



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2009

Michael Bowie, Chair At Large 2009
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010
Fern Larochele, Jr., At Large 2010
Roger Cote, At Large 2011
Janet Henry, District 1 2009
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010
Norma Wells, District 2 2009

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, Henry, Larochele and Cote. Councilor Crafts was unexcused. Councilor Wells was excused. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Michael Cote, Code Enforcement Officer; Councilors Elect Lori Pomelow and Mark Lunt; Budget Advisory Board Members Jeff Ganong, Donald Fellows, Richard Graham, & Jon Wierzbicki; and approximately 14 citizens in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING

VICTUALER'S LICENSE FOR CANTON PEARL

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2009-179) Councilor Larochele, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to approve a Victualer's License for the Canton Pearl and to accept the Minutes of November 4, 2009. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES - NONE

OTHER BUSINESS

A. WEATHERIZATION INC. PRESENTATION BY BILL CHURCHILL

Mr. Eldridge said during the last budget process we talked about correcting some of the problems we were having with ice build-up. We had several different opinions from insulation problems, air circulation problem, and the roof needing work. Working with Casco Engineering and some guidance from an architect we examined some of these things here. Their recommendation was to have Mr. Churchill, an energy audit specialist certified through the State, come in and really give us a better idea of what we need to do here. He owns a company called Churchill Weatherization.

Mr. Churchill said I have been in the attic and I took some photographs for the Council to look at. Simply put, ice dams or ridges of ice and icicles caused by melt water from further up the roof freezes as it lowers on the roof. The dam created by the ridge of ice along the eaves can trap further melt water and result in significant leakage under and through the roofing. This leakage can cause damage to the sheathing, the roof structure, the ceiling, and the walls below. Large icicles can be dangerous to people and damage property below. Ice dams are a common roof performance problem in buildings that experience snow fall in at least the months of below freezing

temperatures. The combination of sufficient roof pitch, adequate insulation just above exterior walls, and air sealing at the wall/roof assembly transitions are essential to preventing ice dams. We can see that the insulation has been compacted from foot traffic, the ice dams, or leakage, which reduces the effectiveness of the insulation or fiberglass. Fiberglass isn't a good insulator. In this application where you have one side exposed to the outside air, it loses about 50% of its effective R-value.

Mr. Churchill said you can see some peak insulation that is not performing well. There is heat loss through here. This is a picture of an un-insulated vent stack that I recommend insulating. This is a picture of the vents coming out and this is another vertical wall. The peak wall is vertical and there are two of them in the attic. I am not sure where they are from down here, but if you were to peel back that pink insulation you could look through that wall and see the other side of this suspended ceiling. There is a lot of heat loss through there as well. He said there are soffits on the outside of the building where the roof comes down, sits on top of the wall, and you can see the fiberglass and rafters. What is happening here is that the rafters are not really working. The fiberglass insulation is so porous that the air comes through the fiberglass and draws the heat from the fiberglass into the attic with whatever heat you are using, which just goes out through the gable vent. I recommend sealing with a half inch or three quarter inch Styrofoam, it really doesn't matter, from rafter to rafter from the top of the wall up to the rafter vents and then cut around the rafter vents and seal it with fast drying liquid foam. You could go along and do each one of those; that would reduce a lot of your heat loss and prevent a lot of the ice dams that are happening here.

Mr. Churchill said there is melting going on up higher on the roof, which is running down lower and freezing at the soffits. I recommend putting another 6" inches of cellulose insulation up there, which will seal the fiberglass and bring the effective R-value up to where it should be. It should have 12" inches of insulation so where it is compacted I recommend putting cellulose over the pink fiberglass and use Styrofoam to reduce the air passage through the hard wall.

Mr. Eldridge said earlier in the fall we had him test for heat loss through the fiberglass and found that we were losing 81% of our heat every hour. Mr. Churchill said yes, that's right. Mr. Eldridge said that is an amazing loss of heat which explains a lot about why we have, I think anyway, problems cooling and heating this building. It's never uniform. One end of the building is frozen even though we have all of the thermostats set at the same temperature.

Mr. Churchill said the 81% is only taking into consideration the infiltration. You have on top of that the loss through the fiberglass insulation which is considerable. It is hard to test for that, and that's on top of the 81%.

Councilor Larochelle said just a couple of questions. The technology that is out there as far as for insulation has been around for quite some time. When you look at the inside of the roof and see the open fiberglass the way it is, is that an engineering issue or an application issue?

Mr. Churchill said I think it's more; weatherization is a fairly new technology industry and this is the way it's been done for years.

Councilor Larochelle said you were covering the idea of efficiency. The sealing off effect and some type of barrier over the top would have prevented the heat from escaping or the cold air from rising to the top of the fiberglass; would that have actually achieved some of what we are looking for? Mr. Churchill said certainly that would have helped a lot.

Councilor Larochelle said is that the way the roof was engineered or is it just the idea of what was done after as far as insulation or is that some techniques that were used in the past were good in principle, but didn't work well and I think that is what we are seeing. The way it was put out there, was that it was done with good intentions, but unfortunately it didn't really serve the purpose.

Councilor Cote said is there any sign of any molding or dampness where the moisture has caused problems? Mr. Churchill said there was some discoloration. I don't have any photos. I don't know if there is a mold issue up there. I don't think there is a mold issue. There are some water stains. Councilor Cote said basically that is what I was thinking, water stains from the dampness and the air condensing on the whole roof.

Mr. Eldridge said we have replaced some walls since I've been here; one in Geri Woods's office and the Town Clerk's office. We have done quite a bit of work where those valleys meet and the water seeps down through the walls. We keep fixing them, but we are hoping this will be a permanent fix.

Councilor Henry asked when was this building built. Mr. Eldridge said 2000 and we have had problems ever since it was built. We replaced all the sheathing on the roof at least once and shingles.

Councilor Henry said how much will this cost to repair. Mr. Eldridge said we have had several quotes. One was around \$30,000 to blow insulation, but not as detailed as what this gentleman has proposed, and to put copper sheathing in all the valleys, which was when we started questioning, do we have to use this outside stuff first? We should probably start with the insulation. Once he got up in there and really examined what we have we see we have problems with not just the insulation, but with all of the soffits and other areas that need to be closed off.

Councilor Cote said probably a lot of our problems will go away after just insulating it. Councilor Mason said did we ever go back to the contractor that did all this work? Councilor Bowie said we did initially. I believe Benchmark was the name of the company that did the construction. We had money held in escrow. We had that for a couple of years and then we ran into the roof problems and stuff like that, so that money was used to re-roof and shingle and everything, based on the troubles we were having at the time. Councilor Mason said so this problem has never really been researched before as far as the insulation problem? Councilor Bowie said supposedly Benchmark, because they were still under warranty or whatever, brought somebody in to look at it. They said all they needed to do was to fix the sheathing and re-shingle so that it would keep the water out and keep the ice from building up.

Councilor Mason said it would just be interesting to know exactly what was said. I mean if this gentleman sees something that has been there all along, I don't know, I feel that somebody owes something. Councilor Larochelle said I do think a lot of techniques have changed. There was a period where people would take plastic sheathing and cover all the interior walls just to keep the insulation, the air in, which would certainly be the bad part of it, because it kept all the moisture in, too. It rotted everything. It kind of went to the extreme the other way. I am just wondering, that is why I asked originally, if the idea of plugging up the eaves, if that was the technique they used.

Councilor Mason said there were parts of my house that were built before that and things were done way better than that. I just think this is very shoddy workmanship. Mr. Eldridge said I don't know if anybody has been in there since or what. Councilor Cote said it doesn't look like a whole lot was put in there. Councilor Bowie said no, they only re-did the roof.

Councilor Larochelle said the question I am wondering is what process is going to reduce the amount of air that is being pulled in? I assume what you are checking when you do that test to see where air is being pulled in from. The insulation you are putting down won't change that at all. Mr. Churchill said actually it will. It will reduce the air flowing through the insulation. The cellulose will seal. Councilor Larochelle said okay.

Councilor Cote said imagine what our fuel bill would be if they insulated this place. Mr. Eldridge said yes. You are losing 81% of your heat per hour. Councilor Cote said we have spent a lot of money since 2000. Mr. Eldridge said I have his report and a quote. We can compare this to the

others and we can make some recommendations now. Councilor Bowie said thank you Mr. Churchill. We appreciate your time.

Councilor Cote said are we going to make any decisions on what we are going to do with this. Mr. Eldridge said I will get you some other quotes and recommendations as well.

B. SCHEDULE COUNCIL WORKSHOP DATES

Mr. Eldridge said this year we have two new members coming onto the Council. Roger Therriault and I thought it would be helpful for all if we scheduled an educational workshop that will be broken into two sections; one for local government and we will talk about the charter and the other part will be to take the new Councilors on a Saturday morning tour through each facility so you will get to see each department. Each Department will give you an overview of exactly what that department does and how involved it is so everybody is on the same page. I think this will be a good process. We will walk through the Police Department, the Fire buildings and this way you will get to see these buildings first hand. It will give you an opportunity to talk to the people there about what their jobs are and what they do. This will be a good start. Mr. Therriault will talk about the Freedom of Information Act, liability issues, and things like that. MMA puts together a presentation, but they won't come out and do it. This way it gets done right here. Councilor Cote said why schedule this when the new Councilors are not on board yet. Councilor Bowie said we can talk about this on the 15th then. Mr. Eldridge said the dates are in your packets. I was hoping to get this done earlier rather than later when the budget process begins. This will be a real good way to start the introduction with all the new and existing members sitting down at the table at once. For us the budgets will start in January, except for the capital budget, which starts in December. Councilor Mason said I can't make it the 19th. Mr. Eldridge said why not email me which days you can come and I'll try to set something up that works for everybody. I would like to do the walk through the buildings on a Saturday morning. Councilor Larochelle said that's a great idea to get input.

Councilor Cote said is the Water Department going to be included. Mr. Eldridge said if the Council would like. Councilor Cote said I think the new Councilors would be very interested in going through the Water Department like we did. That would be very important. Councilor Larochelle said the only concern I have is that time is very limited and when we did the Water Department we actually spent a couple hours going through it so it may have to be staggered or something I think. Mr. Eldridge said when they actually appoint someone new to that commission I will get together with Mr. Adams and schedule an early evening tour maybe at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. right before a Council meeting so we can get back in time. Councilor Cote said most people don't have a clue what the Water Department does. Mr. Eldridge said that's a good idea and I'll set something up.

C. COUNCIL BUDGET GUIDELINES

Mr. Eldridge said we are starting to talk about budgets. Tomorrow morning at our Department Head meeting we will be reviewing guidance from the Council if you have any. You each have a sheet so you can score what is important. We would like some direction on how the new Council would like us to move forward. Do we want a flat tax rate, what are we talking about for wage increases if any and things like that? We have been looking at revenues and stuff like that. This may not be an easy budget process like last year so we are looking for guidelines the Council as a whole would like to give us. Councilor Bowie said I think we can fill out our chart and pass it in to Mr. Eldridge and maybe tonight you can give a couple of ideas on what your thoughts are on the budget; you know, like you might keep it flat and no major investments.

Councilor Cote said what comes to mind right off is that we are talking about some serious cuts at the state level on these school issues and where does that responsibility fall. Are we going to have to come up with funds to help lessen the blow to the school? They have needs. How much is their

shortfall going to be. Do we have to look for funds for education? Do we have to cut in other areas to be able to do that? These are all questions that have to be answered.

Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Green sent me a figure today. I think it was around \$191,000 and that's for this year. Councilor Larochelle said from what they are talking about on television that \$400,000,000 they said only \$80,000,000 is coming from this year and the rest will be addressed next year. I don't think anybody really knows except for what they are doing this year. Robin Tupper said it's not going to get better or be less than that. Councilor Mason said we went back and forth three or four times last year. I am sure it's even going to be worse this year. Councilor Bowie said I think its unfortunate we can't see through a crystal ball, but we have to try and give Mr. Eldridge some direction so he can pull together a budget and then as we find out what things are then we will have to go back and take a different approach to see how we can work with the municipal and school budgets to balance everything to get the best for our community.

Mr. Eldridge said there are some knowns like based on what our excise tax collection has been over the last several years, which has declined. We were \$51,000 off our 2008 projections and we are probably going to be off this year even though we predicted less. People are not spending money on cars so what they are registering today are cars that they have kept and that tax goes down. It won't be the decrease we thought because the referendum failed, but it's still not going to peak. It's been \$1.2 or \$1.3 million over the past few years. That has come down to under a million, which is what we expect this year. If we stay around one million that's \$200,000 off what we normally would get. We expect the state projections to be off considerably from what they projected last year, which was \$1.1 million and we are not even coming close to that this year. We projected one million this year and we are probably not even going to get that because the economy hasn't really turned around so we are looking at another \$200,000 less if not more. It appears that we will have around \$250,000 to \$300,000 less in revenue next year.

Councilor Cote said last year we completely avoided spending any money on roads; we stopped paving completely last year, because of the budget last year and we wanted to keep jobs. With the economy the way it is the cost of pavement is still down. It would probably be an opportune time to sneak a little money in there for roads. Mr. Eldridge said we still have two years left on our bond we projected out on our reconstruction and because the price is good we were able to slip in a little extra and do the Burrough Road which we hadn't planned on doing this year. We had planned to do that this coming season. We still will be rebuilding roads with the bond money we have, which is what that was for. We waited until the State completed the King Road Bridge so that's on the schedule for next year.

Councilor Larochelle said last year there were a lot of cuts and reductions so going into it the number one goal again is actually to keep it flat so no tax increase. I think that's a message that everybody wants to see every year, but with that said we actually want to maintain services. Last year we did a great job keeping the services that we have and maintaining the quality of services that's been expected over the years. During the audit maybe we didn't highlight it enough, but our undesignated funds are getting close to the bottom where we can't take any more away from that. Again, I think, keep the tax rate flat with the idea that we maintain all the services that we can. This year, I think, we really need to when it comes to our Capital Plan is not poke at them first because you can only take away from your Capital Plan for so long before they are no longer capital plans they become wish lists. Last year the employees took no pay increase which was helpful, but we can only expect that for so long because the cost of living does go up so this year within the idea of maintaining services we have to look at what is right and what is fair as far for the employees of the town and their wages and insurance so that needs to be addressed. You can't ask every year for them to take a wage freeze or lose pay. Even though we didn't put money in to pave roads over the next two years, I think, people are going to see road improvement work because we took out a bond and that's still ongoing. It's not like we've stopped, but I do agree we need to get the best bang for our buck and that's in every avenue and that's not just limited to paving. Those would be my biggest concerns is that we try to keep it flat, maintain services, and try to make sure our employees

are happy and that we are not trying to take advantage of them year after year. We need to try to move forward with our capital plans, maintain services, and try to make everybody happy; it will be tough.

Mark Lunt said I agree with a lot of what Councilor Larochelle said so I think we are thinking in similar terms here. I think we need to prioritize what are our most important services and then decide from there if we do have to make cuts to keep the taxes flat what is most essential to the government of the Town of Lisbon. That's just where I am standing. Lori Pomelow said ditto.

Councilor Mason said I think economic development is important and I know it is not a budget item, but working on that is very important. We are looking to develop some areas in town. We are hoping to do something with the Longchamps Park and the Worumbo Mill. We are working on revitalization as we speak. Those are important things to look at because when we are able to establish development such as the Campus Avenue School it increases the tax base so its important to look at these areas, support revitalization, support businesses, and in turn we are rewarded with a bigger tax base. Our capital plans are very important. Sometimes it hurts to take that initial \$20,000 or \$30,000, but ten years down the road when you need to purchase a new piece of equipment for \$200,000 then it's a lot easier to do that when you have something saved away. Like with our own household budgets, when you have a little something saved away and that emergency arises it's much easier to take from that than to take from your everyday living expenses so I think capital plans are very important, plus outsourcing or privatization of services whenever possible. I think sometimes we can cut back on things that we have in town here and maybe look at other avenues, such as privatize or work on different services that we have. That's my input.

Councilor Henry said I agree with revitalization. You know it brings more energy to town and where ever there is something new more people want to be a part of that and they will want to move here or bring their business here and I think that's very important to the tax base.

Councilor Bowie said I know balancing all this stuff is not going to be an easy job, but I would add "efficiencies of service" where maybe you can't outsource or privatize, but we need to look within to make sure we are doing things as efficiently as possible. You know, can we use more technology to provide services with fewer resources and those types of things. I know that's not always liked well when you are the resource, but efficiencies in those areas are important to look at to balance the whole thing out.

Mr. Eldridge said we have already met once on the capital budget and we are thinking outside the box. For example, we have a 34 year old grader, but Mr. Beal has worked out a deal with Lewiston so when we need a grader we use theirs for \$75 an hour. We don't use a grader that often and it doesn't take us that long to do our roads. Even a used grader is \$100,000 and if it's going to sit in the garage then I would rather not spend that kind of money today so those are the things that we are looking at.

Mr. Eldridge said we are still looking at loaders at the Transfer Station. We are getting some numbers right now. That will be in the capital budget. Councilor Larochelle said that loader has been in the Capital Plan for a few years, but it's an easy ticket to say "take that away," because it's a big dollar ticket. It's going to be a struggle. Mr. Eldridge said replacement police radios could be funded a little bit at a time so we are in compliance by 2013 when digital equipment becomes mandatory, which would be a pay as you go philosophy and that's what we are trying to do. We have two containers at the Transfer Station that have to be replaced. These are the things that we will be talking about on the 15th.

Mr. Eldridge said next week the Department Heads will be sitting down to talk about the capital budget and I would like to have a few councilors attend for input. I'll give you the date and we will sit down with the Department Heads.

D. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Mr. Eldridge said hopefully you have had a chance to read through the property maintenance ordinance. Mike Cote is here tonight if you have questions. The Planning Board did discuss it. There were pros and cons. Some didn't want it and some felt there were specific areas throughout the town that were really important to do some of this. I think this is something you need to discuss and if you think you don't want to pursue it then tell me. Councilor Bowie said is this something we could have a workshop on. Mr. Eldridge said absolutely and we could bring the Planning Board in as well. Councilor Bowie said then we could talk through this as a group and air all our thoughts and then from there give you a little more guidance. Mr. Eldridge said I will try to schedule it for January.

The Council discussed the budget schedule. Councilor Cote said I would like to be more aggressive with the schedule in the beginning. Mr. Eldridge said that the March 18 date should be a workshop not Council meeting. He said we could keep our agendas light and adjourn so that workshops can begin directly afterwards. Councilor Cote said I think the workshops are fairly important to give the opportunity for Councilors to present themselves and bring ideas forward for the other Councilors to discuss. Mr. Eldridge said we will try to tighten that up.

E. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said first I would like to congratulate Scott Stewart at the Police Department for apprehending the suspect after running like the wind to catch the guy. That was an interesting story and congratulations to him.

Mr. Eldridge said the Police Department, Fire Department, and Library received grant awards. My congratulations to all three departments for successful grant writing; every little bit helps.

Mr. Eldridge said we received a map from CMP of street lights. There is a tremendous conglomeration of street lights within the different neighborhoods. There are over 300 lights, and that includes traffic lights. Mr. Leighton and I find here multiple street lights on very rural roads and the question we have of the Council is and I haven't had a chance to talk with Chief Brooks yet, but do we need that number of street lights on some of these rural roads? Should we light just the intersections? We had a request for a light at the intersection of the Littlefield and King Roads and we have had a request for another light on Capital Avenue. These are the things you as a Council decide. I can schedule this for the 15th, but my question is do you want us to start looking at just some of these intersections in these rural areas to try and eliminate some of the redundancy. There are four street lights on Upland Road where there is no intersection. Maybe there is a reason for them, but I don't know. Councilor Bowie said can you reduce this to an 8 ½ x 11 or 11 x 14 sheet of paper and get it to Council so we can have a chance to look at where clusters are so we can start to formulate some ideas. Mr. Eldridge said I can email it. Councilor Mason can you do it by sections so it will be easier to see. Mr. Eldridge said we can divide it into three different sections. Councilor Mason said a lot of towns are moving towards turning their lights on later and shutting them off earlier in the morning so you might have a half an hour or forty-five minutes on either end where you don't have the lights burning, but you still have some light from the sun coming up or going down and they felt that was a real cost savings for them. Mr. Eldridge said we can change out the wattage of the bulbs as well. It's expensive to change out to LED, but you can go from a 70 watt to a 50 watt, which would help. I think first we need to look at where they are and what we can eliminate; what is our real need. I will get copies to you.

Councilor Larochelle said is there a certain guideline to look at to apply. Mr. Eldridge said Roger Therriault has a street light ordinance that Richard Main gave us and he is working on that; it's a whole procedure thing. Councilor Larochelle said instead of someone coming to us and saying I really want one here and us saying we really like the idea, but this needs to be done, it seems as though we should be approving street lights based on some criteria developed for a plan and

whether or not it goes to the Planning Board to meet that criteria or us it would be nice to go through the town and apply some criteria that says this meets the plan so maybe you can start reducing lights not because Mr. Eldridge didn't like the idea, but because of the way the plan is written you didn't need three lights on this street. It would be better to have a plan instead of picking and choosing; this would be the criteria that meets a street light demand. Councilor Cote said intersection lights are more of a safety issue. Councilor Larochelle said absolutely. Mr. Eldridge said Roger Therriault is actually reviewing that and part of that review process involves Public Works. Councilor Larochelle said the other point I want to make is that the other day it was cloudy and overcast and I looked out and saw three street lights flickering on and off and I would assume that turning it off and on would draw more power and this is like 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon. I was wondering if there was a better way of controlling them. Do some towns do timers? Councilor Mason said that's what the article I read was talking about, such as putting them on a certain timer for winter and summer. For instance, they could just be on a timer and come on at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Eldridge said Chief Brooks is chairing the dispatch committee now. He said we are hoping that process will improve. One of the commissioners is on the same page as we are now. It's going to be a political struggle.

Mr. Eldridge said I received an invitation from the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce to come and talk about what's going on in their towns. They want to talk with everybody in the region. I sent an update to let them know what's been happening in town. Once I have a date if anyone of you can attend that would be excellent. It's always nice to have elected officials there. It would give us an opportunity to talk with other elected officials as well.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION- NONE

APPOINTMENTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(5 Members)

Mr. Eldridge said since we passed the ordinance we, again, did not see any more applicants for that committee except what you have. This is an ad hoc committee and part of the grant requirements. Councilor Mason said I will be abstaining because my name is on this list to be appointed.

VOTE (2009-180) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to appoint Kris Cornish, Denin Lee, Brenda Rogers, Jody Durisko, and Gina Mason. **Order passed - Vote 3-1-1. (Opposed: Cote) (Abstained: Mason)**

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Larochelle said Thanksgiving Dinner is over. It was really kind of fun. We have to give kudos to Judy Hardy-Goddard and her crew and Kathaleen Bailey, who actually had a big part in it, too. Roughly 140 people were served, which was pretty impressive. Some meals were delivered as well. There were around 30 volunteers, which is great. We especially want to thank Holy Trinity for providing the location and use of their kitchen and everybody who was there and participated and I'm not going to mention names because I might forget someone, and Food City for providing the last minute things we didn't have, which was a huge thing; we just made a phone call and it

happened so thank you to Food City. It's nice to have local people and local support. It's a unique experience and the food is awesome.

Councilor Larochelle said there is a lot of neat stuff going on with the School Facilities Committee. The engineers are going through the school and there are going to be some more public forums coming up to discuss what the engineers are looking at. We know what the needs are, but we are really trying to put together a plan to take care of the needs to get the school back to where it should be being a school that we are proud of. Some of the designs they have are just amazing. If you have an interest in what's happening, just keep looking for information. It's out there so attend those meetings. If you want to ask the professionals questions, that would be the time.

Councilor Henry said this time I think I'm really saying goodbye. This will be my last night here and I've enjoyed being here. I respect those who are coming in to office and good luck and best wishes to you. First of all, I was reminded tonight that there is going to be a benefit supper on Friday night for Mark Chizmar who broke his back. He does roofing. His father is Paul Chizmar and Janice on the School Committee is his sister. All the proceeds will go to him and his family. He has small children. The other event is the Annual Lisbon High School Booster's Craft Fair that will be this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lisbon High School Cafeteria. It's a fun day for the family so attend. She said the money will go back to the Boosters. Recently we have had to purchase a refrigerator and new uniforms for the girls and boys basketball program, which was sorely needed. They are raffling off a Valentine weekend package for two nights at the Barry Manor Inn in Rockland and it includes meals, couple's massage, and many other extras. Tickets are available at the Lisbon High School office. One for \$10, three for \$25.00 and they will be available through December. There is nothing more I want to say except that I hope we pull through with our NEASC accreditation and bring the High School back to where it used to be.

Councilor Cote said I attended the Water Department meeting Monday night. They discussed some parts of the Route 9 project that the town is going to be responsible for and they are looking for the engineering reports that were done for the section on Wing Street by the apartment complex that had been done some years ago. I want to make sure that we correspond so that we don't pay for something that's already been done. Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Leighton is working with Mr. Adams on that.

Councilor Cote said on the 15th we are supposed to have a meeting about the Charter change, is that still on for the 15th? Mr. Eldridge said yes, there are several things Mr. Therriault had recommended previously for language changes. Because there was quite a list we prioritized them and only a few of those were addressed so the rest would be ready for discussion as well. Mr. Therriault said this is a good time to be talking about these as well. If you want to have this on the 15th then I can definitely make arrangements to have Mr. Therriault here. Councilor Cote said I don't want this to fall through the cracks. Mr. Eldridge said it won't fall through the cracks. Councilor Bowie said because of the inauguration ceremony and everything I'm not sure we can fit it in, but if we can fit it in then let's fit it in, but at the same time I don't want to take away from getting all the other administrative things done that we have to do that evening.

Councilor Cote said I have been on the Council for a year now. It has been a very trying year. Back in the fall we had to make some changes to our ordinances and charter. We were going to police ourselves on this board and some things went on this year, in fact quite a few things, and there was no policing. Now that we have a couple of new Councilors on board, I would like us to start being a little more receptive to each other. It has been at times a little hostile. What happened in February last year should not have to happen to anyone and it should have been handled in executive session. I would hope that we could discuss this and make changes in the policing procedures. Should we have issues we should go into executive session and discuss it, but we don't need to be doing that in public.

Councilor Mason said just to go along with what Councilor Cote said I think one of the biggest things we need to work on is supporting one another. We have a lot of groups in this town that are working together for one common goal. The School Facilities Committee, the track effort, so once again it's a group of people working together towards one common cause in the town. The other effort we have going on in town is the revitalization effort. There are business people, Councilors, Department Heads, and residents who have helped us out through this effort and I think that it's important that we all support these efforts. It's for the common good of the town; it's to help our kids and businesses. It's very important that we as Councilors support those efforts. It's important that we sit down and talk about things and look at the other side of the issue. Maybe its something that we don't agree with, maybe its something that we don't see should be happening, but it's important to support one another and that we work together. I heard from several and the Town Clerk told me tonight that people are very excited about our Saturday evening event "A Very Merry Main Street," which is our Christmas Holiday event in downtown Lisbon Falls. We sent out a town wide email to all the businesses from one end to the other and invited them to participate. We have about 16 businesses participating; some are offering hot chocolate and cookies, free food, discounts, live entertainment, photos for a small fee. This is happening Saturday along with the High School Craft Fair and the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony by Santa at the Gazebo at 5:00 p.m. Come visit the businesses and see what we have going on and be part of the fun.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2009-181) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.
Order passed - Vote 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

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