



**TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 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, Crafts, and Larochelle. Councilor Henry was excused. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Jerry Samson, Assessor/CEO; and approximately seven citizens in the audience.

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

2008-35 ORDER TO APPROVE THE
OFF PREMISE CATERING PERMIT FOR CASA MIA D/B/A GRAZIANO'S

VOTE (2007-35) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to approve the off premise catering permit for Casa Mia, Inc. d/b/a Graziano's Restaurant. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

2008-36 ORDER TO
EXPAND THE VILLAGE ZONE LOCATED IN LISBON CENTER

VOTE (2007-36) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to expand the Village Zone located in Lisbon Center as presented (see map attached). **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

OTHER BUSINESS

A. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ricker said Lisbon is two-thirds of the way through its year and revenues were also two-thirds collected; well within the parameters of the budget so far. The Council discussed the cabin rental line. Councilor Wells asked Ms. Ricker to find out where park user fees were credited. Although the interest rate has dropped, Ms. Ricker indicated that those funds should still fall close to projections since jumbo certificates of deposits remain relatively the same. Ms. Ricker explained that on the appropriation control report the variance budget projection of -\$123,449.41 should be approximately \$19,000 less than that at fiscal year end since the solid waste disposal line should have \$10,000 left, the MTM cleaning contract should have \$3,000 left, the Recreation Department temporary line should have \$4,000 left, and the Teen Center's utility line should have \$2,000 left.

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said Jody Durisko had been hired as his Administrative Assistant and that she came with excellent computer skills and a very pleasant personality. He indicated Public Works had been working diligently on filling potholes and getting ready for the next storm coming in Thursday.

The Economic Development Director Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Eldridge met with representatives from DEP to discuss the removal of several dams on the Sabattus River. Mr. Eldridge said Mrs. Bradley had been involved with Brownfield Funding projects in the past. Councilor Smith suggested inviting the DEP representatives to a Council meeting since there were major concerns over lowering the water level in the past and this may not be in Lisbon's best interest.

Mr. Eldridge said he and Mrs. Bradley attended the MRRA (Mid-Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority) meeting in Brunswick. In September there may be a seat available; Mr. Eldridge pointed out that either he or Mrs. Bradley would be available when the opportunity presents itself.

Mr. Eldridge told the Council that he would be meeting with his Department Heads about budget cuts on Wednesday; only \$160,000 of the \$354,000 has been identified for cutting so far. He agreed to keep the Council informed.

C. BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEWS

Two candidates from District 1 were present. John Collins said he had been a resident of Lisbon for seven years, that he is a retired Portland Police Officer, and currently an Androscoggin County Deputy Sheriff. He said now that his children are out on their own he would like to get involved and be an active participant in his community. Stephen McNally said he had been a resident of Lisbon 18 years, that he works in construction and currently is a self employed contractor. He had served in local government previously in the Town of Dyer Brook in Aroostook County; he pointed out that he was very conservative. He too would like to get more involved in his community now that he has more time.

D. SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Eldridge informed the Council that he had invited Ann Schneider, a representative from MMA, to a Department Head meeting last week to talk about how to avoid injuries, report accidents, and obtain lower insurance rates. He said the meeting was very informative and educational.

E. BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Council unanimously moved this item to the end of the meeting.

F. REVIEW SIGN ORDINANCE

Mr. Eldridge said he spoke to Mr. Samson about a sign ordinance. Typically ordinances regarding zoning issues go to the Planning Board for drafting and recommendations, and then are reviewed by Attorney Therriault prior to Council adoption. Mr. Eldridge asked the Council for direction; whether to regulate signs like out front or signs in general. Councilor Mason and Bowie indicated that the ordinance should regulate signs in general. Councilor Bowie said billboards should not be allowed. Councilor Mason said political signs should not be allowed in town gardens. Councilor Crafts suggested the Council discuss portable signs; Councilor Bowie recommended limited times and numbers of days. Budget Advisory Board and Planning Board Member, Roger Cote indicated that signs were addressed in the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged the Council to adopt a sign ordinance compatible with the Comprehensive Plan.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Roger Cote said the town's budget looked like a skeleton, while the school's budget still has a lot of fat in it. He asked, "Who's paying for all these mandates?" He said if the taxpayers are paying for it, then they should be the ones with mandates. Mr. Cote said in regards to the dams in Lisbon, "Bad move." He said he had seen the river before without water in it and its nasty.

APPOINTMENTS

BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD

VOTE (2007-37) Councilor Bowie nominated John Collins. Councilor Crafts nominated Stephen McNally. 4 votes for Collins: Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Mason. 2 votes for McNally: Crafts and Smith. Mr. Collins was appointed to serve as our District 1's Budget Advisory Board Member.

The Town Clerk asked Mr. Collins to drop by her office to get sworn in and pointed out that Mr. Collins would serve until the next election November 2008. At that time the remaining number of years on this term would be filled.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mason said the School Committee voted in favor of adopting the School Consolidation Plan, that the plan took six months of hard work, and that the decision now rests in the hands of SAD 75 and the State Department of Education. Councilor Bowie thanked Councilors Smith and Mason for their work on this committee, commending them on the excellent job and presentation.

Councilor Larochelle said it's nice to see others have noticed our bare bones budget, adding that this will be a tough budget year.

Councilor Wells said the sign out front was awesome! She suggested Lisbon have another coffee social inviting residents into the Town Office to meet Mr. Eldridge and Mrs. Bradley.

E. BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Council discussed the budget with Mr. Eldridge, pointing out that they collectively didn't want to lose ground on infrastructure or capital improvement projects. Mr. Eldridge said some departments suggested cuts he didn't feel should be made. He said Sabattus is still interested in sharing the ACO position. Councilor Wells explained the 5% across the board cut meant the Councilors would be reducing the elected official's budget as well; each elected official will get paid 5% less this coming year. Councilor Larochelle remarked that for the past three years the tax rate remained the same. Councilor Smith was hesitant to reduce funding for Fire Department apparatus. Councilor Mason pointed out how important it is to keep a good maintenance amount. Mr. Eldridge said he would be making several proposals for the Council to consider. The Council is expected to make a decision sometime after the Public Hearing set for 7:00 PM at the Lisbon Community School on April 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2007-38) Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to adjourn at 8:57 PM. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Twila Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM