



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 16, 2010

Michael Bowie, Chair District 2 2012
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010
Fern Larochelle, Jr., At Large 2010
Roger Cote, At large 2011
Mark Lunt, District 1 2012
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010
Lori Pomelow, At Large 2012

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 6:14 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Bowie, Mason, Larochelle, Pomelow. Councilor Crafts and Councilor Lunt were excused. Councilor Cote was absent. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Rosie Bradley, Economic Development; and approximately 20 members in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT & LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE RAILROAD RESTAURANT AND PUB

The Chairman opened the public hearing. There were no comments. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2010-31) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Pomelow moved to approve a Special Entertainment Permit and Liquor License for the Railroad Restaurant and Pub and the Minutes of January 19, 2010. **Order passed - Vote 4-0.**

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES

INACTIVE TRAILS COMMISSION MEMBER

Councilor Bowie said I would like to move to this item to the next agenda. We have nobody here from the Trails Commission tonight. I would like to move that item until we have the Chairman here, since he wrote us the letter. Is Council in favor of that? The Council agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. REVITALIZATION WORK PLAN PRESENTATION

Ms. Bradley said I am going to give you a quick overview of the Revitalization efforts that have been taking place over the last couple of years and the work plans you have in your packets. We are going to talk about the committee who was charged with creating a positive vibrant community, the community visioning sessions, surveys, and the additional studies and reports that were done. Those included the Lisbon Falls walkable audit report and the University of Vermont, who did a transit and smart growth report, which you are familiar with. The work plans that we are going to review include agriculture, housing, land use, education, culture, parks and recreation, public safety, municipal services, infrastructure, and economic and community development.

Ms. Bradley said I am going to review the Main Street approach and talk about the four points the committees of promotion, organization, design, and economic restructuring, plus the eight key principles that review the National and Maine statistics, the benefits, and funding. Then, I am going to review the Maine Downtown Network Program and talk about the start-up business report, the Lisbon business roundtable, and discuss some of the Revitalization successes, which include the American flag project, the Lisbon buttons and t-shirts, and all of the great events the promotions committee put together for great community events.

Ms. Bradley said the committee was formed in June 2008 to explore opportunities and programs for revitalization of Lisbon. We were looking to create the positive vital community. We started out with only four people, it quickly grew to 12, and today we have about 25 people who volunteer on committees and events and that sort of thing. That is great, but it is not enough. That is one of the things you will hear tonight that we do need to get more citizen and business involvement. We do continue to get new people. We picked up four new people over the last two weeks who are interested in getting involved. They read something, or attended an event that took place, and so they are starting to jump on the bandwagon. The sub-committees are starting to get involved with other groups, the Parks and Recreation, the Trails Commission, Beaver Park, Androscoggin Land Trust, and the Green Thumb Gang. We are looking at creating that collaboration with all of the groups. There are many sectors that are represented. There are the business owners, citizens, seniors, and we have a farmer, a school committee member, a Councilor, a high school student, plus some of the Moxie committee members and staff. We have quite a broad range of people that are involved, but we do need more volunteers on the committees to continue this success, because this is really based on community building community.

Ms. Bradley said community visioning sessions we held; we held three sessions. We did them at different days and times. One was on a Saturday morning, one was on a weekday morning, and one was held on a weekday night to offer people an opportunity to catch at least one of them and to fit it into their schedule. We held two of them at the Lisbon Community School and we held one here at the Town Hall. The attendees were allowed to select two groups to participate in during the breakout sessions that were held. It included Parks and Recreation, public service, education, culture, economic and community development, housing, agriculture, land use, and municipal services. These are the work plans that we created and you will see we started with six and ended up combining some of the committees, so we ended up only having five work plans that we actually presented to you. In addition to the breakout groups, we did a 20-year visioning exercise with all the attendees. We asked them to visualize Lisbon in 20 years and explain what was different and what had changed. That was a fun exercise to do and people have great ideas of where this community can go. I think it was important for them to be able to do that visioning piece. We did do surveys. We conducted surveys at the sessions. We also did some surveys electronically online. We did direct emailed surveys and they were available on our website.

Ms. Bradley said the outside studies done were done by AVCOG (the walkable audit report) and the University of Vermont (the transportation impact report on smart growth development in Maine). Lisbon was chosen as one of the two communities they did that on. The AVCOG walkable report reviewed the physical conditions, the needs and opportunities for pedestrian facilities, including design, safety, education, and enforcement. We talked about crosswalks and sidewalks, bicycling facilities, Lisbon development, Lisbon education, and Lisbon on-road facilities. You, also, have a copy of that draft created by AVCOG that does have a work plan attached to it. The University of Vermont's report evaluated the reduction in average trip length. It looked at daily vehicle miles traveled and daily greenhouse gas emissions from on-road automobiles due to the smart growth development strategies. They used the future analysis year of 2030 and they considered levels of household and employment growth that would be expected as they created that report. It is a very lengthy report, I am sure you all had an opportunity to see that.

Ms. Bradley said we did some logo and branding. One of the key pieces to a community is having a unique brand. I am sure people have been hearing about branding a lot. It is vital for your

community. We did a contest and obtained some entries for logos and slogans. We didn't get a whole lot of input, but the ones that we did get, we really liked "Lisbon along the Androscoggin", that was the one most liked out of the ones that were submitted. It is flexible to use with all aspects of the government and with different groups, organizations, and downtown. It is not going to change. I think Lisbon is always going to be along the Androscoggin, so you don't have to worry about it expiring. It focuses on a major asset of the river and that is one of the topics we discussed a lot is utilizing the river and looking at our natural assets and being able to use them for other revitalization efforts. We would like to continue the efforts to create this brand or explore other ideas. We are researching grant opportunities to assist with this process. We would be able to utilize this brand on the banners that we want to have created, or signage, marketing and advertising campaigns, letterhead, and business cards. It is something you incorporate into everything you are doing.

Ms. Bradley said the committee created these draft work plans for your review. The data was collected from the visioning sessions and the surveys. We understand the importance of planning. When funding becomes available through grants, earmarks, or other programs, Lisbon does not get to take advantage of them because there are no long-term plans in place. I know this is something you are looking to correct, which is great. We understand there is no money available right now, however, you have to have a plan to be able to find the alternative funding sources and look at creative financing sources. I know a lot of you have heard about "shovel ready" projects. Some funding opportunities we have missed because we just were not "shovel ready", so that is why a lot of this planning is important. These are just the drafts. We are expecting to hold work sessions where you add, delete, and change it. It is really just a tool to get the conversation started and to assist you to think in the planning mindset for the future betterment of Lisbon. These items in addition to the comprehensive plan, additional studies we talked about, and other reports, can be used together for strategic planning for Lisbon. I know Mr. Eldridge is looking to address those strategic plans with you.

Ms. Bradley said I would like to review the draft plans with you quickly. I am not going to go over all of these in detail, because I know you have had a chance to look at them. What I would like to do is just highlight the goals so that the community can understand some of the goals that were created from the input that we received. I am looking at the Public Safety, Municipal Services, and Infrastructure Work Plans. The goals that we created were: 1) to improve municipal services that includes electronic payment capabilities, extending town office hours one day a week to service people who can't get here during the hours that we are open. We heard that from a lot of people who work out of town. 2) Discussion about spring clean up and weekly roadside trash pick up. These were all things that were discussed. I am not saying that we are going to do it. These are just items that rated high on the list.

Ms. Bradley said goal number two is to improve the infrastructure, which included the MTM community center, expanding the walking path to the Railroad Diner, and investigating parking accessibility and signage. The Public Works building falls under there. One central public safety services building and options was something that came up several times. The infrastructure needs for development, which includes roads, water, sewer, and power. Utilizing Capital Avenue as the entrance to the high school was on our list. I know that these are things that have been discussed, and to improve the downtown aesthetics. Under other considerations, these were the next items in line, 1) more staff for Public Works, 2) improve street lighting in town, and 3) make the Water Department part of the town. Those were all comments that were next in line as we prioritized those. We just wanted to put them on there so that you would have them.

Ms. Bradley said next is the Parks and Recreation Committee work plan. One goal is to better utilize Beaver Park. One of the things that came up was allowing camping and investigating camping at Beaver Park and expanding activities, which would include ice-skating, a sports field, haunted hay rides, winter carnivals, partnering with the Promotions Committee, having life guards at swimming areas, and use of flotation devices. Those were all things that came up.

Ms. Bradley said another goal was to create a destination Arts Park by looking for state funding and seeing what that would offer. It could offer a skate park, amphitheater, river access, trail connection, a gazebo with electricity, benches, tables, bathrooms, playgrounds, and a community track. Under other considerations, again, the next things on the list were a new community center, a community pool, adult recreation leagues, a teen center, and family recreation that would include go-carts, batting cages, mini-golf, paint ball, Movie Theater, etc. Those items came up for Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Bradley said for Education and Culture, we ended up with improved school and community involvement by teaching civic responsibility and creating an inclusive community calendar. This is something we think can be done through the school. Maybe the Tech Club at school can assist us with that.

Ms. Bradley said goal number two was a larger library facility, identify expansion options and/or relocation, and include the Historical Society with it. The third goal was to create a downtown historical district. The fourth goal was to investigate ramp possibilities for the Moxie building. The fifth goal was to work with the Historical Society on digital preservation. The sixth goal was to work with the Historical Society on buildings to add to the historical register.

Ms. Bradley said Agriculture, Housing, and Land Use is the first goal to create additional elderly housing utilizing the Campus Avenue building, create a farmer's market and have it started by 2010, investigate agricultural opportunities and growth management plans, looking at the comprehensive plan and taking into consideration growth management as part of that. That is all stuff you will talk about when you look at strategic planning as well.

Ms. Bradley said under Economic and Community Development; Goal 1 is to improve rail service. Goal 2 is to continue smart growth development. Goal 3 is to establish a creative economy. Goal 4 is to revitalize the Route 9 corridor. Goal 5 is to expand the river utilization. Goal 6 is to re-develop the Campus Avenue building. Goal 7 is the development of the Worumbo Mill to utilize the river. Goal 8 is to improve promotion of public transportation. Goal 9 is to explore green energy options. Goal 10 is a marketing and advertising campaign. Goal 11 is to improve the image of Lisbon. Goal 12 is to maintain and improve beautification efforts, which include design standards. Goal 13 is downtown revitalization. Goal 14 is to improve working relationships with all town entities including town and school, town and water, and sewer and water departments. Those were all items we created and put together. We did not put task responsibilities, due dates, and budgets to them. That will be the next step once you decide what stays and what goes, and what you need to add. Once you figure out what that is going to be, then we will look at those and create the task to go with each of those, create who is going to be responsible for that, what the time line is, and if there is a budget that you need to put together with that.

Ms. Bradley said there are items on there that are being worked on that we included, because they are still part of the overall planning, even though they are things we are already doing. We definitely want to include those, because you want to be able to show what you are doing. There is a lot of stuff that has been done that you want to make sure you are capturing as well.

Ms. Bradley said I want to give you a quick overview of the Main Street approach. I know some of you may have heard about this, but we do have some newcomers in the audience who may have not heard about it. It was developed by the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It encourages economic development within the context of historic preservation. It is a great tried and true program. It advocates the return to community, self-reliance, and the re-building of commercial districts based on traditional assets, which include unique architecture, personal service, local ownership, and a sense of community. Those are some of the keys to it.

Ms. Bradley said the approach for Main Street is incremental. It does take time to do this. It is not a one time, overnight fix. It is something you have to stick with. It requires leadership. It requires local capacity building. It is one of the many tools used to generate economic and entrepreneurial growth. This approach is not designed to tackle the bigger issues of an entire community. For the success of the Main Street Program the public sector involvement and the private sector involvement with a commitment is vital. It is typically structured as a non-profit corporation with an active working board. When it gets to that point, it does have a paid director who coordinates the efforts, volunteers, and implements the program.

She said the methodology addresses the following four areas: organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. Those are the four key committees that are in the process of getting up and running. We will talk about those. The organization committee gets everyone working towards the same goals; it builds consensus and cooperation among all stakeholders. This group is responsible for attracting the money and the people to the organization. They are responsible for fund raising and that sort of thing. They keep the boards, committees, staff, and program in good shape. They are the ones who really look at the oversight in addition to the board.

She said the Promotion Committee sells the image and the promise of Main Street to all prospects. It promotes downtown as the center of commerce, culture, and community life. It markets the district with a positive image through advertising, retail promotions, special events, and marketing campaigns.

The Design Committee gets Main Street in top physical shape to attract shoppers, investors, business owners, and visitors. It creates an inviting atmosphere, which includes window displays, parking areas, signage, sidewalks, street lights, and landscaping. It focuses on the buildings, businesses, and public improvements.

The Economic Restructuring Committee defines the new purpose for Main Street enterprises. It helps the existing businesses that are there to expand and it recruits new ones. It converts unused space into productive property. It identifies new market opportunities and it stimulates investment in those properties. The eight principles of Main Street are comprehensive. It is incremental in nature, requires a local commitment, focuses on existing assets, relies on quality, involves changing attitudes, implementation oriented, and is a public/private partnership, which is needed to make meaningful long-term revitalization possible.

She said here are the statistics nationally. There are 2,200 communities nationwide. These statistics cover 1980, when it started, through December 2008. These are great numbers nationally. The cool thing about all of this is the re-investment ratio which is \$25 reinvested for every \$1 that is spent. So that shows you the return on investment when you start bringing those dollars into your downtown. The Main Street Maine statistics as reported since September 2002, and this is for the nine Main Street communities for total amount of reinvestment in physical improvements from public and private, is \$102.8 million dollars. The net gain in business is 168. It has created 694 jobs; 401 buildings have been rehabilitated. The number of volunteer hours, and this is really huge, is 143,673 hours. That is a lot of people, if you had to hire that out, so that is why it is a successful program. It is really based on your volunteers and your community supporting the effort. I stress that that is one of the key components of this program. The reinvestment ratio in the State of Maine is \$24.49 for every \$1 that is spent, so that in and of itself it speaks for itself, and shows you that it is a very good program.

Ms. Bradley said there are many benefits to the program. It enhances community pride; it preserves increased jobs, redevelops buildings, increases collaboration, bolsters property values, grows the businesses, attracts new businesses, and protects historic assets, which is really a key piece. Historic preservation is really a key component of the program. You are really utilizing the buildings you already have here. It, also, increases the tax base by developing vacant buildings to higher and better uses. There are benefits for local residents. Many times, people say what's in it for me and

why should I get involved. These are some reasons for the local residents to get involved: 1) better shopping, 2) better sense of hometown pride, 3) historical awareness, 4) stable or improved home values, 5) healthy local economy means property taxes won't be raised, 6) more activities for kids, and 7) an attractive community. Retail business owners can benefit as well, having increased sales, increased value of their business, increased traffic, which has more people coming into the district, and an improvement in the quality of business life. Property owners benefit from increased rates of occupancy, new and better uses for existing buildings, you can fill your upper floors, and get assistance with tax credits. There are historic tax credits, which I have talked about with the Campus Avenue owners. They now have available State and Federal Tax Credits. There are dollars out there, and improving the Town's center image. These things are great. Benefits for the municipal government: 1) increased income to the city through additional tax revenues, 2) increase local jobs, 3) improved local economy, 4) positive perception outside the community about the town's center, 5) improved relations between the city and the community, 6) business recruitment, and 7) the impetus for public improvements. Those are all real key pieces for municipal government. There are other benefits for professionals; I am not going to go down through all of those. You can see an improved town center, a way or forum for having town center needs and issues addressed, increased traffic again, better business mix, all of those things are important to professionals. For large corporations, again, they also have benefits: 1) increased economic and residential growth, and 2) a positive perception of the community as a draw for industry. I've mentioned that before, that when you are recruiting for other businesses to come here, your community is what you have to sell and you have to be able to sell your community as an attractive, positive community for them to come here. Financial institutions have increased business deposits; the success of a community is crucial to bank success so that is really good, because we have several financial institutions that would also benefit from this.

Ms. Bradley said the suggested funding for a Main Street Program is split in three ways; a third typically comes from the municipality, a third from the businesses, and a third from the residents and fund raising events. For the municipality's piece of that, there are a lot of ways you can do that. In kind, if you are utilizing Public Works, there is a lot of different components that can be included. A lot of the communities utilize their TIF programs and that is one of the things I've talked to you about is restructuring our TIF dollars that would, also, benefit this program and other revitalization efforts within Lisbon. Those are some of the creative ideas for funding.

Ms. Bradley said the other key component when you get ready to apply for a Main Street designation, is that we have to have commitment for funding for three years before we can even apply so we have to go to the businesses and get them involved. The municipality has to be involved. We have to show them that we have a volunteer base and we have the critical mass of people needed to support the effort before we can really even apply. That is why we are doing what we are doing now, to kind of test the water so to speak, and we are doing that through the Maine Downtown Network.

Ms. Bradley said Lisbon applied in May 2009 to become part of the Maine Downtown Network and we were one of six new communities selected across the State to participate. It is a sister program to Main Street Maine Program. It uses the same four point approach, but it is a lighter pace to allow us to try it out. We can get to see if it is a good fit for our community before we apply for the full Main Street Maine designation. That is our goal and has kind of been the goal of the committee. We would like to be able to get to that point. They are looking at funding one or two more communities and they are actually thinking about making it a requirement that you participate in the Downtown Network before you apply, which also gives us a little more of an advantage because we were one of the first ones in.

Ms. Bradley said the Maine Downtown Network is a two-year program. The criteria to be accepted is that you have to have a central business district, an organized effort, sustainable budget, and a pledge of commitment. We have done all of that to be able to be accepted into the two year program. What we receive for that is a start up visit; we get consultations, they do organizational

visits, and board training. If they hire a new manager, they do orientation. They can attend our meetings and they have a resource library. They, also, give us access to the Maine Downtown Institute, which allows our board and committee members to attend trainings very inexpensive. The start-up visit was done in July 2009 by Roxanne Eflin, who is the MDC Program Manager. She and one of the advisory council members and two of their senior advisors came for an initial start-up visit. You got that report in your packet. The report outlined ideas and observations outlined by the group, with specific suggestions for each of the committees to work on. As committees are formed, they will be tasked to utilize the report and to create work plans. We do have to report to MDC as to what we are doing with that report and what the results are going to be.

She said one suggestion from the start-up report was the Lisbon Business Roundtable, which we started; it's an informative meeting with the business community on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at noon. We rotate businesses, which host the meetings. We have one tomorrow at noon at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office on Main Street. Mr. Eldridge, Councilor Mason, and I attend to improve communications with the business community and to provide networking opportunities for Lisbon businesses. The meetings explore ways the town can assist our local businesses and provide answers to questions they have. They have been very well attended and we have some lively discussions.

Ms. Bradley said we have created some successes in revitalization. The American flag project that was one of the first projects; we received a grant from the Galen Cole Family Foundation, which matched the number of flags that were bought. We created a program where people purchased a flag in memory, honor, or donated to the project. We obtained pole licenses from Fair Point and CMP and that was fun; quite the process. Public Works attached the flags with the yellow ribbons. We received some real great comments about that from a lot of people.

She said we purchased "I love Lisbon" buttons and t-shirts to sell for donations at various events to help fund our revitalization efforts. We did t-shirts for the committee members to wear at the events and to get the campaign idea out there. We are contemplating purchasing additional t-shirts for sale at some of the events we have coming up.

She said the Promotions Committee is the most active committee we have up and running right now. Ross Cunningham is the chair of that committee and they meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:00 PM here at the town office. They are very active and are in need of additional volunteers to help continue planning our community events. They plan these events, they get great attendance, but they just don't have enough volunteers. Sometimes they have to eliminate a piece of it, because they just don't have enough volunteers to do it. They created the Lisbon Concert In The Park series, held on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Last year all the bands donated their time and we had a shop local table that featured local Lisbon businesses. The attendance each week was between 100 and 200 people; it was very well received. We had great comments. This year we are in the process of doing that again. Businesses are starting to donate funds so that we can pay some of the bands. Ross is really looking at a variety of music from blues to rock to acoustical. We are looking forward to that. We are going to have a new gazebo stage built for that event, which is going to be sponsored by a business.

She said they held a Harvest Festival, which had kid's games, a bake sale, hot cider table, and a chuck-a-chicken contest. Local businesses participated. The PCO Boosters had a table. There was a live band performance. They had over 150 people attend, so, again, it shows you that people are looking for these community events.

Ms. Bradley said our holiday event "A Very Merry Main Street" was a success. You know, a lot of the events and different things are used to create that downtown center of community. Sometimes it is an event just to bring friends downtown, sometimes it is an event to ring cash registers, and sometimes it is just a fun community event. There are different components to each of these events that they have. This event followed the Lisbon Tree Lighting Ceremony. Santa was at the Lisbon

Falls Fire Station and greeted the children. The Lisbon Library took photos for them. Twelve, or more than 12 businesses stayed open until 8:00 PM, which I don't believe has ever happened here. This is one of those pieces that we are looking at on how to utilize the people and do better for your businesses so it is really important that the businesses cater to the people and staying open was really beneficial to them. They had over 140 people enter the businesses downtown. They had carolers move up and down the street. Some of them were in costumes. We had great feedback from the local businesses and the citizens. The Sausage Kitchen severed 30 gallons of soup, which they sold out of in two hours. Their registers were just ringing; it was a great event. One of the local businesses had a band playing in their business. They served cocoa and refreshments. The last event that just happened was the Father/Daughter Valentine dance. That took place over this past weekend. The Promotions Committee partnered with the Recreation Department and over 120 people attended. They decorated the hall and served refreshments. They had a DJ and had photos taken for the fathers and daughters to capture the special event. The community benefit, we always look at that was that local florists sold flowers and salons were busy doing hair and nails, so it creates another benefit for the community.

Ms. Bradley said the key is community building community; you will hear that a lot with this program. Main Street is a nationally proven program that has transformed many small rural communities. It is vital for citizens and businesses to get involved and volunteer for it to be successful. To apply for the Main Street designation will require community commitment backed with volunteer numbers and the ability to fund the program. We really would like to encourage everybody to get involved today. I would like to recognize the committee members that are in the audience that are here to support the effort. Ross Cunningham is here, Alexander Campbell, she is a high school student who is serving on the committee and she is great at getting some of the other kids involved with some of these events. That is something we have really been trying to do, which is foster that relationship with these students to get them involved. She has been great with that. Brenda Rogers, Tina Tracey, Joanne Bonsey, Gina Mason, and Dot Fitzgerald have participated. I want to thank everyone for their time, hard work, and dedication. I would like to give them an opportunity to speak to you. I know some of them have something they want to share with you, so if you don't mind, I would like them to speak. Councilor Bowie said sure.

Ross Cunningham said I am the chair of the Promotions Committee. I have been doing this for about a year now and I have really enjoyed all the stuff we have done. Last year my five year old brought home a book that said "my parents help the community." Totally unprompted, she made it in kindergarten, so, if you don't think we are making a difference, we are. I was blown away. For anybody who is not getting involved, if you want to make a difference to the community, please do. Thanks.

Brenda Rogers said I am not a resident in town, but I grew up here, and I am a business partner for Rogers Insurance. Ms. Bradley asked me to serve on the committee and I thought not another commitment, but it has been a pleasure. It has been exciting actually to hear people excited about the Town of Lisbon. One thing Rosie failed to say is how hard she has worked on this. Without her leadership we wouldn't be where we are today. Ross is doing a fantastic job, wherever you go you hear that. I just thank you and hope you folks will help us out with this.

Councilor Mason said I have been involved with the committee since the beginning and it has been very enjoyable. I have lived in town my whole life and I remember when Main Street on both ends of town was bustling. I remember when we had department stores. I remember when we had bakeries and Duntons. Everybody remembers Duntons and my father having to get flashbulbs the last minute on Christmas Eve. All those fun things. We have lost a lot of that. The Merchant's Association back in the 1980s tried to reestablish some of that and they did a good job, but things fell by the wayside. It is important. We are a pass through community, but we are a community that people know about. They know about our Moxie festival. They know Bonneau's Sausage Kitchen, which has been a huge draw here to town. It is just something we continue to work on. I want you to understand that it's not just a group of us that sit together and come up with these ideas, but the

ideas that Rosie presented tonight were a part of our community visioning sessions. They were citizens just like you that came to the sessions and we had roundtables and open discussions where people presented things that they would like to see for the future. They filled out surveys, they did some of it online, and they did it at the sessions. We compiled all that and gave you the best of what they gave to us, so that is where that came from. Branding is very important and it is something we are working on. Roxanne, who was pictured in one of the photos, is the Maine Downtown Program Manager. She is a very excitable lady. She is just great. She is very enthusiastic. She is from a town out in the mid-west. Thirty years ago she came up with a logo or brand for that town and to this day they are still using that brand and that logo, so that is something we are working on to give Lisbon an identity, to use something that when people see it, they know it is Lisbon.

Councilor Mason said Bill King and Jane Palmer from Bath are part of the Bath community, which is a Downtown Community, and we are very fortunate to have them. They are partners for us; in fact, Bill was here today for a Moxie meeting. They are very knowledgeable people. They have been involved in the Bath efforts for many years. We are very fortunate to have them just a couple of towns over, they are not too far away, they are accessible, and they are great to talk with. We have been very fortunate to have that. It is a community building event. The promotions we are doing have been getting more and more participation, and people have been encouraged by that. We need more people. We definitely need more people. Ross was very short handed at his event on Saturday night. We need more people; the more there are the more we have to do these events. I appreciate all that Rosie has done; she has worked very hard. I appreciate all those who are here and those that are not. Thank you for participating.

Councilor Bowie said I would like to thank you and your committee for everything. It is very exciting. I think it is going to be good for the community and I look forward to everything moving forward.

Councilor Larochelle said growing up in town, living here all your life, it seems like the town changes and you really don't pay any attention to it. I was able to open my eyes a little bit when we were looking for a new town manager and did the drive through town; you are pretty much trying to sell your town. When you are in the back seat of a vehicle, trying to sell your town, and you drive by your schools, Public Works, and downtown you get a totally different idea of what your town looks like when you are trying to show it off to someone who doesn't know anything about your town. I do appreciate everything you are doing because, again, if you live in town, every day you drive by everything, and you don't really pay attention to it, but if you get in the back seat of a car sometime and drive around and try to sell your town, you will have a totally different look at it. I think anything we do to improve it will help everybody.

Ms. Bradley said our design committee is in the process of getting organized. We are trying to get our first meeting together and we do have people who want to participate on that. When you say trying to sell your community, that is one of the charges of the design committee, is trying to make it sellable and we will work on some of those things. I know we talked about property maintenance ordinances, signage, and other things. All those little things that get tied in, the green open space, trail connectors, all of those are components of what we are doing; creating those sellable items in town is really what it is all about. There are so many assets here. It is not going to take a whole lot of work, but it is going to take a whole lot of people to be involved. The assets are here and it definitely has the ability to build on.

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said we just finished our first meeting with three of our union contracts, we have one more this week, and I will be coming back at our first meeting in March to discuss some requests and goals we have and to get more input from Council.

He said the Route 9 project is an on-going project. We met last week with K & K Construction who is doing that work. We will continue to do that as that project moves forward.

Mr. Eldridge said on a real good note, there was some recovery money that was run through the Public Utilities Commission for efficiencies of grant money. They got a total of \$9,593,500 to spread amongst all the Maine communities. There were 59 applications for that funding. Maximum a municipality could receive was \$85,000. We were awarded \$85,000 to do some specific projects to save on energy. One of them is to insulate the Public Works building as well as replace a 35 year old boiler. It is, also, to replace windows in the MTM Center. It is a well use of funding. It will cost us a 10% match, which we had so we look forward to putting those out to bid and getting started on that right away.

He said they finished the insulation work here at the Town Office. It took them a little bit longer than they anticipated. They started working on Wednesday and they finished everything yesterday. They cleaned up; you wouldn't have known they were here. The architect and the engineer worked with them. The architect came in before they started just to see what they were doing. He came in yesterday and he already noticed a difference upstairs. It is much cooler upstairs. We don't have ice dams and the leaks that we had.

He said I would like to recognize several of our officers in the Police Department who recently received awards. The Maine Chief of Police Association holds an annual meeting. Recommendations are made for its different departments and officers to receive awards. Officer McGee and Officer Estes both were nominated and received awards for life saving. Sergeant Harry Moore received the MCPA Bravery Award. It really says a lot for our Police Department and the good work that they do.

Mr. Eldridge said the School Department and I put out bids this week together that will close on March 2.

Mr. Eldridge said our new Finance Director will be starting Thursday. I am anxious for her to get here. We have just the expense report for this past month. There really are no substantial changes. Everybody is on track where they should be. Revenue, we just sent out tax bills several weeks ago, so we are starting to see the coffers fill up again. We should be in good shape. On the revenue side, I know just looking quickly down through it, I see that Excise Tax and Revenue Sharing are off, which we expected today with the economy. We are planning for that in the next budget process too.

C. LISBON NIGHT OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Eldridge said we are sending out flyers to everybody; this is a program Rosie and I started. It's to recognize employees in town for all the work that they do. We need to start recognizing them for length of service and many other areas. We, also, want to incorporate volunteers. Those will be going out to businesses and the public to make recommendations. The awards and recognition we have planned for April 8 at the Holy Trinity Church from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Dinner will be provided. It will be a somewhat quick affair, but it is important, from my perspective, to recognize the employees who do good work for us to show them that we are observing them and the community is watching, I can guarantee that.

Councilor Bowie said that is for more than the employees, right? Mr. Eldridge said yes, it is for them, but also for people who volunteer. It's for people who volunteer for all of our committees, people who volunteer for what you saw tonight, people who volunteer in the Recreation Department and there are a tremendous number of people who help out. We want to reach out and recognize them. Councilor Bowie said you are recognizing businesses as well. Mr. Eldridge said yes and I'll read off the categories: people's choice award, customer service award, part time reserve employee of the year, volunteer of the year, employee of the year, business person and

business of the year, and the non-profit community service leadership award. There are quite a few categories. We should expect to get a good response. It is all online, too.

D. TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION
Tour of the Vault after Adjournment

Mr. Eldridge said this is a continuation of each department doing an orientation for the Councilors. This part is public and then when we adjourn she will give us a tour of the vault.

Mrs. Lycette said this is going to cover the Town Clerk and the Election Department. I think I will just begin by letting you know that my job description includes serving the Town of Lisbon as the Registrar of Voters, as an agent for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and as the Vital Records Registrar for the State Department of Human Services Vital Statistics office. I serve as the Municipal Records Manager under the Archive Department in Augusta. I serve as your Election Personnel Supervisor and as Council Secretary. Among other things, behind the scenes, I prepare budgets, monthly reports, creating work schedules that meet the demands and deadlines required, record and transcribe Council meeting minutes, prepare Legislation for codification, managing our restoration projects, public records index, and our voter registration program.

Mrs. Lycette said that monthly Beth and I maintain a central voter list of 7,000 voters. We maintain databases for the vault, oaths, vital records, and business licenses. We certify petitions by established deadlines. We send monthly reports to the State for Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Animal Welfare, and Vital Records. Among some of our routine jobs, we administer oaths of office for local and state appointed positions. We perform research for the public and town personnel. We sign for and distribute packages. We act as the filing contact for summonses and lawsuits and for notices of county hearings and various other announcements. We process business licenses for the Town of Lisbon. This year we sold over 1,200 fish and game licenses. We licensed over 1,000 dogs and 75 Victualers. We processed mobile home park licenses, special entertainment permits, liquor licenses, off premises catering permits, itinerant vendor permits, and junkyard permits. We issued 75 marriage licenses.

Mrs. Lycette said I wanted to let you know that over the past 18 months we have held six elections, beginning with the Recall Election in October of 2008, then the Presidential Election in November 2008, and a Special Municipal Referendum in April 2009 for bonding. We did a Special School Budget Validation Referendum Election in June 2009, which we will do again this year. We held a second Special School Budget Validation Referendum in July 2009, and then we held our annual Municipal Referendum with the state's Referendum Election in November 2009.

Elections and Special Town Meeting components include nomination papers, ordering ballots, programming the Accuvote machines, printing voter lists, hiring election clerks, setting up and supervising the polls, processing absentee ballots, recording the votes, and registering new voters, among other activities too numerous to mention.

Mrs. Lycette said voter registration includes having Beth enter those registration cards that come in through the mail or when you register in person at the office, into the Central Voter Registration System. We bar code each card and scan it into the system so signatures are on file so when we verify petitions we verify signatures. We file these cards and then pull them out after voters leave after five years. We process nomination papers using this system. There are many election supplies to store. As you can see from this picture, our storage closet is quite full. We store booths, Accuvote machines, ballot boxes, accessible voting machines, tables, and signs.

She said our municipal records program includes three or four different areas: the vault, updating legislation into our code book, restoration, and research. We have come a long ways in our vault. We at this point where we are able to log boxes of information into our database. We log these boxes out as well according to the Rules for Disposition of Local Government Records that's

produced through the Archive office in Augusta. We purchase shelving and supplies and we maintain that database. We update our codebook on a regular basis. We transcribe minutes, and those ordinances that you pass, we send on to Municipal Code and they post them online for us to see while we are in the process of gathering more information until they update the book for us. We restore vital records and town meeting books when there is available funding and conduct research.

I wanted to show you what the vault looked like in 2005. This has been a long time coming. It was kind of hard to show you what my vision was when I asked you for some shelving money, but I began here in 2004 when I purchased this one unit. Here it is today. In 2005, we purchased another unit that went on top of the first unit. We purchased the one beside it later. Then we put our Assessing books on new shelving in 2008 so as you can see, over the years, we have transformed our vault. Now the information is easily accessible; we can easily do research. This is what it looked like, this is the same picture taken in the same direction in 2003, and today it looks like that. We use this surface on the mapping table for laying the books out to conduct our research. I am anxious to show you what it really looks like in person during the tour later.

Mrs. Lycette said we used to take in around 100 boxes a year and 100 boxes would leave. Because we are doing this on a regular basis over the last 10 years, we have become more efficient at it and we only take in annually about 50 boxes and 50 leave. However, information is constantly going in and out of the vault.

Mrs. Lycette said you funded money for restoring the Road Book and Naturalization Book this year. We have almost completed our town meeting records restoration project. The books that you see on the right that are green are all town meeting record books. We have one left to do. Our Appeals Board and Planning Board minutes are on the bottom shelf on the left side in this picture. Those are all bound. When I began 23 years ago, none of this was bound and none of it was restored, so it has taken a long time to get to this point.

Mrs. Lycette said my main goal is to keep our residents informed and to build better communication between government and its citizens. We use our website to do this. You can find applications for certified copies, licenses, and permits, plus election results, and elected officials names and phone numbers online. We began this year creating an online library of electronic copies of documents available. Council Meeting Minutes we post online. Next year, I would like to introduce the Council to a new idea, which is already in the technology environment, which is adding audio-video streaming online Council Meetings. They would be accessible from the website and you could do that either delayed or real time. We would post a copy of your meeting in a little video box on a window on our website. I am thinking that all good ideas start somewhere so I would like you to be thinking about that for next year.

She said we recently put our Planning Board and Appeals Board Meeting Minutes online. I was thinking that would be our goal for next year, but we were able to accomplish that this year. We put on at least one-year's worth of information last week.

Mrs. Lycette said in our vital records section, I wanted to show you that things are growing there as well. The first shelving unit in the picture in 2003 shows you all of our vital records fit into that one unit. Now, the second unit houses our vital records as well. As you can see from the top row, the birth books now take up just about all of units one and two now. The vault evolves on a regular basis. On the left you will see all of the Council meeting files. We box them up after about 5 years, but they have been moved off to the third unit now. All of these Selectmen/Council Meeting Minute books on this shelving unit have been moved onto the new 2008 shelving unit located on the other side of the room. We have grown a lot in 6 years.

Mrs. Lycette said we process vital records by putting the information into our database. We generate certified copies from that. We, also, are competing with the Town of Brunswick and Lewiston to sell certified copies to new moms. It is our goal, once we are notified of a birth, to send

a letter to these new moms asking them if they would like to purchase their certified copy, they could do so from us. We data entry into our system information for deaths and marriages as well and generate certified copies from those.

She said simultaneously we conduct elections, handle customers, and sustain the records management program. It seems like we are, at the same time, answering the phone, setting up the polling place, making certified certificates, purchasing supplies, performing cash-up, and sending off ordinances to be codified. It is a busy day at times. I wanted to point out to you the different components of our department. We process vital records, register voters, sell licenses, permits, conduct elections, and whatever we do; we do it, to better serve you.

Mrs. Lycette said it is our mission to efficiently and accurately maintain all the town records, to conduct state and local elections in accordance with state law, to issue state and local licenses, birth, death and marriage certificates, together with providing information to the general public and local officials.

She said my department goals this coming year are to start an online dog licensing program as soon as we can figure out the rest of the Trio reporting system. We are planning to expand our online library. We are planning to try to upload our Vital Record indexes prior to 1892, which is all public information. Next year we are hoping you will fund an online intelligent video streaming Council Meeting Library where it can be accessed by the public anytime. We are hoping this year to purchase two Accuvote machines and ballot boxes. We are hoping to use the carried forward money that we set aside earlier, the carried forward money we budgeted this year, and the balance of \$3,000 in this year's budget to complete the purchase.

Mrs. Lycette said I asked myself what has made a difference over the years. I think that the biggest difference came from the funding for updating our municipal ordinances. It made all of that information accessible to the public and internal departments. I think funding the records retention program for municipal documents, the shelving, the storage containers, and the supplies have made a big difference in our vault. I think funding the restoration projects made a big impact. To date we have had 43 volumes restored and 72 volumes bound. Each volume costs approximately \$1,000 to restore. I think you have invested at least \$43,000 in restoration and each book was over \$100 to have bound, so you have another \$7,200 invested there. Most of this information would not be available without the grant writing we did. I wrote a grant two years ago. We received grant money to gather information about the records in the vault and then to data entry the information into our database. This year the grant money I received for restoration produced an electronic copy of the Road Book and now our Road Book is online and available to engineers, surveyors, and the public.

Mrs. Lycette said on the horizon, I saw new legislation that might create new revenue; it was a little disappointing because at first I was told that copy fees might go from \$10 to \$60. We typically take in \$5,000 a year, but after looking at the new legislation a little closer, it looks to me like copies are going from \$10 to maybe \$15. That would only produce an additional \$500 in revenue, but the State is looking for new money and so with that new piece of legislation they would like returned 25% of whatever we sell for vital records. They would like us to pay for the paper we print it on as well. I am not sure if paying for the paper will be out of the \$500 in new revenue or not. I am hoping it doesn't put us in a deficit position.

She said Elections this year coming up I budgeted for three. I think we should budget for our Annual Municipal Election and State Gubernatorial Election in November 2010, the School Budget Validation Referendum in June 2011, and since we typically do an April bond, I think we should budget for a special small election, for either a bond referendum or a second School Budget Validation vote.

Mrs. Lycette said special recognition goes to the Town Manager and the Councilors past and present for approving our restoration funds, the vault indexing system, the restoration grants, and for supporting new ideas and improvements. I would like to also thank my staff Beth French, the Assistant Clerk; Gwen Michel and Lorraine Dunn, Deputy Registrars; Sheila Gray and Monique Gayton, our Wardens; and the numerous Election Clerks. It certainly could not be done without all their commitment to customer service and dedication to the job. Thank you for your support.

Councilor Bowie said thank you, Twila; any questions? Mrs. Lycette said we will do a tour afterwards and I can show you a little bit more.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Steve Warren said thank you, you came tonight expecting to discuss the Trail. I would like to take a minute to do that if you do not mind, but first I would like to say amazing job by both Twila and Rosie on telling us what is going on. They are a great credit to the community.

Mr. Warren said when I first brought the idea of a trail in the 1990s forward for the Town of Lisbon it was a real stretch for many people. They thought that Lisbon was not the place; this isn't Freeport, this isn't Kennebunk where we can afford to do those kinds of things. I persisted with it and eventually the Paper Mill Trail project came together. I think that has been very well received. The next phase that came along after that was the Ricker Farm Trail section, which in my perspective was nothing more than a sidewalk and so I was not very enthusiastic about calling it a trail and spending a lot of money on it. However, the decision was to go along that route and so I left the Trail Commission at that time. Now we have come to another phase where it was proposed to go along the Androscoggin River. I got back involved, because that was my objective from the start, to do a project like that.

He said the Commission put together a request that went in to the State. When it was brought forward, we needed to submit something to the State, the head of the Commission said to Ryan, why don't you just cut and paste things from the previous reports and whatnot and submit that to the State. Ryan didn't care too much for that idea and I felt that we ought to write something that was more representative of what we were asking for. I don't know if you have ever had a chance to read through the narrative of what went into the State on that, but I wrote most of the description part. Jason Young, also, contributed significantly to certain portions of it. We received an incredible amount of available State funds, in fact, all most the entire State budget went to our project, which puts a tremendous amount of responsibility upon us to spend that money well. I take my role in the Trail Commission very seriously in representing not only the Town of Lisbon, the taxpayers, but also the State and the confidence they put in us, largely based on the request that was submitted to them for those funds.

He said I feel the way that moves forward from here is very important and that it not turn into another sidewalk. With the number of options we have, it could very easily turn into a sidewalk project along Route 196. That's one alternative; to make it a sidewalk along Route 196 and then go into Capital Avenue and become a sidewalk there and then go down to Davis Street and become a sidewalk there.

Mr. Warren said I am not opposed to sidewalks, but I think that, as Rosie talked about the vision for the downtown area, I think a trail can be a tremendous asset both in revitalizing the downtown and in representing the town. I don't know if it happens to you, but frequently I talk to people from other towns who say they come to Lisbon to use the Paper Mill Trail, and from quite a distance. I think it is a tremendous resource and it will be an economic benefit to the town. I think it is important that we do it right. That is why I am involved in the Trail Commission, that is my role, and in a committee of this type, as well as others, people have different perspectives, different attitudes, different ways of approaching things. My focus is upon doing something, not because it is

easy, but because it is going to be a benefit to the community. If it means pushing a little bit harder, trying harder to make it something more than just a sidewalk, then that is my goal.

Councilor Larochelle said the initial views we got on the planning for that seems like it will be more than just a few sidewalks; seems like they have some pretty good ideas. Not seeing much from there, I'm sure that they are working as hard as they can to make it fulfill what your thoughts are. I know there are some challenges down in that area, for sure, as far as landowners and by the river and everything. I hope by the end of the day that it will be as good as, what the Paper Mill Trail is now.

Mr. Warren said I can say that the support from Miller Industries and Mr. Miller has been great, even on this section, we have the commitment to allow us to go along the river. We have the opportunity to open up the riverfront as a resource for generations to come.

Michelle Swatsworth-Turmelle said I have a couple of things. One is, all town employees should have gotten the information about the Chili/Chowder/Chocolate Challenge. I am the chair on this committee and we are having a local event. We sort of lost our pet Councilor that used to announce all of our Booster events. There is a Booster event February 27. It is airing on our local channel 11. It is Lisbon vs. Oak Hill in a Chili/Chowder/Chocolate Challenge. It has been in the Times Record too. It was in the Lisbon Ledger this month. Channel 8 has inquired about covering the event. We are drawing in people from Oak Hill, Topsham, and the surrounding communities. Lewiston as well since it is airing on Great Falls TV network. We have included a lot of local businesses. Right now Oak Hill is beating Lisbon on the number of entries, so I would really like to see us get going. I haven't received one entry from a town employee yet. There are gifts and prizes that are being presented for the top challenges. We are just hoping that we can get community participation, because the community is going to have a lot of visitors that day. I sent an email to Mr. Eldridge four or five weeks ago, somewhere around there, and I followed up with Jody hoping that all the town employees had gotten that, because I really thought I might hear from Rosie, because this is something that is bringing people into the town and it is going to be a fairly large event. Families can come out, eat, and sample that night inexpensively. It is \$5 to come in and sample all you want. You can vote for your favorite items. No family will pay more than \$20 that night based on the number of kids. I just want to put that out to try to get some support for that.

Councilor Bowie said what day was that. Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said the 27th, the last Saturday of this month. It runs from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the Lisbon High School cafeteria. Councilor Mason said do you have more entailed guidelines as far as what you need to do if you want to enter chili or chowder or chocolate. Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said yes, the entry form is in the Lisbon Ledger. He shrunk it down small. It's on the community events page, which was either page 2 or 4 on the left hand side. You can contact me directly.

Councilor Bowie said do you have something we can put on our website. Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said it is posted in the town office, I believe. Mr. Eldridge said it is on the website and all the employees have received it twice. Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said I really would hate for Oak Hill to beat us because of entries. I know Megan has been really working hard communicating for us and trying to gain a lot of support for the high school, so I am really hoping that people will come out for that.

Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said the other item I wanted to ask about was that at the very first meeting in December I spoke and had a conversation with the whole Town Council, but mainly with the chair, about a Charter change. I was assured that it would be put on the agenda, followed up, and discussed and you wanted to wait until the new Councilors were sworn in. We now have a bond that is going out to a vote and this item has not come up yet for discussion. It pertains to the Charter change that a lot of people have asked for about having the municipal budget go out to the citizens. One of the things I would like to put out there is, if you make that change and put it out for a vote, it is based on your wording. If it is a citizen's initiative it is going to be based on our

wording, so it would be very prudent for you guys to look at that, have some discussion, and look at having some type of public comment to get feedback on it from both sides. A citizen's initiative is going to cause our language the way we write it to be considered versus if you guys worked on it and proceeded forward with that. That is why I brought it to the forefront in December so that we would have it ready knowing that we were looking at some bonds and things like that coming up. I would hope that would be something that could be brought to the light again.

Councilor Bowie said we discussed it. We had a whole workshop on charter changes, including that item. Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said, right, but at workshops the public can't speak.

Councilor Bowie said it depends on the workshop. Sometimes we let them speak, sometimes we don't, it depends on what we are trying to get accomplished in that evening. The Council did discuss the items, a number of items. Council has not come back to me and said that they are all gung ho on any particular one out of any of those. I think we talked about 10 or 15 that evening. I am more than happy to bring anything forward that Council wants. Mrs. Swatsworth-Turmelle said I am just asking, again, because I was reminded through some emails and phone calls over the last couple of weeks that wanted to know whatever happened to it. My whole thought is that it's a much more prudent thing if you guys do the wording, then it's written the way you think it should be written versus a citizen's initiative the way we request it. It is going to be written by the way we write it and so it would be much more beneficial if you guys look to proceed that way versus having the citizens do it. Councilor Bowie said agreed.

Rick Graham, resident on Webster Road, said now if you had asked me what my job had been for the past 20 years, what my job duties and description were, what my accomplishments have been, what my vision for the future was, I could draw one breath and tell you. I have got to tell you that watching the Town Clerk's presentation was pretty impressive. I just want to say that as a citizen of this town that the work is not unappreciated and I think you are a tremendous asset for the town, because if we have to replace Twila, I think we will have to hire three people. Mrs. Lycette said thank you.

Dorothy Fitzgerald passed out handouts. She said my name is Dorothy Fitzgerald, I am a resident in the Town of Lisbon and Lisbon Falls. She said that last week I was doing some research in the Assessing part of the town records on the town's website. I was looking for the name of a property owner. I knew where the property was and I didn't have a name, so I started in alphabetical order with the A's. When I came to Lisbon town lots I was amazed at the number of properties, apparently, the Town of Lisbon owns. On page 22, the first three or four properties are not owned by the Town of Lisbon and I know a lot of them are town owned buildings, although going through I didn't see anything on Capital Circle. 50 Park Street, evidently there is a building there. Is that a town owned building? Winter Street, 18 Poplar Circle, 14 Poplar Circle, 11 Poplar, 6 Hemlock, 0 Beech Street, that's all in Winter Park. Are those lots that the town has acquired through non-payment of taxes?

Mr. Eldridge said, no, those are open spaces in the subdivision. The deeds need to be changed, because it is really part of the subdivision and our Assessor is working on that. We own a lot of properties within subdivisions that somehow got anointed as being Town of Lisbon property, but really they belong to all of the people within that park, because they are part of the open space that was required in that subdivision. He is going through what you are going through here, maybe more, and working with our attorney to get that clarified and off the tax roll. It will still exist on some.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said that is what I was wondering. Then off the Littlefield Road there are two properties, .25 acres and another 2.25 on Summer Street that is probably the pumping station. There are some more here, 5 Booker Street; I don't know what that is. Oh, is that that little piece that the bank donated?

Councilor Bowie said, probably. Mrs. Fitzgerald said 19 Bowdoin Street and 5 Bowdoin Street, those are just small pieces of land. 17 Bowdoin Street is a larger parcel, 4 acres. 19 Gartley Street, there is land assessed at \$495,000 and a building at \$768,000, that is on page 24.

Councilor Larochelle said that would be the school, the Superintendent's office. Mrs. Fitzgerald said okay. 0 Lisbon Street, 9 Upland Road, 2 St. Ann Street, and Franklin Street, I am just wondering are these properties that the town owns that could be sold? There is 32 acres up on the Ridge Road that was purchased many, many years ago for a new high school. Are those properties that the town can sell to generate income and to generate real estate taxes.

Councilor Bowie said I don't know if all of these can be. I know the one on Ridge Road that you referred to, 32 acres, which I think is all ledge that was designated for a high school at one time could be sold. However, we looked into that a few years ago. Somebody was interested in buying that property and the town didn't want to go for it, because I believe there are a lot of trails on that property for snowmobilers, ATVs, and things like that, that were used. We got a lot of feedback that we should keep that property so that they could keep those connections. I think that that actually connects down by Carl Huston's place close to Main Street. It is a big access area for many people.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said couldn't there be one parcel or right of way retained for that purpose and sell the rest. Councilor Bowie said it could be looked into. I'm not saying it couldn't be. I'm not sure about all of these on here. I think, Steve, you probably have more information.

Mr. Eldridge said we are going through each piece, which is what Pat Dow is doing. Last month we talked about Winter Street and all the small parcels that were in between homes. Most of those are lots in between houses and they are part of a subdivision's open space a subdivision requirement when the park was put in. Some of these have sewer pump stations on them. We did have somebody interested in property, like Mike said, since I have been here. A local citizen approached us about buying the acreage up on the Ridge Road. At that time, the Council chose not to take any action. We did have a parcel, this island down on the Ferry Road, that the Council did donate to the Androscoggin Land Trust, so that parcel probably hasn't been taken off yet because we are drawing up the deed on that. There is a lot of work going on. We just need to change the language in the books, because it doesn't really belong to the Town of Lisbon. We don't really own those open spaces. It is just part of the subdivision and needs to be changed.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said, okay, I wanted the clarification, because there are over 60 parcels here; some with just land and some land with buildings. I am thinking, wow, is there a potential for real estate taxes if we sell these properties. Mr. Eldridge said if there is a parcel we could sell, we would bring it before the Council, believe me.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said and if it were going to go on the market, I would rather see a regular ad, rather than a little tiny legal ad in little tiny print like the Frost Hill Avenue one I only saw once. I think I am the only one who ever saw it. I would hope it would be better advertised.

APPOINTMENTS - NONE

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Larochelle said I have actually had quite a few people mention the Chili, Chowder, Chocolate Challenge, saying that it would be kind of neat. I hope you raise quite a bit of money. Even mentioning, with Rosie, I think there are a lot of little events that happen that really need to be tied into these events. Very much like the sleigh ride over the weekend that the Snow Chiefs put on. I thought there was a lack of snow, but we went up there and found it was a very good event, all on the snow, so it worked out very well. Again, I think there are a lot of local events that happen

yearly like that, which could be marketed and all put together into our economic program, because it does all go together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2010-33) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM. **Order passed - Vote 4-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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

*The Councilors present toured the Town Clerk's Department and vault. The tour ended at 8:30 PM
These minutes were transcribed by Beth French and Twila Lycette.*