



## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Mark Lunt, Chair District 1 2012  
Lori Pomelow, Vice Chair At Large 2012  
Roger Cote, At Large 2011  
Michael Bowie, District 2 2012  
Roger Bickford, District 2 2013  
Fern Laroche, Jr., At Large 2013  
Gina Mason, District 1 2013

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. The Chairman, Mark Lunt, 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, Lunt, Pomelow, and Bickford. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Jody Durisko, Administrative Assistant; Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; Jessica Maloy, Finance Director; Scott Benson, Economic & Community Development Director; and approximately 25 citizens in the audience.

### PUBLIC HEARING

#### TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) AMENDMENT PRESENTATION

Scott Benson requested the Council consider amending the Dingley Press TIF District and Development Program for the purpose of using sheltered dollars to fund the Economic & Community Development Department and other associated related expenses for the remaining seven years of this 25 year TIF.

Mr. Benson explained TIFs in general and how they work. He started by saying it's a public Economic Development financing program funded by the property taxes on the incremental new value generated by a development project. It works by having the municipality designate a specific geographical area as a TIF District. The value of the taxable property in that District at that time is frozen and that's called the Original Assessed Value (OAV) and the TIF applies only to the new value in the District to be generated by private investment and that's called the Increased Assessed Value (IAV). All or a portion of the IAV generated by the private investment in the District is captured and the taxes on that captured assessed value funds the municipality's adopted development program for up to 30 years, which is the longest a TIF can run.

It's important to remember, he explained, that the taxable dollars on the OAV will continue to go to the general fund for the life of the District. The next step is that private investment occurs. Now there are new buildings, additional jobs, etc. and you now calculate the IAV by asking the Assessor, now, what is this worth. You take the OAV and subtract that from the current assessment, which gives you the IAV. Some or all of that value, the taxes on that, goes to fund the municipal development program, he said, which is what we use to stimulate private sector investment and job creation.

Lisbon has adopted six TIF's for this purpose since 1993, 163 jobs were retained, and between 250 and 275 jobs were created. More than \$38 million in private sector investment was brought about as a result of the establishment of these TIF's. Nearly \$26 million in IAV was created as of April 1, 2010.

TIF money can be used on the cost of improvements within the District, like new construction, redevelopment of existing buildings, financing costs associated with both or professional services, or administrative costs. We can pay a portion of municipal salaries that go towards administering the District. In addition, we can pay for costs outside but related to the District, like infrastructure, public safety improvements, mitigation of District impact, and the costs related to Economic

Development, which are not restricted by the District so that's a town-wide thing. You can pay for Economic Development programs, events developed by the municipality, capitalize loan programs, skills development, training for employees, and childcare programs, or trail improvements.

The secondary benefit to using TIF is to shelter against adverse adjustments to State subsidies and county taxes based on a municipality's total evaluation. The town's total equalized assessed value as of April 1 every year is used to compute the State Education Subsidy, State Revenue Sharing, and County Tax amounts. As the total value increases, the municipality will realize a decrease in education and revenue sharing subsidies and an increase in county tax obligations, therefore new tax revenues resulting from a development project in fact become reduced through a loss of those subsidies and increased county tax.

Mr. Benson presented the following example: If the assessed value of the new investment was, \$5 million, the taxes \$105,000, then the reduction in State Education Subsidy would be \$34,500 less, the reduction in State Revenue Sharing would be \$8,634 less and the increase in County Tax would be \$4,370 more. Resulting in a net to the town of \$57,497, which turns out to be is a loss of .45 cents on every unsheltered dollar of new valuation here in Lisbon. This is still a significant adverse adjustment that we suffered, he said.

The TIF allows the municipality to shelter new value in a District from the computation of its state subsidies and county taxes. The sheltering allows the municipality to retain all or a portion of those new tax revenues that would otherwise have gone to covering the cost of reduced subsidies or higher county taxes. Use of revenues captured and retained through TIF sheltering is restricted and must be spent for approved economic development activities.

Mr. Benson said let's look at that example again once we apply our funds to the restricted use for approved economic development activities: There's the \$5 million again, the \$105,000 annual tax again, but once it's sheltered we suffered no adverse impact because there is no reduction in State Education Subsidy, State Revenue Sharing and no increase in County Tax. In the end, Lisbon nets the full \$105,000 with restrictions for economic development.

Mr. Benson pointed out that the Dingley Press TIF was actually a 20-year District established in 1993, but amended an additional 5-years in 1998. It was done to support the company's new investment into two expansion projects totaling \$31 million dollars. It retained more than 125 existing jobs and created more than 140 new jobs. 50% of those taxes resulting from that IAV has been returned to the company since 1993 in two credit enhancement agreements (CEA), which are the legal conveyances between Lisbon and the company.

Mr. Benson pointed out that the OAV for that District when we first started was \$6 million (1993) and now the value is \$24.4 million (2010). Presently, approximately 350 people are employed at the company's Lisbon Road facility. Lisbon increased its commercial tax base, created more jobs, and the investment through the TIF yielded the desired results and yet, he said, Lisbon is missing an opportunity.

Mr. Benson said since the District was established only 50% of the IAV has been captured each year and sheltered from state subsidy and county tax formulas, the remaining 50% of the IAV is unsheltered and goes into the municipal General Fund. The unsheltered value results in a loss of state subsidies and an increase in county tax. He said the IAV of this District as of April 1, 2010 was \$10,425,290. Taxes on that yielded a total of \$221,452. The Dingley II Credit Enhancement Agreement of which this relates to (50% of IAV) \$110,000 went to the company per that CEA and the other 50% went into the General Fund unsheltered. As a result, we suffered a loss of \$36,381 in State Education Subsidy, \$9,101 in State Revenue Sharing, and paid \$4,608 in County Taxes. That's a \$50,090 adverse adjustment. We started at \$110,726, but \$50,090 was devoted to making up what we lost in subsidies and increased taxes so Lisbon's net at the end of the day was \$60,636.

Mr. Benson said if the Council approves the amendment tonight, the town would then shelter the other 50% and the \$110,726 would go into another development account and Lisbon would as a result suffer no loss in State Education Subsidy and so forth. In this manner, Lisbon would keep the full \$110,726. As you begin sheltering this, you may even see an increase in your state subsidy, he said pointing out that the \$50,000 lost in the current tax year, he thought, in effect wouldn't we get that back. We may see a positive impact and maybe a little bit more in the State Education and Revenue Sharing Subsidies and less in the County Tax.

Mr. Benson said the Town of Lisbon has supported the office of Economic & Community Development for three decades. He recommended we support it with sheltered TIF dollars since the decision was made long ago that Lisbon wants to do economic development in town. TIF statutes allow us to use these dollars to pay for these sorts of activities with no adverse impact as a result. When the 1998 TIF amendment was adopted, it was the town's full intent to capture the full 100% of the value for just this purpose, he said. Unfortunately, Lisbon was never able to quantify that for the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development Office, who is the reviewing authority to ensure compliance with statute, but we can correct that tonight, he offered. This will not effect the company in any way. This is about how the town chooses to handle its share.

The amendment would adjust the captured assessed value from its present level from 50% to 100% for the final seven years of the TIF term. We would do this for the purpose of using town TIF revenues to support the town's Economic & Community Development (ECD) Department budget and other authorized development related expenses. The proposed work plan to be submitted to the DECD includes the ECD Annual Budget (salary, fringe, and operations), Annual MOXIE Festival sponsorship, Annual AVCOG Membership Dues, and Matching Funds to private donations for Revitalization efforts. Mr. Benson stressed that the proposed work plan was essentially a menu of options for funding considerations every single year and that it doesn't lock Lisbon into anything but that option.

Mr. Benson pointed out that the loss of revenue to the general fund will be offset by a reduction in the expenses now supported through the ECD program as a direct result of the TIF amendment. The amendment doesn't change the annual municipal budget process. That will still be done the way we have always done it. The only change is which revenue stream is used to support ECD and associated functions.

Councilor Larochelle said this is one of the reasons we do TIF's. As a businessperson, I have always thought of a TIF as a gift. With this, the town is benefiting just as much if the program is utilized fully, he said.

Larry Fillmore said he is asking us to change the money from unsheltered to sheltered and by doing this we are going to loose X number of dollars from the General Fund. He believes that the money is going to be put into the Economic Development Program and it is covering the cost that we are already paying him for, but I don't believe that's true because I believe he gets money from FAME, the Revolving Loan Fund, Housing Grants from the State, and Community Development Block Grant funds from the Federal Government. These are all monies coming into that program that we don't provide money for; that's already there. He has a sign account and a USDA account so he has money coming in from other sources. He is asking us to take the General Fund's money and transfer it over to his funds. With the budget coming up...where do we think that we are going to get the money to pay for the expenses this year, he said. This will come as another tax increase next year. He is increasing his budget at no benefit to the town, other than we will have money in that particular program for more development, but he already has money coming in for that and we need this in the General Fund.

Dexter Parson said the comparisons were pretty good, but hard to absorb. He requested a hard copy of this power point presentation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**VOTE (2011-22)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to approve the Minutes of January 25, 2011 and a Criminal Forfeiture. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Against: Cote)**

**COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES****TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) AMENDMENT**

**VOTE (2011-23)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to approve the Second Amendment to the Dingley Press Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Lisbon (the "Town") is authorized pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, to designate tax increment financing Districts and adopt development programs for such tax increment financing Districts within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for continued economic development in the Town of Lisbon; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to provide continuing employment opportunities for the citizens of the Town and the surrounding region; to improve and broaden the tax base of the Town and to improve the general economy of the Town, the surrounding region and the State of Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town designated the Dingley Press Municipal Development District and Tax Increment Financing District (the "District") and adopted a development program for the District at a Town Meeting held December 7, 1993 (the "Development Program"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town adopted the First Amendment to the Dingley Press Municipal Development District and Tax Increment Financing District and development program for the District (the "First Amendment") at a Town Meeting held January 22, 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has held a public hearing on the question of adopting a Second Amendment to the District and development program (the "Second Amendment") in accordance with the requirements of 30-A M.R.S.A. §5226, upon at least ten (10) days prior notice published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, a Second Amendment to the District and development program will help continue the pursuit of the above-mentioned goals in the Town, the region and the State; and

**WHEREAS**, it is expected that approval will be sought and obtained from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, approving the Second Amendment to the Dingley Press Municipal Development District and Tax Increment Financing District and development program for the District;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED** as follows:

Section 1. The Town hereby finds and determines that:

At least twenty-five percent (25%) of the real property within the District, as designed, is suitable for industrial sites as defined by 30-A M.R.S.A. §5223; and

The total area of the District does not exceed two percent (2%) of the total acreage of the Town, and the total area of all development Districts within the Town (including the District) does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total acreage of the Town; and

The aggregate value of equalized taxable property of the District as of April 1, 2010 does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total value of equalized taxable property within the Town as of April 1, 2010; and

The aggregate value of indebtedness financed by the proceeds from tax increment financing Districts within Androscoggin County, including the proposed District, does not exceed \$50 million; and

The designation of the District and pursuit of the Development Program will generate substantial economic benefits for the Town and its residents, including employment opportunities, broadened and improved tax base and economic stimulus, and therefore constitutes a good and valid public purpose.

Section 2. Pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Town hereby adopts the Second Amendment to the Dingley Press Municipal Development District and Tax Increment Financing District presented to the Town Council in the form attached hereto and such Second Amendment to the Development Program is hereby incorporated by reference into this vote as the Development Program for the District.

Section 3. The Town Manager be, and hereby is, authorized, empowered and directed to submit the proposed Second Amendment to the Dingley Press Municipal Development District and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program for the District to the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development for review and approval pursuant to the requirements of 30-A M.R.S.A. §5226.

Section 4. The foregoing adoption of the Second Amendment to the Dingley Press Municipal Development District and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program for the District shall automatically become final and shall take full force and effect upon receipt by the Town of approval of adoption of the Second Amendment to the Development Program by the Department of Economic and Community Development, without requirements of further action by the Town or any other party.

Section 5. The Town Manager is hereby authorized and empowered, at his discretion, from time to time, to make such technical revisions to the Development Program for the District as the Department of Economic and Community Development deems reasonably necessary or convenient in order to facilitate the process for review and approval of the Second Amendment to the Development Program by the Department of Economic and Community Development, so long as such revisions are not inconsistent with this Order or the basic structure and intent of the Development Program.

Councilor Cote said we have a pretty hard budget we will be looking at and I believe Mr. Fillmore brings forth some interesting points that we ought to take into consideration. Are we going to cut

jobs to fund Economic Development in this community, he asked. Mr. Eldridge brought forth a list of projects that were necessity projects for the Town of Lisbon, he continued, bridges that need repairing, buildings that need improvements, and these were things he would be looking at. He said to take money out of the General Fund this year when we are facing these things, for economic development, for this time, there's nothing. Not to say that he wouldn't like to give Mr. Benson all the money he needs for economic development, he indicated that we just don't have it.

Councilor Bowie said he understood where Mr. Fillmore was coming from, but believed that the revolving loan funds, block grants and stuff could not be used to pay for salaries or to cover the rest of the expenses in that municipal budget. Those funds can be used to give other businesses loans for additional improvements, etc., and said that only a small percentage could be utilized to support an administrative person to help with audits and things. The bulk of that money is only for us to have to delve out to other businesses he pointed out and does not go towards offsetting any of the expenses in this budget. This would be a wash from the General Fund to this budget. He said we might be able to increase the support for MOXIE days.

Mr. Benson said only a very small portion of one loan fund has been used to support the director's salary. He proposed in the future, Lisbon lend that money and instead use these TIF revenues to leverage that opportunity. He said its been said that we have all kinds of pools of money; that may have happened 10 or 15 years ago, but it's not happening right now. He proposed we lend out the money set aside to support the director from the Rural Development Intermediary Re-lending Program and market it as available. He would like to target that money for businesses so that they can create jobs and invest in our community.

Councilor Pomelow said she believed that the \$36,381 figure used in tonight's presentation is about 10% of the co-curricular budget in the School Department; that is 10% of what this town contributes above and beyond what's paid for or reimbursed by the EPS and education. It's also my understanding, she said, that the decrease in State Revenue Sharing Subsidy is money that we lose and could be kept in this community and we end up paying more money to the County of Androscoggin. It only makes sense that we would want to keep all of these dollars in this community, she said. What we need to understand when we look at the municipal and school budgets is that 80% of these budgets are salaries and benefits and if we are talking about a 1.75% increase in pay and we have increases in health insurance, we need to understand that that's where the biggest part of our budget is coming from. She pointed out that we are talking about \$50,000 in comparison to a \$7 million dollar budget.

Councilor Mason requested that Mr. Benson explain what is coming out of Economic Development. We have a budget for Economic Development and from my understanding, the budget we have now would come out of this program. It's not over and above that. Mr. Benson said it is simply replacing what you are typically paying for from the General Fund. Instead of typically paying for it from the General Fund, you would be paying for it from a dedicated development fund. You are not paying any more than you have ever paid. Again, the budget is an annual decision made through our typical municipal budget process.

Councilor Larochelle said that one thing he had learned from Mr. Benson and the previous directors is that unfortunately we have not taken advantage of this scenario we could be in. We are actually doing something that we were intended to do, but not doing it wisely, he said, we are not getting the big bang for the buck. We have heard this before and we really need to move forward and make this better, he added. As Councilor Pomelow has pointed out before, he said, the biggest way we can fix our budget is with revenue; it's not the idea that we are stealing money from the Town of Lisbon to pay for a department, it's the idea of using money in town smartly to make more money and to bring more money in. He said anything we can do to support Mr. Benson and hopefully give him a better run at it than we have done in the past, he would support.

Councilor Lunt said from what he could see it looked like basically a wash. There are a lot of figures there that aren't just in the salary line that would be cancelled out here, he added. It's not like we are adding a \$110,000 in new spending for economic development, he added, we are just trying to basically shield that extra money and get back the \$40,000 or so in extra revenue from the state.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Against: Cote)**

#### SET RATE OF INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

**VOTE (2011-24)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Bickford moved to set the rate of interest on delinquent taxes for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2011-2012 at 7%.

Councilor Larochelle indicated there was no incentive to pay on time without the penalty, which could become a financial burden for the town.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Debbie Barry requested the Council consider a 5% discount for early payment or if paid on time. Councilor Larochelle indicated that although it may seem small, Lisbon can't afford it because the bigger players at 5% may actually hurt us a lot.

**Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

#### INTERAGENCY REQUESTS

Historically Lisbon has only supported LACO with funding even though Mr. Eldridge submits all the requests to the Council for their consideration each year. Mrs. Maloy said that was about \$2,000 last year. Councilor Larochelle pointed out that LACO continues to use a room at the MTM building at no charge along with the funding as well. Councilor Bowie recommended that the Council continue to do what was done last year with no changes. Councilor Lunt indicated that it would be nice if we could fund all these other programs, but that Lisbon could barely afford its own expenses and supported no change as well.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### A. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Maloy said that for the month of January the revenues were \$244,000 uncollected due to the tax adjustment. Excise tax was at 51% collected. Last year at this time, we took in \$61,000 and this year we took in around \$71,000. State Revenue Sharing is 61% collected at this time as compared to 48% at this time last year. Transfer station revenues are at 65% collected. She indicated we were 52% collected on the total tax for the year, which is better than last year at this point at 50%. Reminder tax bills went out February 7 for the second half payment. She mentioned things were getting pretty tight with the lack of interest. Revenues look to be on track.

Councilor Bowie asked about the General Assistance Reimbursement. Mrs. Maloy said the state hasn't disbursed those funds yet.

Mrs. Maloy said on the expense side that legal was 95% expended, the first half TIF payments went out, and there's \$24,000 in the Winter Public Works account. She indicated everything else was on track where budgeted.

### B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge announced that the rail service public hearing was moved to March 16 at 7:00 PM at AVCOG. He encouraged all those interested to attend.

### C. LETTER FROM CHIEF GALIPEAU

Councilor Lunt indicated Chief Galipeau had requested time to read a letter. Chief Galipeau said this letter was dated January 26, 2011 and directed to Councilor Lunt and the Town Manager reflecting comments made by a Councilor as follows:

Councilor Lunt, I am writing this letter as a rebuttal to the January 25 Council Meeting discussion on the 39 Village Street property. During the meeting, Councilor Cote publicly stated and I will quote "to burn a person's house down and plaster the internet with pictures of it KKK style". I find this accusation to be unethical, very offensive, and completely out of line coming from a leader in our community. The Lisbon Fire Department has served this community for over 150 years. The service workers have put in countless hours of hard work and training and protection to the municipality. That's time away from loving families during the hardest times...all for a small stipend in order to keep the taxes down and to fulfill a civic duty. This is in no way is close to what the KKK was established for or what they represent. I as a Department Head am embarrassed by this outburst...and for a Councilor to accuse a department in which he governs of such a comparison, I would hope that you as a Council would deal with such an action and that Mr. Cote as a man would publicly apologize to the members which are in this room...

Councilor Cote asked if the Council was looking for a rebuttal on that. Councilor Lunt indicated that he would like to hear an apology. Councilor Cote said he was not going to give an apology and that he would explain why. He said Lisbon could have demolished it and burned it as a pile of rubble instead of burning it down. He indicated he had seen pictures with people standing in the street applauding, which he said did not look real well for the Town of Lisbon. He indicated that when he made the comment, he was very irate at the pictures he had been shown that evening. He apologized to the firefighters and said that they do an excellent job, but that he didn't feel that the pictures needed to be put on the internet. As far as the firefighters are concerned, he continued, he apologized. For putting the pictures on the internet, he said, and to who is responsible for that he would not apologize to.

Councilor Larochelle said he believed that there were many opportunities for training; one of those include using a full structure and that he would be almost willing to bet their wasn't a firefighter there that day that had nothing more than good intentions, doing a training, and performing a service to the town. Unfortunately, it's not everyday that they get an opportunity to do training exercises like this, he said, and the idea of training on a pile of rubble wouldn't help them practice what they need to do in a live situation with a house still in tact. If you go through the photos, you will find many photos of many burns, from the mill fire to car accidents. He said that he would not be lead to believe that these pictures were put on the internet in any mean or careless way.

Councilor Lunt pointed out that to burn it saved the town some money eliminating the expenses of demolition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Fillmore said if you ask the Fire Department to burn down a house you have to take everything out and then they charge you. As far as putting pictures on the internet, he said, they should have kept them for training classes for the Fire Department and never put on the internet.

Councilor Mason asked Chief Galipeau if that was the first house the Fire Department had ever burned down and put the pictures on the internet. Chief Galipeau indicated, as Councilor Larochelle pointed out, that there were pictures up for everything that they do.

**D. UPDATE FROM SENATOR MASON**

Senator Garrett Mason said a lot has happened since he had been here last. He serves on the Criminal Justice Public Safety Committee as Chairman, which deals with public safety issues and seven prisons in the state and serves on the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. He said he understood that the governor has no plans to cut education and only plans to fund it. This week 250 Lisbon Community School children came to visit him and Representative Crafts. They learned about what they do up there. No bills have gone through the full process yet, but they are working on them.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Larry Fillmore said he has asked three times now for an independent forensic audit of the Economic Development Department and its still not done. He said, I don't call that supporting anybody.

Councilor Larochelle indicated a circumstance did happen prior to him becoming a Councilor where funds had not been handled properly, but after that more checks and balances have been put into place than in any other department in town. He indicated that there would not be a benefit from paying for a forensic audit to know what we already know when nothing indicates one is needed.

Mr. Fillmore said the Council voted to bring the town's assessed value from 56% to 80% by adjusting the 2010 property bill using a factor of 1.32. He explained that on his bill the land was \$17,560 and when multiplied by 1.32 it comes to \$23,179.20, but the tax bill says \$23,200, which is a difference of \$22. His building was \$45,590 and that's \$60,178.80 when multiplied by 1.32, but his tax bill said \$60,200, which is a \$22 difference. He said they rounded this up \$44 [92 cents], and that he wasn't told this was going to happen. He said all the properties were rounded up, and that could be a big figure. Why do we have a surprise here, he said. Councilor Lunt asked him to inquire at the Assessing Office for information.

Dexter Parson said he wanted an answer from the town, which he had been unsuccessful in getting for over a year, in regards to a 2006 subdivision application that went to the Planning Board, which abuts his property. He said the final approval had conditions and one was not being performed so he wondered how long this would be permitted without being addressed. Attorney Therriault responded in 2009 that the Planning Board and Developer had agreed to set a completion date, but that he (the attorney) had reservations whether a completion date was required by ordinance. After several letters later requesting a response from the Attorney, Town Manager, and Council, he said, he still has had no response. He still wanted to know why the ordinance requiring a completion date did not apply so he could determine whether or not the completion date set 2 ½ years later was a just a courtesy to him personally. Councilor Lunt said he would like to know why we did not respond to Mr. Parsons earlier and apologized.

Deputy Fire Chief Veilleux, on behalf of the members of his Fire Company and the Falls Company, informed the Council that they take pride and honor in the duties that they perform on a daily basis in emergency and non-emergency situations. He said they were given the green light to do what they

were requested to do. He mentioned that the firefighters should not have been made to feel ashamed or embarrassed for doing their job. They cleared a piece of town property and this slanderous activity was completely uncalled for, he said, and pointed out that the Town Charter under Section 74-201 Working Rules states that all members of the Town Council shall accord the utmost courtesy to each other, town employees, and the public...and shall refrain at all times from rude and derogatory comments, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments, as to motives, and personalities. He stated that using the "KKK" as a reference was rude and derogatory and reflects upon the integrity of the entire Lisbon Fire Department and he demanded a formal apology. He said he did not think that the apology Councilor Cote gave earlier was appropriate.

Dorothy Fitzgerald said Mr. Parson had contacted her as well and she asked who would be responsible for answers, setting a date, and setting this right? Mr. Eldridge explained that what Mr. Parsons was referring to was a process that went through the Planning Board; they are a separate quasi-judicial group that makes these decisions. Mr. Parsons over the last three years has questioned a subdivision that was going on. Mr. Eldridge said that project went back to the Planning Board, Mr. Parsons was there, the Planning Board made a decision to amend the subdivision, and that project was finished. If he has other questions, he should probably address them to the Planning Board because they are the ones who make the decision, not the Town Manager, Town Attorney, or the Town Council. The Town Manager understood that this project was amended and that the issue was resolved, and said, if he is unsatisfied with the decision that the Planning Board made, the Town Manager cannot change that for him. Councilor Lunt indicated that if there were issues with a Planning Board decision, they would go to the Appeals Board.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said a courtesy letter explaining that should have been sent. Councilor Lunt asked that the Town Manager look into that to make sure that that's resolved; he requested that the Town Manager and Town Attorney get together to make sure that a correct response is given to Mr. Parsons.

## APPOINTMENTS - NONE

## COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Cote asked Chief Veilleux to stay for a moment and said, he followed the Village Street structure for seven years as a member of the Appeals Board and that he did not approve personally about the way that it was handled. He said when he saw the pictures on the internet he felt it was not in very good taste, adding that what he said was probably a little abrasive, but that he felt those pictures were abrasive also. Councilor Cote said, "do I apologize if I offended you personally, yes I do very much, and I take it back in anyway to you personally or any of the firefighters of this community". He indicated he would not apologize about the pictures and still feels it was not in good taste.

Councilor Larochelle said the School Facilities Committee is still meeting on an ongoing basis. They are continuing to look at working on more improvements to make our schools better. At some point in time, the town will have to go to a vote to approve the projects we are working on now. We are trying to use the money that we have wisely to do the most we can.

Councilor Lunt said he visited the website and saw the new managerial report. He thought it looked very nice. It gives a lot of information about what is going on in each of the town departments. If you haven't, he said, I encourage everyone to sign up for that.

Councilor Pomelow said she received an email sending kudos to Jason at Public Works thanking him for doing such a good job plowing. She said he happens to plow in her neighborhood as well and said this year has been by far the best as well. They have had a lot of snow in a short period of time and she was very pleased with the condition of our roads. She indicated that it goes a long ways

when someone points out people to be recognized for doing a good job instead of being negative all the time pointing out what is being done wrong.

Councilor Pomelow said over a period of time she has listened to many people make comments particularly during audience participation and that she has been extremely troubled by some of the issues that have come up. At times its on demand with issues coming up that the Council has not been made aware of and Councilors have no opportunity to look into matters, provide a rebuttal, respond, or to provide any education to questions or comments that are posed to us during audience participation. She said I understand that the Council is not required to give an answer, but that it is frustrating to sit up here and feel like my intelligence is being insulted by the fact that I have no opportunity to prepare for things that are going to be said. She said other communities and some local boards hold meetings without audience participation sessions and at this point, she suggested, that in the future Lisbon look very closely at eliminating the audience participation and operate this Council Meeting as a business meeting. She was not saying that she was not interested in what taxpayers have to say or need a response to, but that if there is an issue that is bothering someone to please go to the Department Head or write a letter to the Council or call the Council. She said she has expressed this frustration to the other Councilors, Town Manager, and Chair. At times, she said, she has felt like her intelligence and integrity have been insulted and questioned and that if this were to continue she would not stay on this board. She requested this be given some thought.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**VOTE (2011-26A)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to go into executive session at 8:40 PM per 1 MRSA Section 405(6) (A) Personnel Matters. The Council retired to a private room. The Council came out of executive session at 10:00 PM and resumed the meeting.

**VOTE (2011-26B)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to extend the Town Manager's Contract. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Against: Cote)**

## ADJOURNMENT

**VOTE (2011-27)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adjourn at 10:05 PM. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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

*The workshop discussion on the Recall Process and Health Insurance ended at 11:10 PM.  
The Budget Referendum Vote discussion was moved to a future agenda.*