabouts to the local municipal area, we had quite a debate. The first thing that we did was discuss all of the wage lines as a group, because we were somewhat worried whether a 1.75% raise was something that should happen or not. We did consider that first. We also considered all the other lines in the budget individually and voted on them, but we had 4 questions.

Mr. Fellows said these have already been posed to Mr. Eldridge, but I will mention them here. The first item 1-110, which is contingency, there is \$10,000 in the contingency as the budget is proposed. \$5,000 was grant matched and the other part was \$5,000 for we don't know what. He said Mr. Eldridge explained it as the grants match, but what is the other part? Mr. Eldridge said the other part was for if we had an area that wasn't necessarily funded in the budget or we didn't have a budget for, we could take it from there if we had an emergency in an area, so we would have funding for it. It is kind of a backup.

Mr. Fellows said the second question was item 1-135 and I believe it is the 5405 line, which is under capital purchases for technology and that said hand held equipment for data entry for the Assessing Department, or something like that. Since the budget doesn't include the reappraisal this year, we were wondering about that line. Mr. Eldridge said that was taken out initially. That is used for any updates on any equipment. Most all computer equipment, whether it is laptops or equipment that we need, we have a guy on staff who actually can rebuild computers, so that is where all that comes from. Mr. Fellows said that \$21,000 is still there, though. Mr. Eldridge said yes, we left it there. The handhelds were a total of \$500 so we just left it as it was. Mr. Fellows said, okay, so the \$21,000 is capital purchases, but that \$500 was all that was put together for handhelds, okay.

Mr. Fellows said town buildings; I think it was the 5110 account, which was cleaning the building. There was \$20,000 in the line 1140 account. Mr. Eldridge said yes. Mr. Fellows said and that is for the individual that comes and cleans. Mr. Eldridge said we have somebody on the payroll. We used to have a service when I was first here. We were not happy with that service. We put somebody on part time to clean this building as well as the MTM building. Mr. Fellows said okay.

Mr. Fellows said what we did the other night was we voted in favor after a lot of debate, particularly on the wages, in favor of all the lines on the account, contingent on those questions being satisfactorily answered. What I can do is, I will ask the Board members, we do have a quorum here, so I can ask them if they want to go ahead and support those 4 lines we had questions on. Councilor Bowie said sure, please do.

Mr. Fellows said yes, that is favorable. Councilor Bowie said, okay, thank you Don. I thank the Budget Advisory Board for all the work they did this year. I would say that I think it went much better this year than prior years. I appreciate all of your input and support for us the whole budget season.

Councilor Bowie said with that, Council, it is time to go through the municipal budget. We are going to go through each department and each individual line, let me clarify, not each individual line, but the summed up lines for the personal services, contractual services, office supplies, capital, this type of stuff. We will need to make a motion on each one of those lines and decide whether we are in favor of it or against it. Twila, I believe, has each line separated, so if you will read us the values which should match identical to the colored sheets you were given at the last meeting and Steve also has it up on the screen. We will have discussion, if necessary, and vote. With that, let's start in.

Mrs. Lycette said starting with the elected officials. The first line is the 5100 line, personnel services, \$17,730. Councilor Bowie said do I have a motion. Councilor Pomelow said I make a motion that we accept the personnel services line for \$17,730. Councilor Larochelle said just for clarification, are we doing individual lines or are we going to actually do the department as a whole? Councilor Bowie said we are going to do each individual line, like we have done in the past, and then at the end, based on the Charter requirements, we have to vote on the total budget overall. There is a motion from Councilor Pomelow. Councilor Larochelle said I will second that.

VOTE (2010-80) Councilor Pomelow, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt \$17,730 for Line 5100 for Elected Officials.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Councilor Bowie said any discussion.

(Motion was not withdrawn and voted on after discussion below- No action taken.)

Councilor Mason said I am a bit confused. I thought we were going to discuss this budget a little bit further. Councilor Lunt said I thought that, too. Councilor Mason said yes and so did Lori. Councilor Bowie said you have your opportunity to discuss it now. We had two prior workshops after the two public hearings.

Councilor Mason said that is not what I understood at all. It seems like three other Councilors feel the same as I do. Councilor Lunt said it was mentioned that we were going to do the school budget and then come back to visit the town's and work on that. Councilor Cote said I don't feel that we are even close on this budget. Councilor Bowie said, well, I guess I am really lost with Council here, because the last two times we met as workshops, we tried to go through and have discussions and we got no recommendations, no discussion purposes on what we wanted to do for adjustments or make any adjustments during those workshops, right, and I believe, when I left that last workshop I said okay, then we are ready to vote next Tuesday and we will vote next Tuesday and if you have discussion items on those lines, we will discuss them at that point.

Councilor Larochelle said no that, it was, and again, maybe I was closer to you, but I did hear the same thing as far as the idea. There were concerns, but there wasn't any major discussion as to how to change it. I think, tonight is still open for discussion, but if we see a line that is obvious that we can vote on and take it away that we need to be concerned about, I think, it would be open for discussion any ones that wouldn't vote, which is typically what would be done in the past. If a certain line comes up as a negative vote, we would discuss it to the point where. Councilor Bowie said you can discuss it before you vote. Councilor Mason said okay, well, concerning the agenda, why isn't it on the agenda. Councilor Bowie said it is. Councilor Mason oh, so we did the school first. She said I don't know, I don't feel right voting on this budget, not at all. I know there were no major recommendations made, but with four of us thinking that, we were not voting on this tonight that concerns me.

Councilor Bowie said you didn't think we were voting on this tonight either, Lori? Councilor Pomelow said I had some questions about that so I went ahead last night and worked on some questions in preparation for, so I have some points for discussion. Councilor Larochelle said on some of these, I think, all the way through the budget, there weren't really a whole lot of discussion on. Maybe we could go through and the areas that we have a concern, make a note, go back and discuss, and vote on the ones that we can all agree on.

Councilor Bowie said if we have concerns, I want to hear Council's concerns. I am open to hear what everybody has for recommendations for this budget. We have been doing this since March. We have had a number of meetings that we have gone through this in detail. I have been trying to give everybody the opportunity to speak about making adjustments. We have had a number of workshops, so if somebody has ideas about what they want changed tonight, let's discuss it.

Councilor Lunt said, first, did we ever get the expense report we talked about for personnel? Councilor Bowie said that was sent to everybody by email. Mr. Eldridge said it was in your box as well. Councilor Mason said I never received it by email; I just got it in my box tonight so I haven't had a chance to go through it.

Councilor Cote said one of my big concerns is the undesignated funds. Every year that we come into this budget season we say to each other that we just can't be doing this anymore and every year the first thing we do is dump into our undesignated funds. If I was running a business and I had to dump into my undesignated funds every year to make my business work, I would have a real big issue with that, in fact, I would probably be looking to remove some people. As a Councilor, I can't sit here and say that dipping \$350,000 out of out of our undesignated funds to make a budget work

is a budget. I have a real big issue with that. I think there are things that could be done differently to make up that money. Councilor Bowie said let's here what those things are to make up that money.

Councilor Cote said I have made my concerns known and I didn't even want to be listened to. One of them is that I don't think now is the time to be spending money on economic development. I don't believe the voters in this town feel we should and I have spoken to a lot of people and everybody I speak to feels that that is \$70,000 that should be spent on other things. Another thing, I feel is that the Police Department right now, it's a hard time, everybody is giving up a lot, and if I look at last year's and this year's budget, I don't see a whole lot of difference. I think that it could be slimmed down a little bit. That is a large department and times are really tough right now, people have to tighten their belts, and I think that is one area we could look at. There were several opportunities to look into that. This year we brought it up, talked about it, and everybody didn't want to listen to it, but I think that they were all very real numbers that we should look at. I don't know how the rest of Council feels about this, but those are the issues that I have. One other thing that comes to mind real quickly is that taking money out of our undesignated funds and putting \$50,000 into the Fire Department for future use, I think, is not what taxpayers this year would want us to do at this time.

Councilor Bowie said does Council have comments on anything? Councilor Larochelle said there is no question about the idea that we are trying to be as smart about the budget as we can. As Mike said, we have been going through this for quite some time and all of us have had different recommendations. Even last night, sitting through the school meeting, one of the things I really wanted to listen to was to see if there were people saying we really need to cut more out of our school, because we don't want our taxes to go up. I really didn't see that last night. That probably would have made a difference tonight when I voted, but pretty much the majority of the people who knew what was happening didn't want to see a loss of services in the school even though there were going to be some. I was only able to attend one of the public hearings and at that public hearing, I really didn't hear anybody in town say that they wanted to reduce services somehow. The second one wasn't a whole lot different from what I got for information.

Councilor Larochelle said we try to listen to people as much as we can. Unfortunately, undesignated funds is something that we have been using, whether it's the right approach or not, it's something that we have been doing for several years that I know of and luckily we have been dropping those numbers back so we have been trying to wean ourselves off as far as undesignated funds. If you look back in history every year we have supported the Fire Department's capital program, which is something that we have been doing for several years. Whether that is right or wrong, I don't know, but yet we are not breaking trend this year of the money being put aside. I think if you don't dedicate it to that account, unfortunately, it probably will never be dedicated to that account. Two years ago we heard from the people of Lisbon that they would like to see us do more of that and, unfortunately, whether that meant taking money out every year and putting it in separate accounts for all the departments, you know, pay-as-you-go, but again, it's tough and, unfortunately, listening to the people we didn't really get a whole lot of different feedback. We didn't hear that they wanted to cut back police or fire or not plow the streets, but when it comes to economic development I really strongly disagree. I really think that you have to have somebody here to control that. I am not talking about Moxie Days or anything like that. If you have somebody in town that is trying to bring in a business, you could have someone there to work with them and if you have someone in town that has a business that is struggling, you need someone there to work with them and try to get the funds to them. It isn't something you can take a year off and hope it is going to get better all by itself. Economic development to me is full time; it's either happening or it's not.

Councilor Bowie said I, also, think it's important for us to remember that while none of us want a tax increase, we just agreed with the school that we need to increase the taxes a little bit. \$262,000 there is worth about .71 cents, .72 cents. The town, based on where we are at with the town budget,

we are going to be between .75 cents and a dollar for both the school and the town, so that means the town's side of the increase, worse case, is like .25 cents. I don't think that is a bad job by Council. I think it is, also, important to remember that we have approved a number of bonds recently that the townspeople wanted, we all wanted, which has increased our debt service, which I think again doesn't allow us to do anything. I think the citizens of this community would want us to use some of our surplus money. I can remember from prior town meetings that a lot of them didn't want us to have any surplus money. Now you have to have some to continue to operate, for emergencies, or stuff like that. For us to try and minimize their tax impact by utilizing some of that knowing they wanted to see some improved services by approving bonds, right, and that we have cut and stripped the majority of our departments down. We haven't replaced people this year, right, through attrition. We haven't done any of that and we are only impacting the mil rate by roughly .25 cents out of all that. I don't think that is a bad story for Council in these economic times. I really don't so I'm not sure what else we are going to do here, but I think it is important that we keep that in front of us. While we all don't want to increase taxes, we all did sit around the table one time and say the most tax increase that we could accept, we felt, although we didn't like it, would be one mil and we are definitely within that range between the town and the school at this point in time. Potentially, depending on how things go, you know, if the State gets lucky and gives us some money or if other things transpire, you may have no increase; I mean that's the hard piece to predict right now. We can do some analysis and come up with what that range is and where we think we are going to fall, but we could actually come in with no increase this year, right, based on how some other things go. Those aren't substantial enough right now for us to count on those to go to the bank and say there is no impact. I would just like Council to keep those thoughts in mind when they are going through and reviewing this budget and all the hard work that you have already put into this, as well as all the Department Heads and the Town Manager. Just like the School Committee, I mean, we have cut this down to bare bones in my mind and are being, at least, reasonable and fair to both the citizens and the employees.

Councilor Mason said one of my concerns, Mike, is that we are going to have some increased land valuations. I know we spoke about that last week, but I was hoping to review that a little bit more. Is Pat getting any more solid information on that? I'm sure he is inputting the data. We have been told that as he inputs data he will know more. Also, I am concerned about taking surplus money; that concerns me. If we are going to have an increased revenue source with the land valuations, I think we need to work more with that instead of taking money from undesignated; that concerns me. My opinion about voting on this budget tonight is that I don't feel I am ready to vote on it tonight. I would like to be able to go home and look at that. That is my fault. I didn't get my budget until today. That's unusual; I normally get it ahead of time, but I was not able to get it. I would really prefer to take this budget home and study it and the other paperwork that goes along with it.

Councilor Bowie said to give you a little insight on the land part, that's the piece that's not real substantial right now as far as the impact on the tax rate and what this land value is going to do. You can run a number of different scenarios or analyses, and you can project a 10% increase, or you could project a 20% increase, right, in the land value prices. If you do those and the numbers are just right and everything based on the analysis, if you had a 10% increase you are not going to increase the mil rate, it may even drop, okay, so you may even drop the mil rate. It still doesn't mean that some people's taxes will go up and some people's taxes will go down, but the mil rate will go down to balance all of that, right. If it's 20% it could be an even bigger drop, right, and then from the undesignated you can adjust the undesignated by what you do with your overlay, right. When you calculate your overlay into your tax analysis, right, you can generate some additional surplus out of that, that you can feed back into your undesignated, but your undesignated is not money you can take right now to guarantee you that you are going to minimize the tax impact based on what we know today. We are really not going to know that solid number until all that data is in, right, until we do the actual commitment some time in August. That's when we are really going to know the number, because it's all work in preparation now. We can do some analysis

based on what they seem, what it's looking like, and try to do some scenarios, which equate to those types of things, but short of that we can't give a rock solid number.

Councilor Cote said and if the number comes up and, you mean, we have to take even more out of our undesignated. Councilor Bowie said, well no, the one thing I don't think will happen is you are not going to go any lower than your percentage of valuation that you have today. You are only going to increase it, so that's going to increase that value, so that then has a direct impact on what you end up being able to do for your mil rate and overlay, then build back your surplus.

Councilor Cote said one thing, Mike, last year we had quite a few votes for the people in this community to spend money. We spent money on Upland Road, on the trail system, on the Route 9 Water Project, and on improvements for the school. People are not naïve to the point where they think they can continue to spend and not have their taxes go up. Councilor Bowie said and we notified them in all of those cases that it's going to have a potential impact on taxes. Councilor Cote said I think that at this time, rather than dip in quite so hard, a little small increase and work the other numbers I think is more beneficial to the community than taking \$350,000 out of undesignated.

Councilor Mason said what is the latest we can vote on this budget. If I remember correctly, we went into June last year to vote on this municipal budget. Councilor Bowie said we did. Councilor Mason said so it's not like we have to now.

Councilor Bowie said you do not have to vote on this municipal budget today. I just felt, based on our past discussions that nobody was coming up with any valued changes to the budget we had in front of us for two specific workshops and. Councilor Cote said some of the numbers have been sketchy at best coming to us, too, you know, we will get you the figures on this, we will get you the figures on that and I am not pointing fingers at anyone in particular, but we are waiting on information and now we are presented with a budget and I don't think we are ready for it.

Councilor Bowie said I tend to disagree with that. I think we have worked very hard to give Council all the information when they needed it, provided them with the quickest responses we could, and provided them with detailed budget information. I mean, the Department Heads have been working until the wee hours of the evenings lots of times trying to come through all this stuff to bring forward a reasonable budget that they felt would work for the town.

Councilor Larochelle said, Steve, I have been looking at the numbers pretty closely and the two public hearings we had the numbers were not really drastically different. Mr. Eldridge said, no, they were not. Councilor Larochelle said they were pretty much identical. Mr. Eldridge said they were almost identical. We have firmed up the 1.75% for wages, firmed up the positions that we weren't going to fill, so that changed those a little bit. The only concern that I have heard in the last two workshops was the professional development. We have only expended, if you look at your sheets, under \$20,000 and much of that is contractual so you can't change that. Even if you did, \$20,000 isn't going to have any kind of impact on this budget to lower the tax rate. We have gone two years where we keep downsizing our staff. We are losing four positions this year along with three part time positions to get where we are today. If we have another bad year next year, you will be impacting services, because there is no other place to go. Department Heads have worked extremely hard to get their budgets down and, like I've said all along, you started this budget season with just under \$400,000 in increases that weren't generated by the Department Heads. They were bonds, health care increases, water rate increases, and things like that. You have to live with those.

Mr. Fellows said the question seems to be more bottom line than it is budget. I am wondering if a short workshop on revenues might be in order to get everyone's questions and concerns answered about revenues before voting on this budget.

Councilor Pomelow said the questions I had were pertaining to the valuation. While I realize we aren't going to have concrete numbers until August and that has been said multiple times, we have heard numbers like 56%, 70%, 100% valuations, so if we could kind of have an idea of where we are going with that figure, it might help us out a little bit. While I recognize that even if we tweak some of the numbers for professional development and/or mileage, some of the things that we could effect a change on, even though it is under \$20,000 I think that what we have heard consistently in the public hearings is that people would like to know why those numbers can't be changed. When I looked down through the budget packet, which I just got last Friday, I noticed that there are a lot of those budgets that haven't been spent year-to-date from last year's figures. My questions were specific to, do we have monies that are going to be spent between now and June 30 that is taking up a lot of the money that we set aside. I noticed a number of things like professional development, mileage, and there are monies in departments as you go down through each one of the lines that aren't fully expended for this year and if we have lived without it for 2009-2010, my recommendation where we did give wage increases, we looked to see what we could do for health insurance, was maybe to cut some of those lines and just say to those Department Heads, you know, that we would like for you to work within this budget. We did give a 1.75% increase and I still don't have the final figures for health insurance, but I was kind of hoping to get that tonight, because I knew that you were working on that over the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Eldridge said the unions have not gotten back to us. You are going to have to go in with what we have currently from MMA. If the unions choose to change, which I think they would be wise to, because they are going to save money and get a better plan, but they are very reluctant. They took a hit last year and they are a little bit gun shy. Lisbon will save \$20,000 and that will help.

Councilor Pomelow said if that was to be successful and we had \$20,000 less in health insurance and we could look at tweaking \$20,000 in professional development, mileage, and other areas that aren't expended from 2009-2010, then we are talking \$40,000. I realize that \$40,000 may not make a significant difference, but it does when we are looking at taking that money out of the undesignated fund, because we have talked about that at great length; how much the impact is to take that money out of there. We are going to be below what we need to have to for auditing purposes.

Mr. Eldridge said let me give you some scenarios that Pat and I have discussed in terms of what he and Mr. Van Tuinen are finding. They are looking at different scenarios. A 20% increase, going from 56% to 76% percent of value, if you do that you may not have to dip into your undesignated fund balance. I have a chart that I try to work with to try to back in with those numbers based on what we are spending. Those numbers are somewhat blocked in when I do this, county tax, what we have, and what our TIF amounts are. We could use possibly \$200,000 less, so we only would be putting in, say, \$150,000. That would set the tax rate at \$22.75 roughly. That is quite a difference.

Councilor Mason said it certainly is. Mr. Eldridge said but what people have to understand is that we may be decreasing the tax rate, but the expenditures, that money has to come from somewhere and it is going to come from those, possibly, who have been very undervalued. We have seen properties that were on the books for \$1,500 that should be up around \$40,000, I mean, that's a big difference, so that's where you are going to be getting some of those revenues.

Mr. Eldridge said if you were to do a 10% increase, which would bring you up to 66% that would still, based on what we have without dropping into \$300,000 versus \$350,000, drop the mil rate to \$24.50, but no matter how we do it, the percentage is going to go up and that is the important thing to remember. I had a call today from a retired gentleman who wanted to know why his veteran's exemption keeps going down every year. I explained to him about the percent values and how we are trying to get that back up with the re-val and that exemption would go back up to where it should be. The goal is to get us up to either 90% to 100% if we can.

Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Van Tuinen, who does this for a living, says he feels from what he has seen so far and the changes that they are putting in, we are going to see a tremendous jump. I can't just

guess at this point. We have a lot of work still to do, but based on even a 10% increase in our valuation we could drop the mil rate by a \$1.

Councilor Bowie said I recommend that we come back on June 8, that will give you an extra week. Councilor Mason said that is Election Day. Councilor Bowie said okay, so June 9. Come back on June 9, on Wednesday and be prepared to bring forward all of your requested changes you would like to see. We can work through those in a workshop and then based on the results of that we will finalize those adjustments when they are made and then we will start voting on the budget the following week.

Councilor Mason said next Tuesday is June 1, generally the first meeting of the month, so why can't we do it next week. Councilor Bowie said I'm not sure. We have scheduled for June 1 a Water Department discussion that we have committed to that we are trying to get information on to help Mr. Upham out and the rest of the people on Route 9 and I feel that we are obligated to continue to hold that and I don't feel we will have enough time to do anything on that date.

Councilor Mason said in a week's time you can review a lot and understand a lot more, so if we have a full agenda we will go to the next meeting, I guess.

Councilor Bowie said is that amenable to Council? It's acceptable by me. Do you have a comment, Dot?

Mrs. Fitzgerald said yes, I do. I was elected to the Budget Advisory Board with over a 1,000 votes just in District 2. People know I am conservative and I am sure that is why I got so many votes. People expected quite a bit of me, I think. I have been to each and every Town Council meeting, but only a few School Committee meetings, sorry about that, but I just can't do everything. I have been to every budget meeting that they have had. There have been a lot of cuts proposed and they have all been poo pooped away. No one wants to hear about any budget cuts. I am the one that keeps mentioning professional development, about \$33,000 a year in professional development. Now, I don't like to bring up names or anything, but one person gets \$4,500 for professional development plus \$1,500 for meals and lodging and that person's salary is about \$90,000 a year. Some of that may be contractual, but the previous town manager seemed to manage on \$1,000 for professional development and maybe that person could pay for some of his professional development out of his own income.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said I mentioned mileage for the engineer that was a considerable amount at a previous budget meeting. I broke that down to 10 miles a day, which does not seem excessive where he travels back and forth between the sewage treatment plant and the different buildings. I have got here the Assessing Department, mileage \$3,000. 3,000 miles at .44 a mile is \$6,818 per year or 27 miles a day for 250 days. Does he really travel around the town that much or can that be reduced? A little bit here and there adds up, as Lori was saying. Nobody wants to hear it. I have here mileage for Police Officers on town owned vehicles. I don't have the amount here, but I am wondering why the Police Officers are being paid mileage. All the officers have town owned vehicles, I think. Why are we paying them mileage? I don't have an explanation of that. I would like to maybe have another budget meeting, but I don't think the results are going to be any different.

Councilor Bowie said we will get together on June 9 for budget discussion.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Traci Austin said I just wanted to let you know our State application for the Lisbon High School was mailed in today, so that has been sent off. We will keep our fingers crossed that that is approved by the State in their next round. Visitation to different facilities across the state will be this summer.

Mrs. Austin said the next item is on June 2 there will be a meeting at the high school at 7 pm. It will be our last public hearing with the architects as to what the building could be should we get the State funding, or how the phasing could work. They have several plans for phasing of that if we had to do it locally over several years, so that will be, again, on June 2 at 7 pm at the high school.

Mrs. Austin said the School Committee had approved a contract to begin work, hopefully, on June 9 or June 10 to, hopefully, be back in the building by start of school. This will include drainage, paving, and lighting for the new entrance, plus new windows and siding for the north and south sides. Gym roof bids will be a separate project at that time.

Councilor Cote said, Traci, this is a question that has been asked of me on several occasions, is the cutting of the school teachers and the cuts that we have had to make in the school system this year, going to affect our accreditation as we know it right now. Mrs. Austin said that will be up to NEASC. I think with the repairs and the improvements that we have made regarding their concerns I think we will be fine, because we weren't ever cited for our programming, we were cited on the facility not enhancing our programming. It is my understanding that and my belief that the programming will be maintained, it will just look different and will not be ideal. I could be wrong, NEASC is a very finicky group, but being able to improve our facility, I don't know what will shake out of it, but I don't believe that it will be detrimental at this point.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said I see that Mr. Eldridge was ready to present the town budget. I am wondering if it would be helpful for him to do that tonight so that the people here can see what we see, what the Town Council sees, what the Budget Advisory Board sees, for the budget. Nobody else sees the line by line. We used to see it at Town Meeting with the various articles, but now we see one figure, that's it. I'm just wondering, it's 8:00 and we planned on being here until 9:30. Councilor Bowie said, Dot, we are going to go through that when we do our workshop, so everybody can come and watch at the workshop.

John Wierzbicki said driving down the road yesterday I noticed a lot of students out in front of the Lisbon High School and to all of those students I want to say I am really proud of you folks, congratulations. You are taking the first step to try to make a difference in this town. You are showing interest, you want to do something, and you want to be helpful. I think that is really good. That is the first step. I do have a question for all of you students, though, and this is part of the second step, by your showing your support and you're trying to support the teachers, what you are effectively doing is asking everyone in Lisbon to make a little bit more of a sacrifice, give a little bit more in taxes. With a lot of people that is kind of tough. You're asking the townsfolk to do that, but for all of you students, what are you willing to do? Do you have a suggestion? What can you do to help us out? It is great to sit up, stand up, and voice what you want to do, but you have to take the second step. When you do that you have to come up with the solution, too, or a possible solution, because if you just stand up and say something, you are not solving a whole lot other than bringing it to people's attention. I applaud you for doing it. I think it is great. I think it is wonderful that you are showing that much of an interest. I am asking you to take that second step. Congratulations, students. Excellent job!

Karen Stevens said I am a registered Lisbon voter and I am, also, a parent of a Lisbon High School junior at this time. I had two or three questions. Is there a hard copy of the municipal budget online? They seem to have all these numbers, is there something online that we can look at. Councilor Bowie said our budget is posted online.

Mrs. Stevens said my second question was you had talked about a surplus in the budget. Two or three Councilors had talked about a surplus in the budgets. Is there some place that tells us as voters or residents, what the surplus is and what departments it is in and what it is meant for?

Councilor Bowie said the surplus isn't to any specific department. The surplus is the available funds that the town has built up over time. There was quite a large number of funds at one time

until we built this building, and then we used that money to build this building. Today, I think we have pretty close to \$1,200,000 in the surplus.

Mrs. Stevens said does that surplus have to go specifically to the town or can it be split up and put towards the school? Councilor Bowie said the school typically has their own surplus, based on the funds they have left over at the end of each year that they put back. I believe they dwindled theirs down to next to nothing now. Prudence Grant said there is very little.

Mr. Eldridge said what you are talking about is what they call the undesignated fund balance. What that is used for is, there are times throughout the year when the town and the school don't have a lot of revenue coming in, and it is used to carry us through the leaner times until we collect taxes twice a year. If we have any extra money at the end of the year that extra funding rolls back into the undesignated fund balance. You will see at the end of the year, June 30, if you look at what we have at the end of the year and what we have spent, there is a dollar amount that we will roll back into the undesignated fund balance. That is done every year and it's required by charter. The only things that we will carry forward are designated funds for very specific projects. Last year we carried forward \$9,000, because we were in the middle of doing ordinance updates and that was a contractual agreement, so that's where your undesignated fund balance comes from and if we had money left over from our overlay that money, also, rolls back in. This year we are anticipating about \$160,000. We had a very mild winter, so we saved money there. There are pockets of places where you will see, it is not because we didn't need the funding, it's just because it didn't get spent for whatever reason.

Mrs. Stevens said so the question again is, come June 30 is there a place that we as citizens can look to see what our surplus is. Mr. Eldridge said there is an annual report that comes out every year that will tell you what the undesignated fund balance is for the school and the town; in our audit report. That is usually prepared in July and August. It's usually an easy process for both of us.

Ms. Grant said I want to interrupt just want to help her. By law the School Department is allowed to have an undesignated balance of up to 3% of our budget. In fact, the auditor recommends that we keep that for some sort of an emergency thing, if a boiler goes, and we do not have that 3% currently. Mrs. Austin said and you, also, have that 3% law. Mrs. Stevens said so it is 3% that has to be maintained.

Mr. Eldridge said we have to maintain a balance just so we have enough funds to get through the year. When we do calculate the tax rate, when we talk about adding undesignated fund balance to help bring it down, that is based on the whole amount that needs to be appropriated, both town and school, bottom line, so it is combined. The school gets their subsidy from the State, a good chunk of it, but when we do the tax rate we add all of our expenses, which include the county tax, any TIF payments, total school dollars that are needed, along with the total municipal dollars that are needed. That gives us a total dollar amount. I can tell you as it stands right now it's around \$9,900,000. That is after we subtract what we have for revenue, which currently is about \$2,600,000 in total.

Mrs. Stevens said my final question for today is, we vote on June 8 for the school budget, is there some place on the ballot to vote for an increase? You have approved the budget as it stands. Is there a place as a registered voter that we can write in that we would like to increase the school budget?

Councilor Bowie said, yes, what you do is you vote against the budget, and then there is a second question to say is it too high or is it too low. You can check the box and say that it is too low and then if the majority of the voters voted against it and all said it was too low, then that comes back to the Council and to the School Committee and we will go increase the budget. The only thing we can't do is say how much. You can't say, I'd like to increase it by \$3,000,000 or I'd like to increase it by \$200,000.

Mrs. Stevens said so if somebody were to vote to increase, it would go back to you as the Town Council to review and to make adjustments. Councilor Bowie said, correct, and then it would go back to the voters. Mr. Eldridge said it goes back to the School Committee. Councilor Bowie said right. Mr. Eldridge said the Town Council can only vote on the bottom dollar. They have to take their recommendations from the School Committee and then it comes back before the Town Council before it goes back onto a ballot.

Councilor Cote said, Mike, there is one thing that I would like to mention is that if it comes back, that voters feel the budget is too low, there may be a tax increase to raise it. The voters have to, also, realize that if it is too low that it means that they are going to have to ante up.

Mrs. Stevens said okay, those were my questions, thank you.

Richard Graham said one of the points I wanted to make is that at the public hearings no one was saying that they wanted services cut. I was going to say that I haven't heard anyone say that they wanted a tax increase, but I am afraid the previous speaker may have just proved me wrong. I just got a couple of quick comments. The budget, I don't believe anybody would say it is a simple process or that it has been a simple process. Hopefully, I think the budget has been adjusted in a number of departments, some more than others. From what I can see of it, the PD, the Transfer Station, the Library, all did really good jobs and I think they all came in at a decrease in their budgets. I am not saying there is not room for more, but I am also saying it is not a situation where there hasn't been some adjustment done and some cuts made.

Mr. Graham said the bond issue, you know, for years and years I haven't been sure people really know what they are voting on. Bond issues cost the taxpayers more money than whatever they are voting on doing and ties the hands of people that are setting budgets. Once it is voted on by the public, then the Town Councilors have to deal with it. I don't know what we can do about that. Hopefully, the public will get more up to speed on what they are voting for on with bond issues.

Mr. Graham said on undesignated funds, I know this is drastically oversimplifying it, but if you go to a pre-pay gas station and you go and fill your tank and you go and give them \$50 and it costs \$35 to fill your tank, they don't designate the remainder as undesignated funds. In my opinion, and I know you are allowed certain percentages, but undesignated funds to me means that the taxpayer has been overcharged. I know it is not that simple, but that is the way a blue collar guy looks at it.

Councilor Larochelle said can I just add to that. One of the things and I realized when you mentioned the idea of the ability to borrow money and the town does with the school and for every situation needs to borrow money, and correct me if I am wrong Steve, but what I have been told, being on the Audit Committee, is that those undesignated funds are basically your credit. It kind of gives you a particular rating when you go to the bond bank, if you are going to be able to get a bond and what type of rating you are going to get on it. It is not just a pool of money that, hopefully, you collect some interest in good years, it's actually what the bond bank looks at to say, yes, we will lend you money over the long term, because you actually have some type of reserve that could pay for it if things go wrong. I'm not sure, Steve, am I saying that correctly?

Mr. Eldridge said that's close. Miriam Morgan-Alexander said you don't need it, so we will loan it to you. Councilor Larochelle said, exactly. We are only going to give you as much money as you don't need, right? Ms. Morgan-Alexander said on the other hand if you've got this money, all we have to do is have one police chase and one lawsuit and it's all gone. We need insurance and that serves that purpose.

Mr. Graham said, well, I know it wasn't as simple as I was stating it, but it just seems funny to me to say we have money left over from last year, but we need a tax increase this year. That's all; just my opinion.

Alex Campbell said I'm a junior at Lisbon High School. I just wanted to clarify something. Mrs. Stevens was talking about the "yes" and the "no" vote and about you can vote "it is too high" or "it is too low", I was wondering if that is two separate things.

Councilor Bowie said your first question to vote on is, do you approve the budget or not. You are saying either "yes" or "no" to that. If you say no to that, you have disagreed with that budget and if enough people (by majority vote) say "no," that budget does not get passed. The second one is sort of an advisory question, a non-binding question, but it is to give guidance back to the School Committee and the Town Council, to indicate that if you didn't like the budget, which way didn't you like it? Did you not like it, because "it is too high?" Do you think more money should be taken out? Or did you not like it, because "it is too low" and you think more money should be put back into it. So, there are two separate questions that get voted on. You say "no", I don't want the budget and you tell us how you would like us to go look at it going forward. Ms. Campbell said, so, if enough people voted "no", "it is too low", money would be put back into it.

Nicole Conrad said I am, also, a junior at Lisbon High School. The woman over there earlier said that she didn't think this was going to effect our accreditation with all the cuts, but I really think it is going to, because the classrooms are going to go up to 25 or 30 kids in one room. We won't have as many AP classes, unless there are 18 signed up and I am one of those students that want to take AP classes to get ready for college. I want to apply to a competitive school and I am already in two different honor societies hoping to get into another one right now. I fear that if I am attending Lisbon High School with all these cuts, teachers leaving, and really high supporters of the students, that I am just going to be looked upon because of the high school I attended. I can't afford to go to another school right now, because I would have to pay, because I am not a resident and I want to save for college, obviously. Is there any way that the town's budget surplus, or if you made little cuts there that could go to the school, or is it completely two separate things? Councilor Bowie said they are two separate entities.

Councilor Cote said one thing I would like to mention is that in order to fix the problem of having to release the teachers, it would take a considerable amount of money and \$20,000 or \$30,000 is not going to cut it. The amount of money that we got cut from the State level is what hurt the schools to the significance of that. As a Council, we did not cut the school budget. The school budget was cut through State funding. As much as we would like to remedy the problem and put the teachers back, we would have to increase the taxes on your parents' homes so much that your parents would be here instead of you and we would have serious issues to deal with, because people can't afford that kind of money.

Ms. Conrad said I understand that. Is there anything we could maybe do to make the State change their laws? Councilor Bowie said we'll sign you up; we are looking for all the support we can get there.

Councilor Lunt said I think it is happening to the schools all around the State, so all of you need to understand that every other school is having the same problems we are having here. If you were going to Brunswick, they are going to be losing AP programs, too, so you will be on a level playing field with kids everywhere.

Councilor Larochelle said if every school went picketing, like a dozen kids from every school in the State of Maine went to Augusta that would actually put on a pretty impressive show.

Ms. Conrad said I'll make some phone calls. Also, last night at the School Committee meeting they were talking about virtual classes? How much would that cost compared to having a regular teacher teach it? I don't understand how that would work. Would you just take that at your house or at school?

Ms. Grant said Mr. Greene has left. He knows more about it, but it is much, much cheaper, not that it is better than a teacher, but it could be taken at home and it could, also, be taken at school. It is brand new technology.

Councilor Mason said can I comment on that? My son went to a college that he was allowed to do that. He took many classes that way and he was able to graduate a whole semester early because of that. It may apply a little bit differently to high school, I'm not sure how it does, but I know my son really liked it. He went and did some condensed classes and it was very helpful to him as far as getting done sooner.

Councilor Larochelle said I have actually done some classes at different colleges where they actually do a virtual class and taking them as a student and what you will find, especially if you are a student that excels, sometimes when you do the virtual classes you can actually do these classes with students from all over the United States that excel at the same level that you do, so it almost steps you up a notch in the sense of, not saying that the students around you aren't at that level, but it allows you to stay in your own school without going and paying more money for a private school and you are actually getting some of that education. It is not a bad thing. It is definitely not a substitute for a real teacher, but I think you will find it is the future, unfortunately. It is going to happen more and more.

Ms. Grant said and if you are an honor student, you will handle it very well. Ms. Conrad said, well, I like one on one. I like being able to have the teacher there. Ms. Grant said there is a module, there is a way you can contact the teacher. Councilor Larochelle said most of them are live time. You are able to talk whenever. It is not just a video. It is as live as a person standing out in front of you. Ms. Grant said just don't discount it out of hand; remember we don't want rumors. Ms. Conrad said, yes, there are a lot of rumors going around. We don't have any of the cold facts in front of us. We don't know anything. Ms. Grant said there are a lot of mistruths and we are trying to deal with those now. Ms. Conrad said will there be a paper sent out to the students and families, like telling us how it is going to be next year, like I know there are going to be classes cut. Ms. Grant said once Mr. Healey and Mr. Greene get the schedule all worked out, because the schedule has to be totally reworked because of looping, that's sharing high school teachers with Sugg, and once that's all worked out and the classes are set, then you should know more. We can make sure that letters are sent home. If that is something you would like, we can make sure that happens, but it is not going to be tomorrow. It is going to take awhile.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Pomelow said I won't ask the Chief of Police to be put on the spot tonight, but I am just curious if we have any information about the E-911 system and whether or not communications are moving here or someplace else. Chief Brooks said that report has been given to the County Commission and the County Commissioners are just sitting on it for the time being. I think that probably the Town Manager can enlighten the board further still. We are trying to go to the Town Manager level to try to push the Commission.

Mr. Eldridge said the PUC has put out a letter to all the towns that they are going to be looking at consolidation of PSAP centers one more time, which could mean to us that what could happen is we would be forced to go possibly with Lewiston/Auburn E-911. That impact, like all the studies have shown that have gone on for the last three years, is going cost us tremendous amounts of money, so I am trying to organize all the managers within the Androscoggin County area that are going to be impacted by this and we need to find the solution. Chief Brooks and I think we have the solution and it needs to be done over a 5-year period so the impact is not so great. I've sent out emails to all of them. They've all responded, except for several. I need to follow up on it, again, tomorrow and, hopefully, start meeting to find out what we think we are going to do to stop this.

Councilor Pomelow said, you know, I really appreciate that answer. I realize you do not have cold hard facts, but as we look at the budget you did break out the communication line and I know that you said that if it goes elsewhere it is going to cost us more money, so I would like to keep that in mind as we go forward. Any updates as you get them would be really appreciated. Mr. Eldridge said, yes, you will have them.

Councilor Pomelow said I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the School Department and the School Committee for a job very well done on the budget this year. I know that it was really tough at times and I know that the decisions you had to make were not easy. It is affecting everybody as we hear from the students that are here.

Councilor Pomelow said I, also, want to go back to the streetlight issue at the corner of King Road and Littlefield Road and find out if that has actually been installed or if we have any additional information on where we are going with placing that light there. Mr. Eldridge said it has been given to Mr. Leighton to call CMP to get it installed and that is as far as I know. It has not gone up yet as far as I know. Councilor Pomelow said I certainly didn't mean to sound hostile at the last meeting, however, I did vote against that, because we were waiting for the streetlight ordinance to come out and it felt like we didn't have all the information at the time we were asked to vote on that so my vote would have been different a couple of weeks ago if we had had all that information.

Councilor Pomelow said I was, also, asked to mention by folks in the community that the sound was not working and that is why we had the loud out roar at the beginning of the meeting while we were trying to adjust the sound, so I am hoping that we get some feedback that it was positive. Thank you.

Councilor Lunt said I would like to thank Mr. Eldridge for working with me on my concerns about Upland Road. Thanks, Steve, you did a good job there.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2010-98) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adjourn at 8:31 PM. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Twila D. Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM/MMC

These Council meeting minutes were transcribed by Twila Lycette and proofed by Beth French.