



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2007

Charles Smith – At Large
Layne Curtis – At Large
Michael Bowie – At Large
Gina Mason – District 1
Janet Henry – District 1
Dale Crafts – District 2
Norma Wells – District 2

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

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Smith, Curtis, Bowie, Mason, Henry, Crafts, and Wells. Also present were Curtis Lunt, Town Manager; Dr. Shannon Welsh, School Superintendent; and approximately 24 citizens in the audience.

OTHER BUSINESS

MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS 2007-2008

The Chairman opened the meeting. Mr. Lunt presented the municipal budget first. Because revenues are unstable and it's very hard to estimate the tax rate at this time, however, he anticipated the tax rate should stay the same with the budgets presented.

The municipal budget is \$7,045,706, which is a 4% tax increase over last year and remains within the limits set by LD1. This budget is \$125,000 more than the estimated revenues, however he anticipated that amount would get raised from the additional property values added over the year. Several special accounts were added to accommodate the new Council budget process. Taxes have been flat for the past five years, which is credited to our efforts to control tax spending in Lisbon.

Increases were noted in the following areas:

- Non-Union Personnel –An Adjusted Longevity Plan
- Health Insurance Contributions For Non-Union Employees Went From 10% To 15%
- Computer Repairs And Maintenance
- \$5,000 For Public Access Cable
- Additional \$10,000 For Paving
- Add Third Polling Place
- Funds To Purchase A Digital Recorder For Police Department Com-Center
- \$2,000 For Consulting Engineering Services For Public Works Building
- \$33,000 For County Tax (The Budget Would Be 3 ½% Without It)
- \$500 For Councilor To Attend The National League Of Cities Conference
- \$5,000 For Leg Work For Non-Union Pay Plan Based Upon Market Studies

Decreases were noted in the Fire Department's budget with expenses off set by grants, and the fire truck reserve account was lowered to \$50,000. Bonding debt was decreased with the final sewer bond payment. The budget municipal presented preserved services and the tax rate.

The Chairman called for a recess at 7:36 PM. The meeting was called back to order at 7:55 PM.

Shannon Welsh, Superintendent of Schools presented the School Committee's budget at \$14,838,288, with \$328,844 coming from the school's undesignated surplus fund, the total to be raised comes to \$14,509,444 or a 2.27% increase. The School's undesignated fund balance is \$220,037, however, the

state recommends 3% or \$445,000, and now less money will go into the undesignated fund since budgets are more refined, plus tuition and Maine Care Reimbursement monies are being accounted for and will not end up in the undesignated fund. 76% of this budget is for personnel, 10% contractual, 4% commodities, 1% capital outlay, and 9% fixed charges. Salaries and benefits along with special education transportation account for 83% of this year's increase. Other increases were as follows:

- Health Insurance At 10%
- Additional Two Days - 1 Student Day \$36,000 & 1 Professional Development Day \$30,000
- Addition Of A Two Room Modular
- Special Education Transportation And Fuel Costs
- \$30,000 For Change At High School To Type A Lunch Program
- Additional Text Books To Cover The Extra 120 Students
- One New Bus
- New Desk In Support Services

Decreases in tuition for out of district secondary students and the elimination of two Ed Tech positions at the high school were noted. Dr. Welsh said they surveyed about 100 military families and found that at least 28 families will be staying in the area, and that enrollments have not gone down as predicted by the study produced at the time the new school was built.

Councilor Bowie commended Mr. Lunt, Dr. Welsh, and the School Committee for tightening up their budgets so much this year that makes their job easier going into the first year of this new process. Councilor Henry said both had done a wonderful job, and commended the School Committee for moving into the Type A lunch program, which she pushed for so hard while she was on the School Committee. Councilor Wells expressed some concern over the less than 3% undesignated fund balance that may need to be addressed. Councilor Bowie and Wells agreed the undesignated fund amount should be earning interest if not in an interest bearing account already.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2007-25) Councilor Curtis, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Order passed - Vote 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Twila D. Lycette, Lifetime CCM
Certified Municipal Clerk