



**TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 10, 2007**

Charles Smith, At Large 2008  
Michael Bowie, At Large 2009  
Gina Mason, District 1 2007  
Janet Henry, District 1 2009  
Dale Crafts, District 2 2007  
Norma Wells, District 2 2009

DRAFT

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.** The Chairman, Norma Wells, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Girl Scouts Gwynne Hunter and Bethany Ann Williams led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL.** Councilors present were Smith, Bowie, Mason, Crafts, and Wells. Councilor Henry was excused. Also present were Curtis Lunt, Town Manager; Roger Therriault, Town Attorney; Rodney Moody, Finance Director; Elwood Beal, Public Works Director; P. Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; William Bauer, Water Commissioner; Paul Adams, Water District Manager; Catherine Messmer, School Business Manager; Michael Cote, Deputy Code Enforcement Officer; and approximately 34 citizens in the audience.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**VOTE (2007-103)** Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Bowie, moved to adopt the following consent items: (A) Minutes of 6/19/2007 & 6/26/2007, (B) Slovak Catholic Association Off-Premise Catering Permit, and (C) Chamber of Commerce Moxie Days street closings. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

**COUNCIL ORDERS, ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

PUBLIC WORKS PICKUP TRUCK BIDS

**VOTE (2007-104)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith, moved to approve the bid of \$19,794 from Rowe Ford and authorize a 3-year lease purchase. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

PERSONNEL POLICY CHAPTER 90

**VOTE (2007-105)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith, moved to approve Personnel Policy Chapter 90 with additions underlined and removals crossed through. **Order failed - Vote 0-5.**

TAX COLLECTOR CERTIFICATE OF SETTLEMENT

**VOTE (2007-106)** Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Bowie, moved to approve the Certificate of Settlement for \$8,429.06 as presented. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

GIRL SCOUT AWARD

The Council Chairman and the Town Manager presented awards to Gwynne Hunter and Bethany Ann Williams for achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award, and for accomplishments in leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

LISBON SENIORS

Bob Greeley spoke on behalf of some concerned senior citizens, and read a statement prepared by them that conveyed their feelings regarding former Deputy Welfare Director Judy Hardy-Goddard, as well as asked several questions of the Councilors from that letter. Mr. Greeley asked if any of the Council asked her why she was leaving and what could be done for her to stay; Councilor Crafts said that yes, a meeting was held with her. Councilor Wells added that she was given an offer to stay and she chose not to. Mr. Greeley said that many phone calls made to the Council were not returned; the Councilors that received calls stated that they did return them. Mr. Greeley asked if negative feelings expressed on television were the reason she left; Councilor Crafts stated that she may have felt as though people wanted her to leave. Councilor Wells stated that Judy applied for a job in Brunswick and decided to leave, and that she did a fantastic job for the Town. Mr. Greeley asked why the Council would not keep her on; Councilor Wells stated that Ms. Hardy-Goddard is only available after 4 PM, and has a job in Brunswick, and that the Councilors have a responsibility to ensure the citizens of the town are getting needed services during regular business hours.

Deidre Donahue stated that the Council cannot pick a person off the street and expect them to do the work a woman has done for 20 years. Councilor Wells reiterated that Ms. Hardy-Goddard has chosen to go somewhere else, and that the Council will find someone capable to fill those shoes.

Curtis Womack stated that Judy does work very hard, and is an expert in her profession, and added that the Council should do the best they can to keep her here. Councilor Wells stated that she understood, but that there is a responsibility to more than just the Senior Citizens of the Town, and that Ms. Hardy-Goddard cannot do it all year and cover the hours that are needed by the citizens. She added that Ms. Hardy-Goddard has offered to train whoever fills the position.

Deidre Donahue stated that she called a lot of people, and that every person had good things to say about Ms. Hardy-Goddard. A citizen stated that the Council wanted to cut the hours from 40 to 20 per week, and that she wanted Judy and not anyone else.

The Chairman called a recess at 7:47 PM, and recalled the meeting to order at 7:51 PM.

YEAR-END TRANSFERS

Mr. Moody explained the various year-end transfers for the Town. Councilor Bowie stated that in the past transfers had remained within the departments as much as possible, and that they had never used personnel to offset non-personnel lines; Mr. Moody stated that the budgets are so tight that it just isn't possible to avoid this time. Councilor Wells suggested changing the policy to prevent using personnel lines that way in the future, and also to do the transfers at the time the overages occurred rather than at the end of each fiscal year. Councilor Smith stated that the Town needs to stop budgeting below cost on fuel. Mr. Moody explained that although he hasn't got actual figures, he doesn't expect a large amount of surplus to be available to offset taxes.

Catherine Messmer explained the various year-end transfers for the School Department, and that she expects approximately \$10,000 in surplus to be available to offset taxes.

The Council agreed by consensus to tentatively schedule a meeting with the Budget Advisory Board to discuss year-end transfers for the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Town Office, and a public hearing for July 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Ed Madden stated that he had heard there was an opening, and because he has 11 ½ years experience he volunteered. He added that because he is semi-retired, he has been able to talk to a lot of people and has more insight than had during his prior service as a Selectman. Mr. Madden stated that there had been a lot of grants in the past to offset taxes, and they could continue on those, and added that as a taxpayer he wants to see them stay the same or hopefully go down. Councilor Crafts asked for an opinion regarding the budget; Mr. Madden replied that over the years the Board of Selectmen and the new Town Council have really worked hard to get the budget to where it is, and that they have run a tight ship for a good number of years.

Phil Ellis stated that he has no experience in government, but feels he can offer the Town experience in business. He offered that he has plenty of time to commit, as he is retired, and that he can offer the Town a new voice, and some new ideas. He said that because he has not looked at the budget, he could not state whether there is fat in it, but that after purchasing a sticker for the Transfer Station he witnessed the money go into the gentlemen's pocket.

Fern Larochelle, Jr. said that he grew up here, and that when something is broke, you want to fix it. He said that planning a budget is the same as running a small business, and that it is hard enough to maintain towns as well as businesses, let alone expand them, and that you have to concentrate on what you have and stay consistent. Mr. Larochelle stated that he works 10-12 hours a day, but what time he does have would be useful, and that he would do his best. Tuesday nights, he said, are actually good nights, as that he has recently made room in his schedule by leaving a position heading an organization. Councilor Crafts asked if Lisbon is a part of the State being the highest taxed in the country; Mr. Larochelle stated that whether we pay now or pay later, it still takes the same amount to run the town. He added that he loves Lisbon, respects it, and would hate to lose valuable programs to save a little on taxes.

#### WATER COMMISSION - DRAGON PIT

Mr. Bauer explained that the Dragon Pit is adjacent to the water supply on Moody Road. In negotiations with them, Dragon insists on the Water Department paying for a full-scale appraisal of the property at a cost of approximately \$8,000. He explained that the Water Department is working with AVCOG to rezone for protection, though the Town could purchase the land outright for protection. He added that if contaminants get into a pond on that property it would contaminate the water supply. Councilor Crafts suggested that they go to bid to find a lower cost. Mr. Bauer stated that the Water Department cannot own land, so the Town Council has to agree to purchase the land if that is what they wish. Councilor Bowie stated that he would like to know the value and potential uses of the land before choosing a direction. Mr. Bauer said that the State suggests using it for a residential zone. Councilor Wells said that the Council will discuss it and have the Town Manager respond by letter at a later date.

#### DANGEROUS BUILDING NOTICES

Mr. Therriault explained that several efforts that have been taken to resolve one of the two dangerous buildings, and that further action is now required. The Council agreed by consensus to allow the Town Attorney to pursue those actions.

#### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Since the last Town Council meeting, the Town manager has completed the following tasks:

- Met with the Planning Board regarding site plan and subdivision code revisions. They have appointed two members to work with Code Enforcement Officer Gerald Samson and me to revise the two codes.
- Visited the installed and operational Madelyn Street pump station at the starting last week.
- Closed on the Lisbon Center lot sold to Lisbon Emergency
- Attended an Androscoggin Land Trust dedication of 100 acres given to conservation by Katherine Bretton on Ferry Road.
- Sent out letters to committee members up for reappointment and posted a notice of vacancy. I expect we will have those to the Council by early August.
- Discussed and reviewed corrected CMP bill payment procedures with Ryan Leighton and Maryann Morgan.
- Wrote a purchase order for \$1,000 for LACO.
- Signed an electricity contract with ME Power Options for one year at .0944¢ and added the sewer facilities.
- Met with AFSCME General Unit representatives and the Town Attorney regarding contract negotiations.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Governor's office sent a letter asking for interest regarding appointments to a committee involved in planning the future of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. The deadline for applications is July 30<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Smith suggested placing the future Economic Development Director on that committee.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission sent a letter stating that they are planning on placing the building on the national register. A notice regarding November elections will be placed on the website, and will be posted in newspapers at the end of August. The Brunswick Naval Air Station sent a letter of appreciation for swift service and a job well done from the Lisbon Fire Department during the fire that occurred there recently.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Prudence Grant asked if the Town has a policy requiring architecture of new proposed business buildings to fit in with the character of the Town; The Council said no, there is not. Councilor Smith said it was addressed in the Comprehensive Plan and will be acted on in the future.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Crafts congratulated the Girl Scouts again for their hard work and achievements. Councilor Smith offered good luck for all involved this weekend for the Moxie Days. Councilor Mason asked to be contacted regarding continuing the efforts for the Lisbon business brochure. Councilor Bowie said he wished there was a way to communicate better with the Seniors, and that he's sorry they feel the way they do. Councilor Wells agreed with Councilor Bowie, and stated that the Public Works open house was poorly advertised, though Buttons did a great job with the tour. She suggested that the Town Manager and Mr. Leighton need to plan and attend another one in August. Councilor Smith suggested using the Hazardous Waste day as a method of pointing people in that direction. Chief Galipeau invited the Town employees to a good view of the fireworks by climbing a hill near the Transfer Station.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**VOTE (2007-107)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith, moved to enter executive session at 8:57 PM to discuss personnel, labor negotiation, and legal issues per MRSA Chapter 13 Section 405 (6)A, D, & E. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.** The recording secretary was dismissed. The Council returned at 10:05 PM.

**VOTE (2007-108)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith, nominated Fern Larochelle, Jr. to the office of Town Councilor. **Fern Larochelle, Jr. was appointed - Vote 5-0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTE (2007-109)** Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Wells, moved to adjourn at 10:06 PM. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Juliet C. LeBlond  
Legislative Recorder