



**TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 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, Cote, Lunt, Pomelow, and Bickford. Councilor Laroche was excused. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; David Brooks, Police Chief; Michael Cote, Code Enforcement Officer; P. Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; Jessica Maloy, Finance Director; Kathi Yergin, School Committee Member; John Potvin, Planning Board Chairman; Budget Advisory Board Members Debbie Barry, Thomas Barry, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Donald Fellows, John Wierzbicki; and approximately 20 citizens in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2011-38) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to approve the Minutes of March 15, 2011, Victualer Renewals as presented (see below), Mobile Home Park Renewals as presented (see below), and a Renewal Mass Gathering Permit for the Downtown Network's Promotion Committee:

Victualer's Renewal Licenses

Angelo's Restaurant
C. N. Brown d/b/a The Big Apple
Coombs Mountfort American Legion
Post 158
Food City, Inc.
Kennebec Fruit Company
Lisbon Falls (Getty) Mart, Inc.
Lisbon House of Pizza
Raymond J. Lavigne VFW Post 9459
Sam's Italian
Slovak Catholic Association

Topsubs, LLC d/b/a Subway
Drake Petroleum Co, Inc. d/b/a
X-Tra Mart

Mobile Home Parks

Beaumont Court
Brookwood Court
Davis Street Park
Gendron's Mobile Home Park
St. Ann's Mobile Home Park
Whispering Pines Trailer Park

Order passed - Vote 6-0.

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES

2009 TAX ABATEMENT

VOTE (2011-39) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to approve the tax abatement of \$10,000 for \$255.00 for 96 Frost Hill Avenue as previously granted by W. E. Pat Dow dated 3/5/2010.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Order passed – Vote 6-0.

COUNCIL WORKING RULES

Councilor Lunt proposed the Council discuss the working rules in hopes of improving the flow for their meetings. Councilor Cote suggested holding another workshop since only three Councilors were at the last workshop when this was discussed.

Councilor Lunt suggested moving audience participation to the beginning of the meeting and eliminating the public comment period for each item. He recommended the public speak at the beginning of the meeting on all items on the agenda at that time. Councilor Cote said he totally disagreed with that. Councilor Bowie said he was fine with Councilor Lunt's recommendation citing that this was more in line with how the School Committee runs their meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Fillmore stated that if the Council were to move up audience participation to the beginning of the agenda and not allow the public to speak on agenda items as they occur then that would be taking "we the people" out of the agenda. This would be taking away the ability of the public to comment on what the Council does. This is another perfect example of not conducting the public's business out in the open. It's like 99% of what's going on is done behind closed doors, he complained; we don't get any vote or say. He continued "we are the people" and we should have a voice in what goes on in this town.

Councilor Lunt directed the Town Manager to schedule another workshop for everyone to attend.

SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (First Reading - Roll Call Vote)

Mr. Eldridge said the next three items are being presented tonight for the Council to consider adopting. Should you vote, he said, to move these forward we will have another opportunity to discuss them and ask questions at the public hearings held just prior to your final vote on them.

Councilor Bowie said it is my understanding that you cannot make any major changes after the first reading or after the public hearing without having to go back to a first reading.

Councilor Mason said this was available to the public so that anyone with any major issue with it would have contacted somebody. It's up to the public to do their homework as well, she said.

Councilor Pomelow pointed out that under section 4 (b) [which appears in the Code Book as 70-713 (d) (2)] that the display shall not flash and if they change quickly it gives the appearance of a flash. She said she noticed a couple in town that do give the appearance of a flash and questioned whether that provision should be looked into. Councilor Lunt said he thought those signs were in violation of the existing ordinance.

Councilor Mason said we are getting complaints that we are not getting enough information out there on our sign and this would help us report informational things to the public better.

Councilor Bowie said he wanted further discussion on why we think it should be ten (10) seconds.

Michael Cote said we were approached by the School Department to change it. We did a comparison with other towns and found some of the other towns were changing every five (5) or six

(6) seconds, which is a lot quicker than what we are suggesting here at ten (10) seconds. To me, he said, it's not going to be flashing, I don't believe. There are a couple in town that are changing quite quickly, he said, so I will have to go there and time it myself and if it's quicker than what we allow, then they are in violation.

Councilor Bowie asked what other towns did we compare ourselves too, he asked, and what the accident rates were around these signs. He said when we adopted the change to one (1) minute there was a rather large discussion around the fact that it was very distracting to the traffic and that it could potentially cause issues. I know the School would like to show more information more frequently, but that's a very high traffic area.

Councilor Cote said we should look at why these signs are so bright as well; it's almost like a flash of lightening when they change.

Councilor Mason said it's your fault if you stare at it and go off the road, just like cell phones; it's the same deal. That's distractive driving, she said. Another problem we have is that people are complaining that the board out front isn't giving them enough information. Jody took the time to change that, but even when I drive by here there have been times when I have seen the same message over and over again. I think people were seeing that and thinking that's the only message on the board so they call and complain that we aren't reporting things. She said if it helps us report things, whether here or at the school, then that informational part is very good. She asked Chief Brooks whether there were more accidents around those signs and whether there were any studies done on it.

Chief Brooks said this came up when the Furniture Super Store sign first came about. He pointed out that the state minimum was thirty (30) minutes so the Council at that time reviewed it because a couple of businesses in town were asking that it be changed. I think we are pretty light compared to other towns, especially if you go out of state to NH and MA. It's a sign of new technology and I have to side with Councilor Mason, he said, that when you drive a vehicle you are responsible for your vehicle and so forth and if you are distracted by anything, be it the sign or cell phone, then that's a problem and the state passed a law that addresses distractions, which makes you responsible for your own actions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathi Yergin said she agreed with Councilor Mason, that the sign does not appear to be changing. I could drive by here 100 times a day and never see anything different, except the same thing over and over because it never changes. She said when the school got theirs, I thought it was outstanding, and we could see what's going on. Then all of a sudden it stopped; the town stopped it and I thought that's awful, she said. Now I see the same thing all the time.

Mrs. Fitzgerald recommended a compromise of 15 or 20 seconds.

Donald Fellows pointed out that the Planning Board looked at this. We thought about being business friendly. Frankly, as Kathi Yergin said you could go by the same sign day after day and see the same thing; that isn't very effective. Since we have new technology a ten (10) second turn we were thinking was not that often and doesn't make it a light show. There are signs in town that seem to be light shows and those need to be addressed. Augusta's timing on signs is five (5) seconds, Lewiston's is six (6) seconds, and Thomaston is four (4) seconds. Mr. Fellows pointed out again that those signs can only be used on Route 196, not in other areas where it would be really distracting.

VOTE (2011-41) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to adopt the sign ordinance amendment that changes one (1) minute to ten (ten) seconds with editorial changes throughout the entire ordinance.

Roll Call Vote - Yeas: Bickford, Bowie, Cote, Lunt, Mason, and Pomelow. Nays: None. Order passed - Vote 6-0.

LISBON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AMENDMENT
(First Reading - Roll Call Vote)

Mr. Eldridge said these are changes that have to be made to the Comprehensive Plan before the ordinance changes so that they will be in compliance. The Planning Board spent a great deal of time working on this amendment, holding public hearings, incorporating Ferg Lea's recommendations, and presented the attached amendment for consideration.

Councilor Bowie asked what types of businesses can be put into the Rural Open Space I and what's the reason behind why the Planning Board wants to make these changes from what was done in the original Comprehensive Plan.

John Potvin, the Planning Board Chairman, said the reason was, because we looked at the 2006-2007 Comp Plan and applied it to Lisbon today and found it needed to be updated. The new zoning maps came in for the Planning Board to approve and we discovered lots of stuff on there, he said, we needed to address. For example, Route 9 had a big commercial strip going up and down it and several other things were on it that the public was not really in favor of so we had several meetings, discussions with AVCOG, and landowners and the Planning Board felt that the information had changed. When the Comp Plan was written initially, my understanding was that we thought the turnpike access was going to be closer, he said, and this would have been a good spot for a commercial zone. Now, we find it has been moved further away from Lisbon and with the public's opposition to the commercial designation anyway, the Planning Board decided to remove the commercial zone on Route 9 because people didn't want it. We added the new Rural Open Space II zone on the future land use maps, because of the discussion we had on the Rural Open Space Zone so discussion about some of the uses of the land and its intent was how we ended up where we are now with this amendment.

Businesses allowed in this Rural Open Space II (mainly along Upland Road) are conditional uses and listed in the document, Mr. Potvin said. You could break off a piece of your land, but you could not create a subdivision. The purpose of the Rural Open Space II was to preserve agricultural lands. By allowing a subdivision, you would void the reason behind that zone to begin with, he mentioned. Conservation or recreational use is allowed there.

Mr. Cote said mostly agricultural and landscaping type of businesses is allowed there. There are 30-limited permitted uses in Rural Open Space I. For example, Rick Mason would be allowed under a conditional use permit to have an excavation business on Route 9.

Councilor Cote said we have other businesses up and down Route 9 that would like to operate, why don't we look at helping these people operate also, he asked. Mr. Potvin said I agree, but what we did was remove the commercial zone to Route 9. He said this is the future land use map, not the zoning ordinance; we have not changed what is there now. He said there were no other business requests for the Planning Board to review and he pointed out that public input was sought on more than one occasion.

Councilor Mason said there is another designation that does allow other business, home occupation. Would that apply on this strip, she asked. Mr. Cote said home occupations are still permitted in the Rural Open Space I zone. Mr. Potvin pointed out that they had discussed the fact that when someone moves into this area that they move there for a reason and they don't want all those

garages and stuff up and down Route 9. He said we discussed Home Occupation II at length, including a sub-class or second-class of zoning and AVCOG discouraged us from going down that path.

Councilor Cote said he would rather see this redone to address the other businesses that we know are on Route 9 so that they will be allowed to operate their businesses. Mr. Potvin said those changes are not for the future land use map, but rather to the zoning ordinance, and more specifically to the conditional uses in the zoning ordinances.

Mr. Potvin said the Comprehensive Plan is where Lisbon wants to be in 10 to 15 years and we can't make changes to the zoning ordinance that are out of compliance with the Comp Plan. The previous Comp Plan had a big commercial section going up and down Route 9 and the public did not like it. We took that under advisement and made the necessary changes. While that has been happening we have also been reviewing all the ordinances, he said. We can not send the new zoning ordinance to you until you adopt the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. We can address Councilor Cote's concerns when we send the zoning amendments to the Council for adoption.

Councilor Cote said with the future land use map you are going to make a large parcel on Route 196 commercial right over the wellhead and the question that I bring to you, Mr. Potvin, is who in town is going to be responsible for the wellhead protection, the CEO right? Mr. Potvin said as I said before, all we can do is see that the ordinance is written properly and enforced, but we can't see the future and we can't prevent a tractor trailer truck accident from spilling oil there, but we can find someone who will enforce the ordinance. Everyone here has that same concern, he pointed out. Councilor Cote said I can't stress enough to the people of this town that this is our only water supply.

VOTE (2011-42) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Bickford moved to accept the Comprehensive Plan update amendment as presented (see attached).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Vote By Roll Call - Yeas: Bickford, Bowie, Lunt, Mason, and Pomelow. Nays: Cote. Order Passed - Vote 5-1.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW ORDINANCE

This agenda item was moved to the next agenda pending further information about the reasons for this change.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The Council agreed to support the recommendation. Mr. Eldridge said he would work with the Superintendent of School on drafting procedures for this.

B. POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Eldridge said I asked Chief Brooks to do the same presentation he did during the Council orientation tours. It was very insightful. It really showed many different things that sometimes the public and everyone aren't aware of that goes on in town.

Chief Brooks began by reading the Police Department's mission statement, which reads *in partnership with the community and respecting the rights and dignity of the persons we serve, the Lisbon*

Police Departments has as its mission the goal of providing to the residents of and visitors to the Town of Lisbon, in an appropriate and organized manner, professional law enforcement services using advanced police practices and resources.

Chief Brooks said there were several maps in his presentation, all of which come from our Information Management Corporation (IMC) system software program. There were 538 Assist Citizen calls received by the department in 2010. Assist Citizen Calls consist of lock outs from homes, apartments, and cars; lifeline calls; tenant/landlord disputes; social media complaints; children out of control, and parents requesting assistance with children ranging from 6 to 26 years old. There were 93 Crimes Against People calls received last year that's an 8% increase over the 2009 numbers.

There were 239 Crimes Against Property calls. Crimes Against Property calls include burglaries, attempted burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, larcenies, vandalism, forgery, fraud, and all crimes against property that's a 7% increase over the 2009 numbers.

Chief Brooks pointed out that in real life it takes more than 60-minutes "commit it and solve it" as seen on television. For example, on January 5, 2010, he received a burglary theft/criminal mischief call from an owner of a single-family residence that had been broken into while the owners were at work that day. Over \$10,000 in personal property was stolen and over \$500 worth of damage was done to the house. The detective responded and collected physical evidence at the scene. Some of that physical evidence included DNA evidence that was taken to the Maine State Police crime lab. Further interviews were conducted during the course of the investigation, he said, and modus operandi was shared and reviewed with other agencies statewide and New England-wide. Suspects were determined in this case, which did become a New England case. People involved in it, we had reason to believe, he said, were operating in other New England states. On December 21, 2010, 11 months and 16 days after the initial burglary, the Maine State Police crime lab notified Lisbon that they had obtained a DNA profile on our evidence. He emphasized, again, that was 11 months and 16 days, not 60-minutes. After that DNA profile was obtained, the detective obtain a search warrant to abstract DNA samples from the suspect who was finally located in Gardiner, and who wouldn't cooperate, he said, but the DNA was extracted and samples were taken to the crime lab. In February of this year, Lisbon received notification, **13 months after the event**, that a DNA match had been made and now that case is waiting prosecution in Superior Court.

Chief Brooks said on the flip side of that, sometimes cases go quicker. He said we had another residential burglary just last month in Lisbon. 21 guns were stolen out of this house. They notified the owner of the property who was not aware that the crime had occurred yet. He pointed out that while some cases take a long time some fortunately are solved very quickly. In this case, of the 21 weapons, 6 were recovered, which led our officer to the owner who then checked their house and found 21 weapons missing. He said we are still looking for the other weapons, but we do have the perpetrator on this case.

Chief Brooks said there were 177 Alarm Responses, which include burglar and holdup alarms, both business and residential. Fire alarms are not part of the Alarm Response numbers. Alarms all over town have to be responded to as if it's the real thing when about 99% of them are false. However, you may recall that the TD Bank alarm wasn't a false alarm, nor was the Rite Aid Pharmacy alarm. He said we were fortunate to get all of the perpetrators in those two cases.

Last year there were 40 Sex Crimes committed in Lisbon, which include child sexual abuse, rape, prostitution, and child pornography. We are, unfortunately, starting to experience an increase in child pornography complaints. Our detectives were currently working on a case when lo and behold the Maine State Police walked through the door and talked to us about a case they were working on, which happened to involve the same perp. He said they are scattered around town and we deal with them. There are 12 Lifetime Sex-Offender registrants in Lisbon. Generally, if the victim is 14 years of age or under, they are a lifetime registrant. We have 8 10-year registrants that

live in Lisbon. We have sex offenders that either work or receive mail in Lisbon as well, but do not live in Lisbon. All told, he said, we currently have 26 registered sex offenders in Lisbon.

Chief Brooks said there were 261 Motor Vehicle Accident calls received in 2010. There were actually 160 that by state standards were reportable, which had to be reported to the state. One case of particular interest to a number of us in this community involved a local resident and that case went to the Grand Jury today, he said. The operator of the offending vehicle has been indicted on two felony counts of OUI and driving to endanger so that case in moving forward. The operator of that vehicle was trapped inside that vehicle for quite some time and from my understanding, he said, is still in a wheelchair today.

There were 248 Disorderly & Domestic calls last year. That's pretty self-explanatory, he said. For whatever reason sometimes it can get physical and if it gets physical and there is an assault, most generally there is an automatic arrest in Maine.

There were 476 Animal Related calls ranging from any dog or cat cruelty complaint, dangerous animal, moose, rabbit, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, owls, bats, or whatnot. Jeff Cooper does them all. He pointed out that this particular position deals with three towns: Sabattus, Bowdoin, and Lisbon. He said Bowdoin had 90 calls last year. Off the top of my head, he said, I don't remember what Sabattus told me, but that's a busy operation.

There were 313 Fire Department calls, which include brush fires, auto fires, structure fires, any other fires. Fire alarms are included as well. Also, flooded basements and other things that people think the Fire Department should help them with. What's not included are mutual aid calls, because mutual aid takes them out of town.

Chief Brooks said all of these calls go through the Com-Center, plus we received calls for any reason that somebody dials 911. He said we've gone from 9,300 calls in 2003 to over 11,000 in 2010. It's a busy operation and, again, these are officer, public, and other outside agency initiated calls.

Chief Brooks said Lisbon is the 25th largest town in the State of Maine out of the 433 towns in Maine. By the *Department of Public Safety's Crime in Maine 2009* publication, municipal Police Departments in Maine have a ratio of 1.93 officers per 1,000 population. He pointed out that if we were using that ratio, Lisbon would have 18 full time police officers. Lisbon had 16 full time police officers in 2007. In 2008, that was reduced to 15, and then in 2010 it was further reduced to 14. In police service that is significant, he stressed. Again, I've said it many times, he said, it's becoming difficult and it becomes a safety issue trying to make the police continue to do more with less. We are reducing our ability at a time when requests in the job are increasing. Lisbon ranks 57th in Maine in police officer/population ration that's 57th in Maine for the 25th largest community in Maine. He said trends are that while the budget and staffing are being reduced over time, crimes against people increased 8% over last year. Crimes against property increased 7% over last year. Calls for service have increased 18% since 2003. He said the point here is that our workload is increasing, yet the ability to do the job is decreasing.

This department continues to oversee the Lisbon Community Policing Advisory Group (LCPAG), Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) program, Lisbon Education Employment & Delinquency (LEAD) program, Citizens Police Academy program, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and the Law Enforcement Explorer Post program.

2010 marked the 24th year of the Lisbon DARE program. Lisbon was the first department in the Androscoggin County to provide DARE and one of the first five or six in the State of Maine. School Resource officers Darrin Estes and Renee Bernard along with Detective Bernie McAllister teach the DARE curriculum to all the 5th and 7th Grade students in Lisbon. The DARE program is quite lengthy and detailed and takes a lot of their time.

The Lisbon Community Policing Advisory Group (LCPAG) has been an active committee for the past 16 years. They helped develop ordinances for drug-free safety zones, noise, adult entertainment, canine waste, and pawnshops. In addition, that group was involved in the PSAP research study and recommendation to the Council five or six years ago. They are an active group and get a lot of work done.

The Lisbon Education, Employment, and Delinquency (LEAD) program was initiated in 2002. It supports at risk youth, helping to provide the tools necessary to complete their education, and improve economic opportunities. Second chance opportunities for drop outs and at risk teens has declined in recent years. This critically important program through the effective collaboration with the Lisbon Police Department, Lisbon School Department, Maine Department of Juvenile Services, and seven area businesses is changing the lives of our at risk youths in Lisbon. Those businesses include Aubuchon Hardware, Maine Recycling, the Credit Union, Graziano's, Dingley Press, Town of Lisbon, and Sam's Italian Sandwich Shop. The kids that take part in this program are potential low risk offenders, have become low risk offenders, or are involved in the criminal justice system. The likelihood of them receiving a high school diploma is rather slim so we get them into the program where they are counseled and followed. 50% of these kids in the program obtain their GED. We have had some kids go on to college. 60% to 70% of these kids in the program get jobs. This two-year grant was provided to us from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, United States Department of Justice.

The Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) give community members an inside look at the Police Department and all facets of law enforcement. This is about as transparent as you can get, he said. People get to see how it is, why it is, and what becomes of it. As a matter of fact, some of them wish they were able to continue with more training. Training consists of three-hours a night, one night a week, for 10 weeks as compared to the basic Police Academy that is 18 weeks full time. This is our fourth session to date. There are 12 participants in this year's CPA. In 2008, 2009, and 2010, we had 42 participants graduate in those programs. In 2009 and 2010, Lisbon provided CPA2 training. CPA2 is a full day of actual hands on training. It consists of OUI scenarios, OUI roadside stops by CPA students, felony stops (when a weapon is drawn), domestic cases, and accident reconstruction. It's worked out quite nicely and everybody really likes it a lot.

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program is a community outreach program. They contact over 60 seniors and shut-ins weekly. They come in three different times a week to make daytime and or nighttime calls so they talk with everybody. Originally it started a couple of years ago, back when the oil scare came about. He said we were concerned, having a large senior population in town, that people would be making choices, oil or medication and so forth and we did not want anybody to go without, because many seniors are very proud and will not ask for help so VIPS reach out to them. We had a senior whose toilet had been broken for two weeks, he said. This senior finally told the caller, who contacted the housing authority where that senior lived and the next day the toilet was fixed. Those things seem little, but to them it is a big thing. They helped last year with Moxie Day and the Harvest Festival. This coming Friday the VIPS are sponsoring a dinner for the seniors at the Woodside Apartments.

Chief Brooks said the Law Enforcement Explorer Post is a group of young high school students who are associated with exploring learning for life and career education. It is for young men and women ages 14 to 20. Its purpose is to help young people mature and become responsible caring adults. Explorer posts can specialize in a variety of career skills. Ours happens to be law enforcement. Exploring programs are based upon five areas of emphasis: career opportunities, life skills, citizenship, character education, and leadership experience. One of the directions we are heading with our explorer posts this coming summer is an Explorer Week at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. We are working very hard to ensure that Lisbon's Explorers get the opportunity to attend that week at the Criminal Justice Academy.

He said the Maine Regional Community Justice Coalition (MRCJC), is a board comprised of members representing law enforcement, prevention/intervention advocates, and community members, all from Androscoggin, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln counties. Chief Brooks chairs this committee. This was the committee that was developed after the Department of Justice "weed and seed" grant money expired about two or three years ago. He said we are still working towards going statewide. We did receive a grant from the Department of Justice, which provides statewide crime analyst capability. The MRCJC has two full time analysts and one (Andrea Tapley from Lisbon) part-time analyst. One full-time analyst is home based out of the Lisbon PD, but lives in Topsham and takes care of the southern Maine area. The second full-time analyst is home based out of Penobscot County in Bangor and takes care of everything in Bangor and north. They develop an analyst report that goes out two or three times a week to law enforcement and once a week to the business community. There is a lot of work that goes into that, he said, and we are in our second-year of the two-year grant for that. Again, that's another grant from the Bureau of Justice system.

Chief Brooks said special recognition went to Officer Ryan McGee who was recognized as the American Legion Officer of the Year. Recently Detective Bernard McAllister, Detective William Tapley, and Sergeant Scott Stewart will be recognized by the United States Attorney's Office for their work in the Androscoggin Bank robbery case. That case has been resolved and those people have been found guilty and are doing what people who are found guilty do. Lisbon was able to respond to that case, collect evidence, do a thorough investigation, and in less than 24 hours, the bank robber was in custody. He pointed out that was excellent and the U.S. Attorney realized it as well.

Lisbon participated in the 2009 National Law Enforcement Challenge. This is a Highway Safety initiative. Federal standards and state standards are compared with our policies & guidelines, public information, education, department training, incentives & recognition, and enforcement activity. In 2009, the Lisbon Police Department placed second in the State of Maine in the National Law Enforcement Challenge. In 2008, we were third. Lisbon is very fortunate to not have had a fatal accident in town for four to five years now. There are some communities in the state that fatal accidents are very commonplace, he said. I would like to believe it's because of our proactive traffic enforcement, he said, and our education programs. One neat thing we do on the incentive piece is that in the summertime, if we see a kid wearing a helmet while riding their bicycle, we will give them a free certificate to get an ice cream at one of the local ice cream places; it's small, but big.

Chief Brooks announced that other Lisbon Police Officers have been recognized by numerous organizations: the American Heart Association, the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, Maine Association of Police, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, for a wide variety of reasons. A year ago, the American Heart Association was here to recognize two of our officers for a life saving event and today another group notified Lisbon that they want to make a presentation on another life saving event that our officers were involved in as well.

Chief Brooks said all of the Lisbon Police Officers are sworn Androscoggin and Sagadahoc deputies. Some have been and/or are currently sworn as Special Agents for MDEA, ICE, DEA, CMVCTF, and Deputy U.S. Marshals. Our K-9 team, Officer Jason St. Pierre and Dex have been recognized as one of the state's better drug K-9 teams and performs searches in county jails, numerous high schools, and has been called to assist MDEA, DEA, CMVCTF, and MSP.

That's a quick overview of activities for 2010, he said. I hope that all of you take the opportunity to read the Managerial Report that comes out monthly. He pointed out that incidents like the one that took place in Lisbon last month are difficult even for our public safety officials. He said our teams responded to a horrible fire on Summer Street. A tragic loss of lives occurred that day. The family and town mourned together. The Public Safety family pulled together during and after this event in coping with personal, emotional, and psychological issues. He pointed out that sometimes people forget that Police Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Responders are human, too. They are all highly trained in their specific field and when needed respond in an emergency without hesitation and many times in the face of danger to themselves. They get the job completed like well-

oiled machinery; however, they are not machines. They are people, just like you, with friends and families, he said. They have emotions. This tragic loss of lives tore deeply into many responders. A number have attended counseling and are off coping and healing. All Public Safety responders know and accept that their number one priority is to save lives. When lives are lost, many feel that they have failed. No Police Officer, Firefighter, or EMS Responder failed that day. They took every available action they could; however, time was not on their side. We in Public Safety will never forget that day in our history, he said, and all of us will continue to do what we have chosen, to be Police Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical personnel serving our community, our home, our friends, and our families. I am extremely proud of Lisbon's Public Safety family, he said, and I thank them for their service to the community and for their personal sacrifices, they make along the way. I am sure that 99.9% of the Lisbon community feels this way, as well.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said he had a meeting with the staff from Congressman Michaud's office as well as Senators Snow and Collins catching up on all aspects of what we are doing and assisting us with funding search for projects like Longchamps and the Community Track project. He said in order to qualify for the Conservation Department grant the track must be a "Community Track" and on a public right of way.

He said he attended the Fire Department's banquet, which was well attended by all the members, their guests, and retirees. John Jenkins was a guest speaker. Years of Service certificates were handed out. It was a very nice affair.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Larry Fillmore thanked Chief Brooks for the outstanding presentation. He pointed out that Cape Elizabeth has 12 people in their department with a \$1.2 million dollar budget, Gorham has 25 people in their department with a \$1.5 million dollar budget, and Topsham has 17 people in their department with a \$1.2 million dollar budget. He urged the Council to hold expenses down and suggested budget cutting. He said residents could not afford to suffer another increase and asked the Council to find alternatives.

Councilor Lunt pointed out that revenue losses were a huge hit this year.

Dorothy Fitzgerald was not in favor of a 1.75% wage increase for all employees and disapproved of the recommended salary adjustments for the Fire Chief, Recreation Director, and Town Engineer.

APPOINTMENTS

BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD RESIGNATION

VOTE (2011-44) Councilor Bickford, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to accept Richard Graham's resignation from the Budget Advisory Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Order passed - Vote 6-0.

INTERIM ASSESSOR
(Term Expiring June 30, 2011)

VOTE (2011-45) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Bickford moved to appoint William Van Tuinen Assessor to June 30, 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Order passed - Vote 6-0.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Mason mentioned that Moxie Day was three months away and that forms were available on the website at www.moxiefestival.com.

Councilor Cote said it is not right that only the Council can authorize a ballot question to vote on the budget; it should be allowed to be done by petition and if the Council does not want to send the question to the voters, then the whole Council should be recalled.

Councilor Bickford mentioned he had asked the question about collecting signatures. He said he had collected quite a few signatures on his own.

David Bowie pointed out that the charter does give people the right to start proceedings when the Council's budget is not acceptable to them, so people have the right to follow the procedure outlined in the charter to overturn it.

Mr. Eldridge pointed out that he was not aware of any opinion from MMA, that he would look into the matter, and indicated MMA's opinion should be reviewed by the Town Attorney in this case.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2011-47) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to adjourn to a budget workshop at 8:55 PM. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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