



## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MAY 26, 2009

Michael Bowie, Chair At Large 2009  
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010  
Fern Larochelle, 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 Wells, Bowie, Mason, Crafts, Henry, Larochelle and Cote. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; David Brooks, Police Chief; P. Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; Wayne Ricker, Solid Waste Director; Elwood Beal, Public Works Director; Cathy Ricker, Finance Director; Budget Advisory Board Members Richard Main & Donald Fellows; Dr. Shannon Welsh, Superintendent of Schools; Rick Green, Interim Superintendent of Schools; Cathy Messmer, Business Manager; School Committee Members Prudence Grant, Chair, Deborah Danuski, Traci Austin, and Janice Chizmar; and approximately 30 citizens in the audience.

Councilor Bowie said this is not one of our regular meetings so there are a few meetings that are normally on our agenda that are not on our agenda tonight so we can get through things. I am going to try to limit our discussions to Council so that we can come through and vote on this. The School Superintendent and School Committee is here to address any additional questions you may have.

### COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

#### ADOPT 2009-2010 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Councilor Wells said is it possible to find out if they have those numbers that we requested at the last meeting. Cathy Messmer handed out some information (see attached). Mrs. Grant said before we start I would like to make a statement on behalf of the School Department. In the fall of 2008, prior to beginning our budget the Town Council communicated to us your desire that our budget come in with a zero increase with no impact on taxes. Our managers, administrators, and Superintendent worked very hard to bring to the School Committee a budget that was even less than last year's budget. They achieved the standard set for us by the Town Council. That should have been good. The Budget Advisory Board examined our budget and pronounced us in fine condition. In fact, they thanked us and congratulated us for a job well done. Recently conditions have soured. We now find ourselves facing major cuts for no legitimate reason. We are threatened with cuts because we included a very modest amount for raises for the teaching staff, all of whom are professionals; that was part of the original budget and did not cause an increase. The Lisbon School Committee and I especially are respectful of the state law that gives public employees the right to bargain for wages, hours, and working conditions. We have been engaged in that process and could have settled the contract with a very modest raise being mindful of the perceived economic problems. Now, if the Town Council cuts our budget to force a wage freeze on our employees, all of them, a condition to which the LEA does not have to agree, the School Department along with the Town will be in a very difficult situation. The administrators have agreed to your request that they accept a zero percent increase. However, in at meeting today the LEA negotiations team, your request was rejected. If you cut our budget by an amount equivalent to the salary increase for teachers, that will force us either to eliminate the proposed additional to the high school

or to eliminate staff. If we eliminate the addition, that action will almost definitely put the high school in the position of losing even our probationary accreditation designation. If on the other hand, we elect to keep the addition we will need to cut staff, which will have a negative impact on students and the entire system and will also most certainly force us into a lose of even probationary accreditation. Since the LEA has not agreed to the request to a zero percent salary increase that will cause protracted negotiations, which will be damaging to morale. We are in a very difficult position. It does not need to have happened, excuse me, because our original budget came in at less than our budget last year and met the conditions originally set for us last fall. We did what you asked and did what we needed to do including providing for the addition to the high school by making some other budget changes and reassignments of funds originally destined for the new building had that vote passed, as well as including a very modest pay increase for our professional staff. Ironically, the town's contribution to the School's budget is \$5,029,954 or 35.11%, while the taxpayers are contributing 64.89% of the town's side of the budget. In conclusion, I am urging you to please leave our budget alone and accept it as it was originally presented to you. Thank you.

Councilor Bowie said Ms. Grant I would just like to say one thing, I am a little disappointed in your letter and in your discussion here. I do not believe there have been any threats to the School Department and if there had been any threats and if I would have known about it, I would have rectified any of those threats. There has never been a threat to the School Department on any wage decreases or anything. I am very disappointed in that statement. Ms. Grant said I would like to respond to that. Councilor Bowie said I feel we have had open discussions and open communications and I am sorry you are starting the meeting off in this tone.

Ms. Grant said well, I apologize if you think that its negative, but having sat through the last meeting where you were insistent on employees, including our employees, taking a zero percent increase, um I am capable of reading through the lines.

Dr. Welsh said we did prepare the information you requested. The amount of decrease in salaries if the change in the budget were to no increase for 2009-2010 for teacher's is \$107,940, support staff \$40,439, and administration \$7,441, for a total of \$155,820. The other question had been asked dealt with the educational lane changes and the lane changes planed for the 2009-2010 budget \$11,277. The third request I had was for tuition reimbursement; we budgeted \$52,757 for 2009-2010. As a reference point, we expended \$48,533 in 2007-2008. So expended \$48,533, budgeted \$52,757. We budgeted for 134 courses and last year in 2007-2008 we had 149 courses taken. Every year there has been an increase: From 95 to 135 to 149. So there is an increased number of courses being taken. We tried really tightening up the budget this year to bring in a decrease to the taxpayers. So we did tighten that up and are hoping that we are accurate. Those were the requests that we had. Thank you.

Councilor Henry said I am in support of their budget completely. And, if it's going to cause any problems with NEASC, I think we have to really think.

Councilor Cote said the issues are not that we want to cut the school budget; the issues are that we have time, that the financial situation this town is in is demanding us to do this and to not act responsibly and to look at all avenues, we are not doing what we were put in office to do.

Councilor Henry said I disagree with you. They were elected. I could have run against any of them and I did, I lost. So I'm just telling you - they are elected officials.

Councilor Wells said you also have to look at the point that they are all employees of this town, whether it's the Public Works Department, whether its Twila sitting beside me, whether it's a school teacher, whether it's a custodian, or whether it's a bus driver, they all are employees of this town. And, if we are asking half of the employees of this town to take a wage freeze this year, then in all fairness I believe we need to ask all of the employees to do that. So in asking this we are not asking them to lose their NEASC accreditation, we are not asking them to not put in that school addition,

we are saying that we asked the town side based on the Council's ruling to come in at a zero wage increase, every town employee agreed to it and we are asking the same thing of the school side.

Councilor Crafts said I just came from Augusta. We just voted on the budget. There were state employees up there all day today. They are not very happy with their reduction in their pay. We already know that probably by September we are going to be doing another supplemental budget because of the revenue shortfalls. We don't believe the budget we voted on, the numbers are even going to work, because the revenues are still dropping; \$23 million dollars less for the municipalities in this next two-year budget, so we haven't seen the end of it. That's the only reason I am suggesting, same as Councilor Wells, that everybody do their fair share. I don't think it's too much to ask. Everybody is doing it. We don't want to jeopardize the additional or any of that stuff. That's not what we are questioning. We are hoping that you will step up and say we are willing to do this.

Councilor Larochelle said initially there was no question about it. We were originally looking at the budget in the beginning of the year we were looking for Mr. Eldridge and for the School Department's budgets to come across flat. I appreciate everybody trying to do that and I think it has been a difficult job to do that. The idea that we are running with the additional and the idea that we are finding the funds within the school budget I think is great because going out to bond would have been another tricky battle that we wouldn't have known what the outcome was. Asking as far as for the town, when we went to the town employees to ask for not only just a wage increase, but actually a deduction in insurance benefits, they tried to save jobs and I mean that was pretty hard taken and talk about morale. There were a lot of concerns. At the end of the day, the town stepped forward to do it only because they were hoping to save jobs. I think the school budget is put together really well and that's one of the concerns I had initially and the idea we had was to make sure there wasn't any tax increases so with that I am pretty satisfied. I would just hope, going back to the wage freeze, I would hope that the teachers and everybody employed through the school would actually look at that and actually try to decide, not in spite of the town, but actually to look at the monies that the school has been asking for for the other improvements that we need. If we were to vote on the budget the way it is right now, I mean to me it's just not the end of the story, when it comes to financials because we still have the needs and we still have other improvements so \$150,000. If that was even a rough number to put back into your budget to do other improvements in the school, because again that addition by itself is not going to actually do the 100% fix that we need to keep our accreditation. So, I mean, in good faith I mean as with the rest of the town did, , we want to ask, you know, we weren't asking anything from the schools that we didn't already ask from the rest of the town employees so I don't think its really under minded. It's just the idea of looking for what ever we can do to try to make it a little bit financially better. And even if we approve the budget the way it is, I would still like to think that as a thought that maybe they would come forward to try to give that extra money, as the rest of the town, and maybe help with the improvements that need to be done because extra money is going to be hard to come by.

Councilor Mason said what we are asking is for them not to get something that they don't have anyways. It's not like we are taking something away that they have already been given. It's a wage increase and there are many cities and towns in this country that have done wage cuts so I think its just fair that we are asking to take something that they haven't received anyways so its nothing more than that.

Councilor Bowie said I guess my two cents is while I am a little disappointed in Ms. Grant's comments, I think the school is in a little different situation than where the town was at in moving forward. The school didn't, for whatever reasons, need to take any layoffs to reduce staff in order to reach their budget goal of being flat. We had to on the municipal side initially, right, to be flat. So that's why we went out and tried to work with the unions to save jobs potentially instead of losing jobs and potential service. So from that perspective I think they were in a little different situation than we were. The second piece of this, as Ms. Grant stated, they still have some negotiating; they may negotiate a raise, we can't control that. If we take the money out and they negotiate an

increase, whether its \$75,000, \$155,000, or whatever the number turns out to be, what are we hurting amongst the students; I mean I would like to see that \$155,000 go towards technology. I mean, we are not buying laptops for the students. We are in an age of technology and we should be providing all of our students' up to date technology and working with them in that so that they can prosper and be able to do something out in the real world. We all know where that stands. I don't think there is not anybody in this room that probably doesn't have to use a computer for work. Then there is part of me that says, you know, we asked as Councilor Wells said that the town staff takes a reduction so why not all town employees take a reduction. I mean it's a very hard situation. Next year is not going to be any better so I am almost of the mind that let's take the credit that we have come up with amongst the school and the town, but where we sit today with our budgets and having no increase in the taxes, which I think is a good thing for the municipality, and really focus on where we are going to have to trim next year to finish achieving our goals. I will say that when we gave the school their goal back in October the economy still wasn't rock bottom at that time and we still didn't know of some of those reductions so I believe that's why we came back and have been discussing also taking no increase.

Councilor Bowie said I think I've got probably three votes one way and three votes another way or something, but I don't have any motions yet so we don't have to make any decisions yet.

Councilor Crafts said state employees took a cut in pay and so we are not asking for that. Councilor Henry said how much was the cut. Councilor Crafts said well, they had to start paying a percentage of their health insurance, gave up some of their stipends, and we reduced several areas and benefits, but there is actually a reduction.

Councilor Bowie said I am assuming from Council's discussion that the only issue we have with the school budget is the salaries, otherwise everybody is happy with every other line. Is that a fair statement? Councilor Wells said, yes. Councilor Crafts said I agree with you. Councilor Wells said you know, I am going to go out on a limb and ignore Councilor Crafts face while I am saying this, I have to agree in part with Councilors Larochelle and Bowie's statement. I think I would like to send a message that I would really like to see them continue negotiating to come back with a zero wage increase. I would love to see them, it's a flat budget, we look on the town's side like we could possibly, if we pull this off, bring the town in at a flat budget, actually a very small decrease and I would like to see them come in at zero and I would like to see that \$155,000 go toward some more repairs that are desperately needed in that school. There is just so many more things that need to be done. We just all stated it here in one way or the other; we asked this town to come in with a zero percent wage increase. They say that they are negotiating right now and that is a very tricky position I guess to be in when they don't have those answers, but I would be willing to approve this with just a very strong statement: I want to see a wage freeze; I am hoping they will come back with a wage freeze across the board and that the \$155,000 be used for the desperately needed repairs in that school.

Councilor Cote said as tight as the funds are right now and as much as needed in the school system, if we approved the budget as its written and approach the school and ask them to go with a no increase and use that funding for improving the school, wouldn't that be a better message sent to the school system. Councilor Wells said isn't that just what I said. Councilor Mason said that's what Councilor Wells just said. Councilor Cote said approve it, not deduct it. Councilor Larochelle said I don't think we have that control. Councilor Wells said you don't have that control and if they come back and that wage increase is there. Councilor Bowie said the only control you have is the final number. Councilor Wells said right. Councilor Crafts said I haven't been watching much, of the union negotiations, but if the teachers and the staff and everybody agree to not take their raise, can they do t hat? Ms. Grant said sure they can. Can we demand it, absolutely not. Councilor Crafts said I know that wouldn't have any problem if I had the assurance that they were willing to take a pay freeze and take that money to go towards more improvements, then I would have no problem with that idea.

Ms. Grant said I told you in my statement that we met with them today and the request that we translated to them from you, your request not our request but your request, they rejected a zero percent increase. A wage freeze, they rejected it.

Councilor Crafts said this is how I feel Ms. Grant, is then we should take it off the bottom line and let that be on their conscience, not ours. Ms. Grant said it violates state law, which I guess you were elected to uphold.

Councilor Bowie said well, I mean, we wouldn't be violating state law because we can't tell you what line to take if from. Ms. Grant said that's right. Councilor Bowie said we can only take a bottom line number out, where you guys elect to go take if from is your prerogative. My concern is when that happens is, what do we hurt in spite of that. Ms. Grant said that is our concern also. Councilor Bowie said that's where I get hung up. I don't want to hurt the kids or something because were sitting here thinking we should try to go for a zero percent increase. I mean, we don't always get along and we don't always agree and I guess if we did it wouldn't be a good world. Otherwise, you know, we wouldn't have anything to worry about I guess. We would be in some kind of Russian dictatorship or something, I don't know, so.

Councilor Crafts said I would make a motion that we accept the budget as is less the \$155,820, hoping that this money can be found and go towards the building improvements.

Councilor Wells said so you took it out, but you want them to use it. Councilor Crafts said did I do that right? Councilor Bowie said are you trying to say that you want to approve the budget the way it is, but you're wanting them to go find the additional \$155,000 within their budgets through either no wage increases if they can get that through the negotiation tables or in some other ways in order to try an minimize that impact. Councilor Crafts said that's what I am looking for.

Councilor Bowie said I am not sure, because all we can do is, at the end of the day, you are approving that bottom line which includes it in there and you're asking them to do that. Councilor Crafts said so how do we do that.

Councilor Wells said well, you don't. You can only put your wishes out there and approve the budget as is and basically state what I said was that our desire is that they do their best to negotiate a zero percent wage increase and any funds left over you would like to see them used towards building maintenance.

Councilor Larochelle said that's just a wish though, it's not going to be put in stone. Councilor Crafts said I understand.

Councilor Cote said and the way that the funds are used will determine the out come of the next budget season. Because if we are going into this again next year, its going to be just as bad as this one. What I mean is, if they are going to continue to use their funds the way that they are, not throw. Councilor Bowie said I think you need to be a little careful with that. First of all, it sounded like a threat to me. Ms. Danuski said that is a treat. Councilor Bowie said I will take care of it, relax, okay. Councilor Cote said I am not making it a threat, what I am saying is though that we are trying in good faith to bargain with the School Department and say that we would like to see these funds used for something for the children and if they choose not to do that, what's it going to do in the future? If this particular thing comes up again, are we going to say no to it completely or are we going to continue to just hand it out. This issue that I am trying to make here is that I would like to see this town start to pull together and everybody look out for the well being of the town, not only certain groups. The School Department should be looking out for the interest of the children.

Councilor Bowie said I think they are. I think they have done a lot in that respect. You have to take each year at a time and it depends what's on the table, what things are coming through for your revenues, where expenses turn around, I mean if I had a crystal ball we could have predicted

the oil prices right or gas prices right. But that's something we can't do. We are here today for the people who put us in office to make a decision in our best judgment in their best interest and I personally feel if I speak for all my constituents, whatever ones I have out there, I think we have a reasonable school budget that meets the town's needs at this point in time and that we have to go work forward with that budget and worry about next year when it comes. Right, if I'm representing my sector of the constituents, I think that's what I have. I think we have done the same thing on the municipal side. I think we have done a no tax increase. I think there is a lot to be said for that in these times. I think everybody has worked hard. Everybody has gotten frustrated. It has not been easy and it's not going to continue to be easy.

Councilor Cote said it's going to get a lot worse Councilor Bowie. Councilor Henry said you know what, you can't preach doom and fear. It causes a negative effect. Councilor Cote said did you get the email.

Councilor Bowie said hopefully we are sending the right message to everybody listening that there is concern in the future, right. We are asking people to step up and do things maybe differently then we have in the past. We are not as lucrative as we were in the past so we all understand things are going to have to change. So in my mind, let's try and take gradual steps to try and get there if need be and claim some type of success for this particular budget season.

#### ARTICLE 14

**VOTE (2009-81A)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to set the budget as submitted with the hope and care given. I guess what we would say is just the School Department would do and the Board do what they have been doing, which is just trying to work the best we can to try to make the best of what we have. The idea of coming through with a zero budget is great and I just hope next year, you know, as things do tighten up that we can work and try to consolidate some of the items in town. I think we are working that way, as Councilor Bowie said, our goal this year was for a flat budget and if we can achieve that I think that's a goal that we set out to make and we can do it. Next year we will just have to work harder to turn around and do it again, so I make a motion that we accept the budget as submitted.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010 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. (Council Recommends \$14,327,900)

Councilor Bowie said I have a motion from Councilor Larochelle, and a second from Councilor Henry. Is there any further discussion?

Councilor Cote said I would have like to have seen what's going to happen in the municipal budget before we go forward with this. Councilor Bowie said we have already looked at two different versions, actually three versions, of the municipal budget that all keep the tax rate flat, right. The Budget Advisory Board sends us one that keeps it basically flat. Mr. Eldridge has readjusted a budget that he reviewed with us last week that also based on the bond changes and everything still keeps the budget flat and also took into some consideration so if any Councilor wanted as part of our earlier workshop discussions; I feel very confident passing the school budget and then going into the town budget that we are still going to end up with a flat tax rate. Councilor Cote said but there were considerable concessions in the different formats that we looked at of the budget.

Councilor Bowie said yes there are and those are the ones we are going to talk about later tonight in the workshop. Councilor Cote and the outcome of those are the ones that concern me when it comes to approving any budget. Councilor Henry said they are on a time line and this has got to go to referendum. Councilor Cote said I understand, I understand. Councilor Henry said it's not a good thing for them to come out with not having a budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>, I'm sorry.

Councilor Crafts said I will be voting against this motion because I still say that it is not unreasonable for the teachers of offer, I know they haven't, of not taking a pay raise. That's the only reason because I think you've done a good job by coming in with what you have done. I appreciate it and I don't have any problem with that part of it. That's all I have to say.

Councilor Bowie said does this have to be a roll call vote. Mrs. Lycette said you could take one if you feel that it would be easier. Councilor Bowie said let's do that just to make sure we cover all the bases in the charter. Councilor Crafts said this hasn't been seconded yet. Councilor Bowie said it was seconded by Councilor Henry. Councilor Crafts said oh yeah, it has. Mrs. Lycette said the question is do you still have to do them one by one. Councilor Bowie said I think we have to approve each article. Councilor Bowie said so understanding Councilor Larochelle and Councilor Henry's motion is to accept the budget as it was presented to us on our purple sheets, we will go through each article and take a vote.

Councilor Crafts said so we are not voting the bottom line, we are voting each article. Councilor Bowie said we have to by statute. Dr. Welsh said but you could vote the whole thing and then we would have some sense of what you are going to do and we could respond as you go article by article. Councilor Wells said so in other words her concern is, if it's voted down we have to go back and take monies out and they wouldn't know where to take it. Councilor Bowie said right, so let me see if I have got that number.

Ms. Messmer said its article 14. Councilor Bowie said I believe Councilor Larochelle made a motion for \$14,327,900 and it was seconded by Councilor Henry. Councilor Larochelle said it already states that we recommended it, so we're okay, right? Councilor Crafts said which article includes the salary increases.

Councilor Bowie said the salary increases are kind of spread across the number of articles, that's why they're saying if this goes down, then we go through each one, so right now we are going to vote on the overall budget and then we will approve all the individual articles as required and I will do a roll call vote for this as well.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

Councilor Wells said it carries so Councilor Bowie is it really necessary for us to go through them or can we just say that we approved article one through 14 as submitted. Councilor Bowie said I don't know because our attorney is not here. I think we could just do article one and read the number and then article two. Dr. Welsh said one through ten is fine because those are for budgeting if you wanted to just do one through ten as one vote, but the expenditures eleven, twelve, thirteen and the rest need to be separate. Councilor Bowie said okay we will vote on one through ten.

Councilor Wells said I will make a motion for one through ten as submitted. Councilor Larochelle said I will second that. Councilor Bowie said all those in favor. Councilor Mason said wait, this includes one through ten and it does not include the increases, correct. Councilor Bowie said no it does. Councilor Larochelle said why don't we do them article by article if Council has any concern. Councilor Mason said it's just unclear, it's confusing, and I would rather do them article by article. Councilor Wells withdrew her motion.

ARTICLE 1

**VOTE (2009-81B)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt Article 1 for \$1,017,821.

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 By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

ARTICLE 2

**VOTE (2009-81C)** Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adopt Article 2 for \$381,204.

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

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3**

ARTICLE 3

**VOTE (2009-81D)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 3 for \$783,455.

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

Councilor Wells said did I read something or did I have something handed out to me that said the administration agreed all to come in at flat. Dr. Welsh said they were willing to take a pay freeze if the other professional staff did. What we need to do is go back and have that conversation. Councilor Wells said got it, okay. **Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

ARTICLE 4

**VOTE (2009-81E)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 4 for \$1,519,483.

Councilor Wells said this doesn't include salaries does it. Councilor Bowie said it does.

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

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Cote, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Mason and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 5-2.**

ARTICLE 5

**VOTE (2009-81F)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adopt Article 5 for \$641,039.

Councilor Mason said does this include union wages. Councilor Bowie said it includes bus driver's raises.

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

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

#### ARTICLE 6

**VOTE (2009-81G)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to adopt Article 6 for \$306,537.

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

Councilor Crafts said are there any wages in that. Councilor Bowie said yes.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

#### ARTICLE 7

**VOTE (2009-81H)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt Article 7 for \$1,120,418.

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

Councilor Wells said that's debt service not debit services. Councilor Bowie said alright.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, Cote, Mason, Crafts, and Henry. Nays: None. Order Passed - Vote 7-0.**

#### ARTICLE 8

**VOTE (2009-81I)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 8 for \$6,170,016.

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

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

#### ARTICLE 9

**VOTE (2009-81J)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adopt Article 9 for \$2,058,520.

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to expend for Special Education (SPED and Gifted & Talented).

Councilor Wells said isn't this one completely 100% state reimbursed. Dr. Welsh said gifted and talented is 100% reimbursed, but Special Education is not.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

### ARTICLE 10

**VOTE (2009-81K)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 10 for \$329,407.

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

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Cote, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Mason and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 5-2.**

### ARTICLE 11

**VOTE (2009-81L)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt Article 11 for \$3,815,630.

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 \$12,695,309) 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."*

Councilor Bowie said wages would be included in this.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

### ARTICLE 12

**VOTE (2009-81M)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 12 for \$81,085.

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."*

Councilor Bowie said is this the Lisbon Community School. Dr. Welsh said its for non-state funded projects, as the paving at the High School and Middle School project.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochele, Cote, Mason, Crafts, and Henry. Nays: None. Order Passed - Vote 7-0.**

### ARTICLE 13

**VOTE (2009-81N)** Councilor Larochele, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 13 for **\$1,133,239** as long as we try to work towards trying to make that a little bit closer. I know it's almost impossible, but I would think it is feasible at some point.

To see what sum the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to raise and appropriate for in additional local funds (recommend \$1,133,239), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$851,020 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee.

The School Committee recommends \$1,133,239 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$851,020.

The Essential Programs and Services (EPS) model does not fund the total cost of the Lisbon School Department's annual budget therefore the School Department has used \$468,907 from the Undesignated Fund to help lower the impact to the Town of Lisbon. The Lisbon School Department is above EPS by \$851,020 because of the lowering of the subsidy for System Administration, Operations & Maintenance, Special Education, and Transportation plus the additional costs for Co-Curricular and Salaries.

*"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."*

Councilor Bowie said is it for \$1,133,239 or \$851,020. Cathy Messmer said both actually. Councilor Wells said one more time, because I never get it right. I believe \$851,000 is over essential programs and services and the \$1,133,000 is what we exceeded even more or. Dr. Welsh said we exceed the essential programs and services by the \$1,100,000. We used \$468,000 from undesignated funds to help lower that so we have revenues to help off set that. That's what brings it down to the \$851,000. Cathy Messmer said what the \$1,133,000 is the \$851,000 plus the, we are over essential programs and services by \$851,000; however, the state does not pay us for 100% essential programs and services so we have to come up with an additional \$282,000. That's why you have that \$1.1 million. It's that additional transition amount that the state will not subsidize.

Councilor Wells said we exceed what the state believes we should pay for education costs by \$851,000. The state then currently only pays 97% of the 100% of the essential programs and services so that's the \$282,000. Ms. Messmer said exactly. Councilor Wells said I know I have asked this question before, but I am going to ask it again; \$851,000 is a huge number of which I know a big portion of that is co-curricular, but what is the rest; the extra nurse and the extra. Ms. Messmer said it is salaries, and benefits, and additional costs for special education, out of district, transportation, because we are rather rural. We have a center of town, but we have a lot of rural out lying areas and that increases the cost of transportation

as well as costs for maintenance. We are a little bit over in a lot of different areas, but that adds up to a larger amount.

Dr. Welsh said just to clarify though some of the rules in essential programs and services are for dead end roads; they will only pay one way down the dead end road, they won't reimburse you for the trip back so its for those types of reason that you are over essential programs and services. We would love to have that changed in Augusta if that could happened.

Councilor Mason said how many dead end roads do we have in Lisbon. Councilor Bowie said I don't know. Councilor Wells said can we do something about that please. Councilor Bowie said it would take a lot of money to connect them.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

#### ARTICLE 14

Councilor Bowie said we already voted on this. *(See action taken before Article 1 above.)*

#### ARTICLE 15

**VOTE (2009-810)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt Article 15 for \$128,892.

To see if the Council will authorize the Lisbon School Department to appropriate \$128,892 for Adult Education and raise \$83,438 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.

Councilor Wells said we are appropriating \$128,892 for Adult Ed and raising \$83,000 in local share, but under the next one we are expending \$143,830 so help me out here. Ms. Messer said the difference is over from classrooms that we don't have to record that and Article 15 is basically a revenue article saying that can we please have this money. Part of that is from the state and part of that is from the local taxes. The difference is from the revenue from the courses and stuff that they get.

Councilor Wells said so technically we are really only budgeting for \$45,000, which is the difference between the two. Ms. Messmer said no, you are budgeting for the \$128,000. The difference from the \$128,000 and the \$143,000 is the revenue from the classes.

Councilor Larochelle said my question is, at the end of it is, how close does, and with those numbers its a little confusing. Adult Ed is it basically close to a wash or what is Adult Ed, is there actually a source of revenue from this? I'm curious how close Adult Ed comes to breaking even.

Karen Sloan said I am here representing Adult Ed tonight. Adult Ed came in with a 1.79% decrease and our director also took a significant pay cut as well. The difference between Article 15 and 16 is that you are giving us permission to use the revenue from our classes to support our other programs. Councilor Bowie said so you bring in an additional \$25,000 in revenue you utilize to off set your overall budget. Ms. Sloan said it off sets costs, salaries and everything. Councilor Bowie said so it's not a wash. Councilor Larochelle said I was just curious. It's hard to read through that. Councilor Wells said so what's the final number, the difference is \$15,000 not \$25,000. Councilor Bowie said I stand corrected, I'm sorry. Councilor Wells said I just don't want it to come back to us.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

### ARTICLE 16

**VOTE (2009-81P)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adopt Article 16 for \$143,830.

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

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, and Henry. Nays: Cote, Mason, and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 4-3.**

### ARTICLE 17

**VOTE (2009-81Q)** Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adopt Article 17 for \$215,640.

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 \$215,640 in federal stabilization funds, which are included in the expenditures authorized by this article.

Councilor Larochelle said so any money you get you want to spend. Ms. Messmer said, please! Councilor Larochelle said that fair, right. This dollar factor you have there, the \$215,640, is that already an amount that you have already received for this upcoming, or is that an estimate. Dr. Welsh said it was what the state told us that we could receive from the stimulus funds on the 279 form that we received from them. So it's for next year, 2009-2010. That's what we are targeted to receive. Councilor Larochelle said that's federal money. Dr. Welsh said correct.

**Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Councilor Wells, Bowie, Larochelle, Mason, and Henry. Nays: Cote and Crafts. Order Passed - Vote 5-2.**

### WARRANT FOR JUNE 9, 2009 SCHOOL BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM

Councilor Bowie said I am recommending this year, because the only thing on the ballot is strictly the school referendum. Last year we had other state things going on so I would recommend that we open the polls at 11AM and close them at 7PM and that we have District 2 at MTM and District 1 at the Town Office as opposed to District 1 last time was at LES because of the larger turnout for the other state items that we thought that we were going to get. We held it over there for safety reason, but I think we have enough room for just a single one of our votes here. I think it will also help Twila from having to staff both here at the Town Office and over at LES. Councilor Wells said can we consider having it all at one place, can we consider just doing the whole thing here. Councilor Bowie said I wouldn't recommend that we put District 2 down here. Councilor Henry said no, it's dangerous. Councilor Bowie said we have heard enough that we keep the two districts apart for right now. Councilor Crafts said absolutely. Councilor Henry said some people walk there.

Councilor Bowie said if Council is in agreement with that then we would set our casting of absentee ballots at 2PM, 4PM, and 7PM, and the registrar hours would be on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and on Election Day it would be from 11AM to 7PM at the polling locations.

**VOTE (2009-82)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to approve the School Budget Validation Referendum Warrant for June 9, to set the Polling Hours from 11AM to 7PM, to set the polling locations for District 1 at the Town Hall and District 2 at the MTM Center Gymnasium, to set the Registrar's Hours on June 8 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and on Election Day from 11AM to 7PM, and to cast absentee ballots on Election Day at 2PM, 4PM, and 7PM. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

## ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bowie said now our next motion is to adjourn and then to go into our municipal budget workshop to discuss our budget.

**VOTE (2009-83)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to adjourn at 8:58 PM. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

---

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

*Cassette tapes are filed in the Town Clerk's Office.*