



**TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2009**

Michael Bowie, Chair At Large 2009  
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010  
Fern Larochele, Jr., At Large 2010  
Roger Cote, At Large 2011  
Janet Henry, District 1 2009  
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010  
Norma Wells, District 2 2009

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

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Wells, Bowie, Mason, Crafts (arriving at 7:20 PM), Henry (arriving at 7:38PM), Larochele and Cote. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; David Brooks, Police Chief; Elwood Beal, Public Works Director; Ryan Leighton, Town Engineer; Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; Cathy Ricker, Finance Ricker; Wayne Ricker, Solid Waste; Rosie Bradley, Economic Development Director; Mark Stevens, Recreation Director; Diane Nadeau, Librarian; Michael Cote, Code Enforcement Officer; Don Fellows, Budget Advisory Board Member; Richard Main, Budget Advisory Board Member; and approximately 20 citizens in the audience.

**PUBLIC HEARING - NONE**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**VOTE (2009-81)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to approve the minutes of May 5, 2009. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

Councilor Bowie said I would like to take one item, 6A, out of order under Other Business and let us hear from MDOT. They were kind enough to come down to give us an update on the King Road project.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

*(Item Taken Out Of Order)*

**A. JIM WENTWORTH, MDOT-KING RD. BRIDGE PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Mr. Wentworth said I wanted to give you a brief overview of our replacement project on the King Road. We wanted to come down and give you a real brief presentation. This project is going out to bid within the next month and we will be replacing the bridge as soon as bids come in during this fall, with the road closure, and through winter, we are hoping to actually have the bridge back open sometime in November. We want to meet our paving dates for this year. With me here is Eric Calderwood from Calderwood Engineering; he was tasked with the design of the project. I can go over a few brief details, but if you have any questions maybe he can answer them as well.

Mr. Wentworth said the current bridge is around 65' and we are going to be increasing that span to about a 94' span, replacing the bridge with a steel converter bridge that will be galvanized instead of painted. We will be raising the grade about two and a half feet at the bridge. We will pave the approaches about 200' in each direction. Plus we are going to be widening out the roadway to about 28' from rail to rail through there. We have been in contact with all the abutters out there. There is obviously some easements and taking of land things that we have had to acquire through our process and everybody has been very cooperative. Hopefully we will be advertising in about three weeks for bids.

Councilor Cote asked, is the distance between the water and the bottom of the girders going to stay so a boat can pass through there? Mr. Calderwood said one of the reasons that we raised the grade by two and a half feet is because we wanted to get more clearance than we have under the existing bridge. Councilor Cote said there are people that use that waterway. Mr. Calderwood said if they use it now they should still be able to use it because we have more room.

Councilor Mason asked will the road be totally closed off. Mr. Wentworth said yes. We are planning on closing the road the first or middle of August. You are welcome to use the Webster Road. There is minimal traffic out there, 350 cars is what we were showing. Hopefully those folks can use Webster Road to get in and out of town and we didn't see that there would be too much of a problem. Plus they can use the other local roads in the area. Councilor Mason said I'm one of those. But that's okay, I will go around. We will begin paving around October 1 or November 15 and then it will be opened.

Councilor Cote said the width of the road will naturally be wider I would think. Mr. Wentworth said the existing width is about 20,' rail to rail, and the roadway will be about 24' in the end.

Councilor Bowie asked why we didn't have a public hearing. Mr. Wentworth said we just got the preliminary plans and started talking to the abutters very quickly, did some data and followed up with the abutters, and so we felt we wanted to get here sooner than later and we thought that this would take care of our public information part since we didn't really have a lot of feedback from the abutters on issues. Everybody has been very cooperative, so we kind of took care of our public process that way. We did want to come here and talk to you folks before we put the thing out to bid, obviously.

Councilor Bowie asked did all the abutters sign off on the easement thing and settle. Mr. Wentworth said everybody except one. We can condemn on a piece of federal land and right now we are working with them, the Androscoggin Land Trust. Those folks we are dealing with right now. It has been very good. They had a couple of issues with our plans and we are helping them out in that area to get into that field. We are putting a culvert in there giving them some access points. We are hoping that we will have an agreement this week. It looks like everything is going to work out alright.

Councilor Larochelle said this question is for you Mr. Beal. We actually have that road marked as a re-construction or rebuilt. After the bridge is done is there anything that needs to be set up between the two of you to make sure that the transition from where you change the road to where we started? Is there something that can be worked with to make that easier so we wouldn't have to go back and do anything over? Mr. Wentworth said, sure, if we can find out what you had planned on doing there and kind of make that transition.

Councilor Bowie said when is King Road on our plan for. Mr. Beal said next spring. Councilor Bowie said it would be nice to do it in conjunction with that. Councilor Larochelle said absolutely. Councilor Bowie asked is there a reason why we can't swap it. (Mr. Beal's response inaudible) Councilor Larochelle said the idea of not being able to go in from both directions may cause a problem as far as for trucking. (Mr. Beal's response inaudible)

Councilor Larochelle said is there any pipe work that goes through there; no water or sewer there? Mr. Wentworth said it was a pretty clean project.

Mr. Wentworth said we will leave a set of plans. If you want to post them here at the Town Office and I will leave a couple of my cards. Councilor Bowie said can you let the Town Manager know how the progress of the bridge is going once you get the bids and plan on the start date. Once we get a contract on board we will set up. What we do, usually we have a construction resident from MDOT assigned to it and we typically invite either the Town Engineer or the Public Works Director

to the progress meetings as well. They can come and see what's going on or whoever wants to come.

Councilor Bowie said so because you are closing the road you don't need any Police Flaggers or anything like that. Mr. Wentworth said no. We usually have a pre-construction meeting and I think that's something a town representative should attend. We need to notify, put notices in the paper of the road closure, so in all that stuff we will be in contact. Councilor Bowie said great. Thank you very much.

## COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

### TREATMENT PLANT MAINTENANCE GARAGE ROOF PROPOSALS

Mr. Leighton said I am sure you all got the brief memo stating we had put out the maintenance garage roof bid, which is an original roof built in 1972 that's been leaking for a couple of years. Earth Tech had made some repairs when they were here. We made one last fall before the winter and the roof continues to leak. We had an inspection report that was done last fall or last spring that indicated the roof needed to be replaced. So bids went out to Fairbanks Roofing and Siding, Industrial Roofing, and Hamel Brothers. It's a flat roofing system so these are the three main contractors that we usually have to deal with. Hamel Brothers came in with the low bid at \$13,980 and we budgeted \$20,000. That's for a rubber roof and 2" of rigid insulation. Based on that we recommend you award the bid to Hamel Brothers so we can get that taken care of before the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor Larochelle said what's the roof decking on that, wood or steel? Mr. Leighton said there is steel decking and the inspection report indicated that there was already about 2" of insulation under there. They expected that because of the spongy spots that have retained water already. The plan is to strip everything down and then inspect the metal deck and make any repairs to the metal deck; put the insulation on and then they will put the rubber memory roof down. We'll be good to go for another ten years. The repairs underneath will be extra because there is no way to tell what the condition of the metal roof is at this time.

**VOTE (2009-82)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to accept the bid to Hamel for \$13,980.

Dorothy Fitzgerald said I am wondering what kind of warranty they are giving. Mr. Leighton said the warranty is good for ten years and they have to have it completed by June 30.

**Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

### AIR CONDITIONER IN SERVER ROOM

Mr. Leighton said as you are all aware we did the hardware upgrade to the town this year and we went and did software upgrade as well. An item that was of some concern when we did the initial upgrade was that we were going to need to do something with the closet at some point because it's a confined space with a lot more equipment that generates a lot of heat. Generally electrical equipment rooms are air conditioned. We had enough money left in the capital budget to do that this year. As we get to the summer season, which is probably going to be worse for heating in the winter time we just left the door open and that helped. That room is getting to the point where we have to make sure it stays cool. We had a couple companies that we dealt with in the past. They both came and looked at the rooms and sized everything. Nason Mechanical recommended a one ton unit, but Mechanical Services took all the ID tags off the equipment in the room leaving room

for a margin of expansion and recommended a two ton unit, which is actually \$4,645 whereas the one ton unit was \$6,185. Based on the history we have with Mechanical Services (Diane has been very happy with their air conditioning units installed at the Library) we recommend you go with Mechanical Services for the installation in the closet. There is a condensing unit mounted outside. We have one in the Police Department as well. It sits on a little 2" thick fiberglass pad outside. The water drains into a small sump pump unit and it pumps the water outside. The price includes everything except for the electrical, which is minor.

Councilor Larochelle said it doesn't seem like it's a whole lot. Mr. Leighton said they didn't state the actual manufacturer. Mrs. Nadeau said hers were Mitsubishi. Councilor Larochelle said he just wanted to make sure the equipment was the same. Mr. Leighton said yes, one year warranty, one year additional warranty and five year parts on the warranty and coverage on the air conditioner and compressor; six years in total. Councilor Larochelle said do you have other contracts with them for services. Mr. Leighton said no I just got their quotes so I haven't had a chance to talk with Mr. Eldridge about moving that way. That's my goal July 1 to have Mechanical Services do all our building maintenance for annual cleanings and what not. Just to make it apples to apples I had them quote me a one-ton unit, which was for \$3,848. They were considerably cheaper when we did the Library too and those have been trouble free for two years.

**VOTE (2009-83)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to accept the bid from Mechanical Services for a two-ton unit for \$4,645. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

#### NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON THE MMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Eldridge said at your last Council meeting you were given information. MMA has positions to fill on the executive board. If you have some recommendations, anybody who would like to serve, or know of an elected official you know would like to serve please let me know. If you have none, that's fine too. Councilor Bowie asked if anyone had any recommendations. Seeing nothing, very good.

#### PLANNING BOARD RESIGNATION

##### (1) ALTERNATE MEMBER

You have on your Planning Board, Cheryl Haggerty, who due to personal reasons and time constraints is resigning her position.

**VOTE (2009-85)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to accept Cheryl Haggerty's resignation from the Planning Board. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

#### PAVING BIDS

Mr. Eldridge said we put out the paving bids for the projects that we will be doing this summer. You should have that document in your packets. We had bids from Crooker, RSU paving, and Pike Industry. Our recommendation is to go with Crooker. They have good prices this year for a change. (Mr. Beal's response inaudible) Councilor Cote said I wonder if it makes anybody want to change their mind and want to put money back into road projects. Councilor Bowie said we would love to, but he doesn't have the time to do it. He has to do the other roads.

**VOTE (2009-85A)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to accept the Crooker paving bid for \$53.90 per ton and \$60.59 for surface. **Order passed - Vote 5-0.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. JIM WENTWORTH, MDOT-KING RD. BRIDGE PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Item taken out of order - See item taken up after Consent Agenda above.*

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Ingersoll came to us after one of our facility meetings and talked about grant money. Mrs. Bradley and Mr. Stevens have been working on one that's already started. They sent in the letter of intent to the Department of Conservation for a \$50,000 grant for a track. We have another deadline coming up for June 21. Mr. Stevens seems to be right on top of that and we will be reviewing that with him on a regular basis.

Mr. Eldridge said we also will be applying for a Nikki Bower Grant, which has no deadline for that. That's open all the time. It's a \$75,000 grant and we are putting that together as well.

Mrs. Bradley's Planning Grant we haven't heard yet on that so we are waiting on that. The RFP and the MOU for the Worumbo Mill Project has all been Okayed by both parties. That should go out by the end of the week or the first of next week. The Worumbo Mill Project should be on the street and in the Dodge Report, plus there are about 41 groups of people that we will be sending it to.

Mr. Eldridge said we had four interested parties looking at the Campus Street School. They are looking to possibly doing a housing project there. All four have declined due to the uncertainty about the base closing and the economy so they stepped away from it. The Brunswick Housing Authority has taken a tour of the building and is very interested in doing another housing project there. It should qualify for the neighborhood stabilization funding so we can use up to \$500,000 for that project, but we have not heard from them yet. It sounds real positive.

Mr. Eldridge said at the June 16 meeting we will be talking with Mr. Thiboutot about the Village Street property. He has been here several times. He has not done some of the things that he said he would do; brought out the engineering firm that you had hired, I guess this was two to three years ago, and to review if anything, in fact, has been done. We have technically foreclosed on the property. He has been sent a certified letter. The neighborhood will be quite glad if we can do something with that building.

Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Samson left on May 22. The Assessing job was posted in the paper and we have received six applications, which I was told today that that was quite a few since there is a very limited number of people out there who are certified Assessors. Cathy Maloy, our part-time person, has been filling in and we will be interviewing on Monday three candidates that are all qualified.

Mr. Eldridge said you will be having a public hearing on June 16 as well for zoning ordinance changes that's ongoing. We have been meeting with John Maloney who has been the individual writing and updating it. We will be meeting again with him on Thursday and I will get a better update on that.

Mr. Eldridge said County Dispatch is ongoing. We have been talking about that at a different meeting. The Trio update, that's our software, has been going very well. Ms. Ricker finished her chart of accounts and we are just waiting to move into the next year.

Mr. Eldridge said I have been looking for grant funding from the USDA and the Department of Energy. The Public Works garage is the one I am trying to target. If we can get some energy money, we can tighten up the building and make it more energy efficient. It's ongoing and USDA says we don't qualify for their funding because the income level is too high here. We will go after some of the other departments and continue to pursue that. And that's all I have.

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dorothy Fitzgerald said could we have a little bit of clarification on what's going on at the Worumbo Mill. Mr. Eldridge said Mrs. Bradley would you like to address that. Mrs. Bradley said we are sending our 38 proposals to specific developers and we are also going to be putting it in the paper and on the Dodge Report. We are having mandatory tours where anybody that wants to put together a proposal can come up and take a tour of the property and then they submit their ideas for redeveloping the complete site down there; 12.2 acres and seven buildings. We have a committee that has been formed that will review the proposals. They will make a selection depending upon the number of proposals that we receive. They will be given a presentation from the developer and then we will be making a suggestion, I guess you would call it, to Millers. Miller is the owner and they are the ones that will actually enter into negotiations for the sale of the property. Basically, that's kind of what we are doing. The good thing is the property will qualify for State and Federal Historic Tax Credits and that will make it beneficial to the developer. They stand to get up to 45% of their investment back in tax credits over a certain period of years.

Michelle Turmelle said what is our vision for that property, can you tell me. Mrs. Bradley said well, the developers will actually be the ones to bring ideas to the committee. We tell people that we are looking for a multi-use facility. We really want to look at lots of options that will utilize the river. We are looking at hopefully making the river an asset. It will kind of kick off our revitalization for our downtown as that redevelops. It could be housing, retail, restaurant, and there has been talk about a year round open farmer's market. We have gathered a lot of ideas in our visioning sessions of what people would like to see down there. We will be talking to the developers and we will be letting them know that information and we will see what they come back with.

Michael Cote said this is the first time I've stood up here in, what, maybe ten years. Not too often do you see my face up here. I just want to make the public and the Council aware of the process of our department, Code Enforcement and Assessing and what the process is that you have to go through to hold that position. I am not sure too many people know where the process begins and what we have to do to get there.

Mr. Cote said the first thing we have to do is obviously get certified to get put in those positions. There are five different areas and fields to be certified in: 1) Shoreland Zoning, 2) Land Use, 3) Plumbing, 4) Building Standards, and 5) Sub-surface Water Waste Management. Then you have to go through what they call legal issues training and certification and you have to have that in order to be certified in the other five fields before you can get your certification.

Mr. Cote said where Mr. Samson has left, obviously the Assessing Department and the Code Enforcement Office will now more likely be separated. Mr. Samson was supervising both, but way back when I was first hired we did have a part-time Code Enforcement Officer and a part-time Secretary. When they both decided to retire at the same time, the same year, Mr. Samson had to hire someone to come in and fill both positions at the same time. I was hired as an assistant for both the Code Enforcement Officer and Secretary. My job was to replace him if he was out sick, on vacation, or if he had to attend a workshop or something and in order to do that you have to be certified. When you get certified you are not certified as an assistant or deputy officer, you are certified as a Code Enforcement Officer. So I could fill in anytime he left. As time went on more and more duties were placed upon me, such as sitting on the Planning Board, the Appeals Board, and doing field inspections, which took me away from the office. Then Mr. Samson had to hire a part-time Secretary. Mr. Samson never kept it a secret that he hated Code Enforcement work because it is demanding. The public demands and expects a lot of you. You have to have the patience to deal with them on a daily basis.

Mr. Cote said I heard there is a lot of cross training going on and that's fine for all the other departments, but as far as the Assessing and Code Enforcement goes you can't cross train because

you are certified in those particular fields. Unless you get an Assessor that is a Code Enforcement Officer so they can do both, then fine. But each department has its own duties.

Mr. Cote said if I am going to do the duties of the Code Enforcement Office, and I can, and I know its been mentioned that our office hours are going down to 30 hours a week, and in order for me to do this I need to have the 40 hours a week to carry out all the duties of that office. Now I am going to have to sit back on the Planning and Appeals Board. I will have to go out into the field more than I have been in this past year. Mr. Samson said we should pull back and be more visible here at the Town Office because of customers coming in. Well, that took me away from those field inspections. There are different phases to this. One is to find out how far along these project are in order to report to the Assessor so he can have a good vision of what the value is for these properties. Two, this has to be brought back up to speed again since this hasn't been done for the past year. And third, we are going to have to get this comprehensive plan behind us so that is going to take away from my office time. I also need to attend workshops in order to be recertified later. I am going to need that extra time to fill all the extra duties being required of me now. I am ready and willing, but I am going to need some help with more time to do this. I would appreciate if the Council would consider that. Thank you.

## **APPOINTMENTS-NONE**

### **COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilor Cote said can I address that now. Councilor Bowie said I prefer you not to because that is an item between staff and we will talk about it in our budget discussions. Councilor Cote said what I have to say, Councilor Bowie, isn't about that part of the budget. What I wanted to bring up is the fact that this Council has very often spoken out in favor of revitalization and doing things to make our community better and working to improve the community so that when people come to our community its more appealing and they don't support Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement and the ordinances that we have in place are to clean up some of the areas in our town, which would fall right directly into revitalizing and making our community more appealing to the people who come through it. It seems that when you stop Code Enforcement and keeping the ordinances followed you go just exactly against what you are trying to do with revitalization and working with the community. I think the Council should think about that when we move forward with this issue.

Councilor Wells said, Bernard McAllister and I met yesterday with the facilities planning at the Lisbon High School and there really isn't a huge amount of update at this point except to say that we are meeting. We are continuing forward. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done to get to the next place where we are going to be able to present to the town what it is we need to do and how we are going to get there. So the committee is meeting and the letter has been sent and you should have all had a copy in your box, right Councilor Larochelle? Councilor Larochelle said yes. Councilor Wells said we should probably not have an update on that until the end of June.

Councilor Larochelle said the meeting we went to was truly nice to see a broad group of people working together and the school side has been working hard to get a lot of information out there in a short period of time. I think they are doing every thing they can to achieve their goals. I don't think there is anything more that they can do at this point besides make the time stop so that they can get things done in the meantime, but that's not going to work. They have a pretty aggressive schedule that they are trying to meet and they are trying to do it in the best way they can.

### **COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP**

MUNICIPAL BUDGET VOTE

Councilor Bowie asked do we adjourn before we go into the budget workshop. Mr. Eldridge said no, if you chose to adjourn and you decided to adopt the budget you couldn't. Councilor Bowie said okay. Councilor Bowie recessed the meeting for a five minute break and then we will go into our budget workshop.

Councilor Bowie said I would like you to take us through the changes from what was originally submitted and where we are at today. What is being recommended and why.

Mr. Eldridge said, as it stands right now, I put back all the part-time employees and all the full time employees. I have pulled out and I will go through those areas where some have over time. As it stands right now under Elected Officials, Town Manager, Legal, and General Assistance that you agreed upon have not changed from what we discussed earlier. The only thing that has changed from what we discussed earlier, Judy Hardy-Goddard had offered up \$1,000 from her contract because all the employees had taken a wage freeze. She wanted to be a part of that. We put that back in last week. The insurance we discussed we weren't going to change because that is all impacted by employees if we are going to put them back in. Finance Department is one area that we discussed last week and it was recommended by the Budget Advisory Board that we take out the overtime. In talking with Ms. Ricker we agreed that we would take \$1,000 out of the Finance Department overtime, otherwise there are no changes in that department.

Councilor Bowie asked what the Council's feeling on the Finance budget is. Councilor Larochelle said are we going to do a straw poll. Mr. Eldridge said you can vote you are in session. Councilor Larochelle said the only reason that I would like to go through the other ones is because is overtime consistent with the rest. Mr. Eldridge said it was consistent through all of the departments that had smaller pockets. The only overtime account that I didn't remove the whole thing was in the Police Department.

Mr. Eldridge said under Tax Collector, again the part-time person had been put back in here. That's the one difference that we had had before. With these numbers we had put that person back in as well as putting back in the recommendation that you made to do our tax billing in-house, which was approximately a \$2,500 cost. Councilor Wells said the part-time person's budget amount was what? Mr. Eldridge said around \$11,000. Councilor Bowie said okay.

Mr. Eldridge said, the Town Clerk, again this was what we discussed at our last meeting. We had \$1,400 in over time that has been removed from here. Otherwise, there has been no change. Again, that has been recommended by the Budget Advisory Board. Councilor Bowie said any questions from the Council.

Councilor Bowie said, okay, next one Assessing. Mr. Eldridge said I pulled this one. We hadn't money in there and we hadn't really taken a vote or really discussed it a little bit. Again, this was 30 hours each and my recommendation is to bring that Code Enforcement up to a full 40 hours. We have advertised the Assessing job at 30 hours a week. I am recommending again that since we are going from a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer to a full time Code Enforcement Officer that we add a little bit extra money for the added responsibility and change in job. It's not a raise; it's a change in the job description. Based upon what we anticipate we are not offering the new Assessing person what Mr. Samson was making so it will be less funding there. Councilor Bowie said is the \$61,050 the final number? Mr. Eldridge said, no. You would have to change that. Councilor Mason said it would have to be \$73,050. Mr. Eldridge said we had 71 but 73 would bring him back up to what he was earning. I would like to bring that whole amount up to \$73,840 as a total. It gives me a little bit of slack and a little bit of room on the Assessor just in case. Councilor Larochelle said, with this set up, will the part-time person working right now still be retained. Mr. Eldridge said gone. Councilor Wells said so the department is only going to consist of a 40 hour Code Enforcement Officer and a 30 hour Assessor. Mr. Eldridge said yes, that's correct. Councilor Mason asked what

types of duties will be given up if the part-time person is gone. If somebody is out in the field they would have to coordinate so somebody is in the office, either the Code Enforcement or the Assessor because we don't have any clerical people in that position so that would have to be coordinated because there is a need to have somebody at that counter to give out information. That area can be quite busy at times. Answering questions or making copies for people. I think for this year we are going to have to feel our way through what the demands are that we make on those departments. There is new software in there and people that we are looking at all have experience with either the software programs that we are using. They are very computer literate, which is an added bonus. Councilor Bowie said so the assistant was 40 hours currently in the budget, right? Mr. Eldridge said the current budget that we are in the assistant or deputy CEO was 40 hours a week and Mr. Samson was 40 hours a week. Councilor Bowie said so we are going to keep the pay the same at 40 hours. Mr. Eldridge said for the seat Code Enforcement and we are reducing the hours of the Assessor. Councilor Bowie said we are reducing the hours for the Assessor and reducing pay based on the person coming in. Mr. Eldridge said, right. Councilor Larochelle said will he even need an assistant?

Councilor Cote said why is it that the comment was even made that we are going to put all the positions back in and now we are at Assessing and we are not putting them all back in and we are down to a 30 hours Assessor. So what you said at the beginning of the meeting was untrue. No we don't have an Assessor full time right now. Councilor Cote said you don't have any Assessor right now. Mr. Eldridge said we have a part-time Assessor in the office currently and we feel that we could do the job within 30 hours. It's our choice to whether we feel we can do the job in 30 hours or not and we save money and that's the point. We are not impacting anybody's job who is here currently. Councilor Cote said didn't you just say that the Assessor's job was a 40 hour a week job. Mr. Eldridge said Councilor Bowie asked me if the position currently was for what we have in our budget was 40 hours. I said yes, it was a salary position for a 40 hour employee. Councilor Bowie said no, my question was Code Enforcement. Mr. Eldridge said, yes, Code Enforcement we have for 40 hours. Councilor Bowie said I simply asked about Code Enforcement in the current budget that is a 40 hour position so the pay will stay the same in this budget as a 40 hour position and we are going to pay the new Assessor less money. Councilor Wells said and we will hire for only 30 hours. Councilor Bowie said and only hire for 30 hours.

Mr. Eldridge said my recommendation is to increase the Code Enforcement because you are moving the person, changing the position; you are making this person a full time Code Enforcement Officer. He will no longer be a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer and he is responsible for all oversight of that specific job. It's a change in job description.

Councilor Bowie said so what's the Assistant Code Enforcement going to make for how many hours? Mr. Eldridge said, he is going to work 40 hours. Councilor Bowie said no, for 40 hours what's he going to make. Mr. Eldridge said currently he is making \$16.97 and I would like to move him up to \$19 an hour. Councilor Larochelle said will that still be an hourly job? Mr. Eldridge said it's currently considered an hourly job. Councilor Larochelle said with him working in the evenings. Mr. Eldridge said I have not made a decision if I am going to make it salary or not. I am looking at some possible restructuring and I am not prepared to do that at this point. I am just trying to get a budget passed. Councilor Bowie said I am not taking questions from the audience. Robin Tupper said the person taking the job wanted to make some clarification.

Councilor Wells said, Mr. Eldridge, I don't disagree with your logic on this; the only problem I have with that logic is the fact that we did a wage freeze across the board. Mr. Eldridge said yes, we did a wage freeze across the board to everybody, but this is not an increase to his wage in his current position. He is taking on a new position. He is now the Code Enforcement person, where Mr. Samson was the Code Enforcement Officer and was responsible. Now you will not have a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer, you will have one Code Enforcement person doing the job. It would be just as if we had an empty Code Enforcement position and we were bringing somebody on board to be the Code Enforcement Officer. It's the same thing. You do have basically an empty Code

Enforcement. You are eliminating your deputy position and hiring someone to do full time Code Enforcement. It's \$73,840 for this budget. This will set the Assessing salary at maximum would be \$34,320. You are adding \$12,790 to this line. And if you look at what was originally proposed that was the \$100,000 max for the department you are still within those guidelines if you add in the benefits you are probably just a little over. Councilor Bowie said what are the additional responsibilities? He is responsible for attending all the Planning Board meetings and Appeals Board meetings. He is responsible for going out and checking every single site and when there is a building permit out there he is responsible for any land use questions or violations. He will be responsible and he will be the person I will go to; prior to that if I had an issue or things that needed to be addressed I would go to Mr. Samson who was his boss.

Councilor Bowie said I just heard through audience participation that Mr. Cote has been doing all the Planning Board meetings. Mr. Eldridge said he has been doing the Appeals Board meetings and he has been filling in for Mr. Samson off and on when there has been Planning Board meetings that Mr. Samson doesn't attend.

Councilor Cote said you are reducing the assessing office by 20 hours a week and you are taking the assistant out besides. Councilor Wells said 10 hours a week. Councilor Bowie said no by 10 hours a week. Councilor Cote said and you are removing the assistant. Mr. Eldridge said yes. Councilor Bowie said the part-time person. Councilor Bowie said the only thing I am struggling with is that we asked all the employees to not take a pay increase and this is going to look like a pay increase. Councilor Cote said we did the same thing to Mr. Eldridge's Secretary. Councilor Wells said, no, we didn't. Councilor Cote said, yes you did, it was a step increase. Councilor Bowie said there was nothing other than her salary based upon probation. Councilor Cote said, yes, but when her probation ran out she got an increase. Councilor Bowie said but that was in this fiscal year so it's not an increase to which she is currently making.

Councilor Wells said, these are the things that I struggle with: one, we said we would do a wage freeze. Councilor Bowie said right. Councilor Wells said, two, the head of that department stated that he didn't believe during these economic times that we have 30 hours worth of work. So I am struggling with the fact that we are adding \$4,202 to this. I am very happy that we are leaving Mr. Cote at 40 hours, only because I believe that he has been a long term employee here and he is doing his job. We are asking him to take on extra duties. There will be hopefully an Assessor to come in and I believe at this point due to the, and I don't know how to say this without sounding a little wrong, but it should be that we put him back to the 40 hour position but keep him at the wage that he is currently making and stick to our wage freeze. I guess is what I am trying to say.

Councilor Cote said, just give him more responsibilities and just let him suck it up. Councilor Wells said if it's true that the amount of work is down due to the fact that these economic times bring that work down he may have a few more duties, but it shouldn't be taking him 40 hours a week to do it. This is the only department that said that the work is down based upon these economic times. Councilor Cote said, the Police Department said they could do away with two positions and we could then apply for a grant. Councilor Wells said, no, he didn't say we could do away with two positions.

Mr. Eldridge said one of the things that I have heard since I have been here was that we don't have consistent code enforcement across this community. I have a tendency to believe that from what I am seeing and from what I have heard. When we were told that its 20% down, I think you say permitting may have been down 20%. Last time when I checked we were a failure on par for the number of permits we were doing, but the value of what we were inspecting was definitely wrong. We weren't inspecting homes. We were inspecting garages and porches, like that. But that's not all that they do. We need to have a strong code enforcement. We need to have somebody who is going to go out there, given direction to go, do the job, and to make sure that the violations that are out there are important and enforced. I am not sure that that has been the case.

Councilor Mason said I have to agree with Mr. Eldridge. I think that being part of the revitalization committee, so many issues that we have addressed are about areas in this town that need cleaning up. There are several that I could point out right now, but I won't. There are many areas I know, and I'm just going to mention this, one of the candidates we had for the Town Manager's job pointed out, that there wasn't a lot of up scale stuff in this town. For our code enforcement to get out there and be able to clean things up, that's a good part of drawing people into town just like Councilor Cote said, and if this means that Mr. Cote will be out there enforcing things, then I think it is very important. I think that's part of this job and I think it needs to be done. It's part of revitalization and its part of making our town a nice place to live in, basically. If that means that he is going to be out doing that then I'm all for what we are proposing here.

Councilor Larochelle said I recommend we budget \$73,840 and to look at more lines to see if we have to come back. Councilor Wells said I am fine with that. Councilor Henry said thank you Councilor Mason.

Mr. Eldridge said there are no changes in Election and Animal Control.

Mr. Eldridge said in the Police Department what I have done is I have put all the positions back in that we had originally discussed including the two removed for grant funding. We had originally reduced their overtime by \$7,000 and I added another \$3,000 to that, which reduced it to \$10,000 now. All the other departments are taking an overtime hit and this department will have to work within what we have and manage our people. Councilor Mason said the statement was made early on that if two positions were cut Chief Brooks would be able to get by. That statement was made and I just wondered where we are with that. Mr. Eldridge said you can cut positions from any department and they will have to find a way to make it work. In the Police Department you have people out on the road. Most of your people are patrol and you don't want these people working a lot of overtime. Their positions are very different. It's like Public Works people who are driving truck and putting in 18 hours to plow snow. There is a limit when it comes to safety. I question cutting back at this point. I think we can look at how we manage our people and I think we can live with 10 hours of overtime. I think that we can cut \$10,000 from the overtime and maybe fine tune how we do things, but any department will function without people or maybe we will find out quickly that we can't function without people. You asked me to bring you the budget with a flat tax rate and that was my first proposal to you. At our first workshop everybody wanted to look at putting every body back in because nobody wanted to cut jobs so as your manager I went back to the drawing board with my Finance Director and my Department Heads and we found a way to do that. We are not cutting any jobs. We are taking out some paving. We are dealing with just what we have to do this year to bring in a balanced budget with no tax increase. I can't say that will be the case next year, but I'll worry about that next year. Right now we can do this without cutting positions and not cutting services. We will be able to maintain the service level the citizens have been used to.

Councilor Cote said does that mean we lose the ability to try for that grant. Mr. Eldridge said yes, it does. They had 8,300,000 requests for \$1,000,000 in grant funding so it's a crap shoot whether we are even going to get it. We can't say that we are going to eliminate two positions and hope that we are going to get the grant and put them back in. You have to have them on the block to be cut in order to qualify for the grant.

Councilor Cote said I will restate the fact that we was told that at the first meeting that those two positions could be cut and I feel that we should cut those two positions and apply for the grant.

Councilor Bowie said well, you know, if you are going to take that stance, then we should go back to the first budget because we were told that all of those positions that were presented to us to be cut should go, right? And I think if you are going to start to pick and chose here I think at least from my perspective sitting on the Council is that, right, as much as I don't really want to have to lay people off, sometimes you have to, but, right. If we can bring in a balanced budget, which is what

our Town Manager is trying to present to us and we have asked them to take a wage freeze, we have asked them to take a different insurance plan, which is putting more money out of their pocket in the long run saving us money in our expense budget, then I think our town employees have stepped up to the plate understanding economic times. I am for keeping all of the positions in and keeping everybody employed at least for another year. Not knowing what's going to happen with the rest of the economy and revenues going forward next year. I don't think its fair on our part to pick and chose who you want to go and who you don't want to go just because somebody said I can do without it. Well, the Town Manager said we could do without all of the positions so let's just bite the bullet and do without all of them, right? Let's go back to his first budget and let's be done with this and we will have a balanced budget that will be under the tax rate, right? I think he's done, he and his Department Heads have done an excellent job to come back based on stuff that we have heard from public hearings, from the Council, right, and all our discussions and is bringing back to us a budget that will not impact the tax rate.

Councilor Cote said the only thing, Councilor Bowie, is that we are double talking because we are saying that we are not going to cut any positions but there is a part-timer in the Assessing Office gone; there is ten hours a week gone. But we go to a different Department Head and all of a sudden we are going to sit back and we are going to double talk about it. The bottom line is that we are not doing what you said we are going to do. We say one thing and we double talk our way around everything. The bottom line is that you took positions out of Assessing and now we are looking at a different one, you have a whole different attitude about it. The bottom line is, Councilor Bowie, that we can do away with two positions, we was told we could, and we have the possibility of bringing them back with a grant. Councilor Bowie said you won't get it with the grant. Councilor Cote said well, you don't know that. Councilor Bowie said I will furnish you with a year's salary we don't get it. Councilor Cote said well, that's something you have to get in it to win. If you don't do it we won't know, will you.

Councilor Bowie said based on the funding levels the federal government has and the number of applicants across the United States that have applied for that money little old Lisbon isn't going to rank high on the chart. I mean anybody could tell you that. Councilor Cote said I think the Assessing Office is pretty important. Councilor Bowie said I think the Assessing Office is being covered appropriately. You know, at some point in time Council we will have to listen to our Town Manger. We hired him to do a job, right? If he doesn't do his job we can chastise him in his next evaluation, right, or we can let him go, right? But we hired him to do the job, right, and we're here to make sure that he's following that job that he said he was going to do. I guess that I just don't see that we are trying to let him do his job.

Councilor Cote said the problem is that we have people in our community that have addressed a lot of the issues that come with these positions. The people of this community have been overwhelming on a lot of issues, especially on the Assessing and Code Enforcement Office; they did not want some of the issues that we were going to bring forth. Councilor Bowie said and that issue was don't outsource it. Councilor Cote said absolutely. Councilor Bowie said don't outsource it, I want a face here. I want to be able to talk to somebody. I think that's what we have.

Councilor Wells said and who's to say our new Assessor needs a part-time Assessor to help him. So you are automatically assuming that when we hire someone new to take this position that they need a part-time person in there; maybe you are bringing someone in who might be more computer savvy or does not need to have a part-time person there to back them up. Councilor Cote said, and, if he does, it's too bad because there is no funding for it.

Councilor Mason said I think Mr. Samson himself said that things were down in that department and I think he was referring to himself. I mean we see that people aren't building and they are not doing the things that they were doing last year or five years before. So, to cut the assessing position back, I honestly don't think it's going to affect a whole lot, at this point. Maybe next year it will, but not this year. Councilor Cote said, but as we move forward into another department it all changes.

Councilor Larochelle said I know one of the goals we gave initially was, we also told him, that we wanted to maintain services without increasing the taxes. If you look back there is a lot of discussion about Code Enforcement, no doubt about it, and you're keeping it in-house is what everybody is asking for. I think we are achieving that. But if you look across the departments with what the Department Heads work with their people and as the employees in town move forward with their wage freeze and their insurance change, which is about \$180,000 worth there, they set forth the motion that they wanted to maintain jobs and that they would do what they needed to do to do it. As we can see, that's probably not a very easy thing to do for anybody. So as we look at the budget I agree with Councilor Bowie to the point where if Mr. Eldridge's is going to show us a budget tonight that will maintain services and not roll the dice on town safety, I mean, to me that's really what we asked him to do in the first place. If we are maintaining our department in-house and there is going to be change, there's no question about that, and I think this year is going to be an interesting overview of that department and we may be having a big discussion about it next year, but you don't know until you get there. The concerns that we heard at the public hearing, number one they wanted to keep that service in-house, which I think we are doing. It's different, but it's still in-house. They didn't want to reduce public safety, and they wanted to actually have a flat budget. I think we are kind of achieving these goals, if Mr. Eldridge can get to the bottom of this and actually show us the zero on the bottom. I really think that everybody's put their way forward. Will that actually be the same situation next year, I don't know. This year I think the goals that we had was the idea of not cutting services and keeping a zero bottom line.

Councilor Mason said I am a little concerned about losing the part-timer in assessing because I just hope the desk is covered, that's all. I think that's a crap shoot, so.

Councilor Bowie said well, we haven't voted on anything final. I think we are in a general agreement. If we want to go back, we have the room to make some additional changes. Councilor Larochelle said do we have one more to go through, Mr. Eldridge. There is the Fire Department. After that, I know we haven't voted on the Police budget. Councilor Wells said we have plenty more to go. Councilor Larochelle said I was trying to make this look easy. Councilor Cote said can we step on by this one and come back. Mr. Eldridge said we can come back to it; we will leave it where it is.

Mr. Eldridge said the Fire Department, and I am trying to remember what the \$7,116 reduction is. Was that in the 400 line? Councilor Wells said no, it's in the salary line because all the rest of them are still the same. Councilor Bowie said I remember this e-mail about a reduction in that. Do you have a copy? Councilor Wells said, no, I didn't print that out Councilor Bowie. Councilor Bowie said my printer is not working. Councilor Wells said, and what do you do for a living? Councilor Bowie said I get too much of that at work; I don't want to do it at home. Mr. Eldridge said what their recommendation was, was to bring in the budget flat which is what the \$7,116 was so it would be the same as last year. Councilor Bowie said I remembered it being out of the 400 account. Donald Fellows said that's because we put it there. Councilor Bowie said, no, I remember a memo that Mr. Eldridge sent that I can't print and I don't know if it was. Councilor Wells said do you want me to bring it up. I have it. Councilor Bowie said I thought it was something to do with something in the capital line. Councilor Wells said if you want to go on to another one I'll try to bring it up.

Councilor Larochelle said there was actually \$7,200 in this budget for new gear to maintain the replacement of gear. So pretty much if you were to keep it flat you would have to remove it. Mr. Fellows said it was off the bottom line, but that was just a suggestion. Councilor Larochelle said your recommendation was off the bottom line so pretty much everything above it is fair game. Mr. Eldridge said so what you're saying is as long as we cut it based on last year's number we can take it from any line. Mr. Fellows said that's what we decided. Mr. Eldridge said that's fine. If you look at your original sheet that's the difference; the variance is \$7,116 or we can leave it alone.

Councilor Larochelle said there was also an increase in the per diem. Councilor Bowie said there was an increase in hours. Councilor Bowie said, okay, so we will take off the \$7,116. Councilor Larochelle said I would be curious to see where we are at the bottom number. We cut out funds at the end of last year's budget for gear improvement. There is concern that we may do this again this year. Councilor Bowie said let's leave it and go through to the end to see what happens. Councilor Wells said leave it in or out? Councilor Larochelle said leave it in, at this point. Councilor Bowie said you have to remove the \$7,116 for now in order to leave it in the budget.

Mr. Eldridge said this was the Fire Truck Reserve budget, this was a mutually agreed upon number. We originally had \$75,000. Conversations with both Chiefs felt that the goal was to try to stay on track with all of our capital projects to get us to a pay as you go plan, which was what the public was demanding at the public hearing. The Chief felt that we could manage with \$50,000 this year.

Councilor Cote said I have a little problem with that. We are taking an extra \$50,000 out of reserves this year to put towards reserves for a Fire Truck. This is a pretty hard economic time and if we are going to put \$50,000 in there it would be beneficial in a time when we can afford it, and not to go into our reserves to do it. Mr. Eldridge said you have a capital budget and you need to try to maintain it because in the end it does save you money. The Fire Department has done this extremely well. They have not paid interest on anything that they have purchased contrary to what we do in every other department. We have to pay interest because we are leasing it. The public said they supported a pay as you go program. That's what we were aiming for, to start this year, to fund what we could and then next year start funding other departments that have not had this pay as you go program because in the end you save money. It will be in reserves. The Fire Department has proven this can work so we are trying to model it after that and be fiscally responsible to have a program that in the end saves us money.

Councilor Cote said it just doesn't seem responsible to tap into your savings account to put money into your reserve account. Councilor Bowie said our Budget Advisory Board recommends we put in \$75,000. Councilor Cote said, but, did they think it was coming out of the reserve fund, no, they thought it was coming out of the budget. Councilor Larochelle said, but, it's not an expenditure; it's kind of like taking money out of one bank account to put into another savings account. It is still categorized for that kind of use. Councilor Bowie said it's basically taking some of your reserve funds and just pigeon holing it for a future expenditure later on down the road. Councilor Cote said you shouldn't even get into it. Councilor Bowie said in essence you are not getting into it because, if, you know what, we got into a drastic situation where we had to go use that money, you can go take that \$50,000 back and spend it. Councilor Cote said that would be understandable, Councilor Bowie. Councilor Bowie said, so, all we are doing is saying its there to be used as part of their pay as you go plan. Councilor Larochelle said if you can make it work with \$50,000, I think it's great. The bottom line is that's its going to be there.

Mr. Eldridge said we agreed to put hydrant rental back in. On street lights we decided to leave it. Hopefully, once we get done our inventory and decision making done on what we are going to shut off for lights we will see a savings there. The Parks Department we agreed upon.

Mr. Eldridge said, now Public Works, we had put everything back in and have just taken out their overtime account. Not from the snow removal budget, but from the regular operating budget. Councilor Bowie said you did what now. Mr. Eldridge said took out their overtime. Councilor Bowie said is that the \$4,062. There was a part-time person that we had taken out originally, so, it includes putting that back in and reducing it; that's the overtime. Councilor Bowie said overall there is an increase, but you put the part-time position back in. Mr. Eldridge said, yes. Councilor Bowie said well then the net change is an increase of \$4,000. Mr. Eldridge said we took out \$6,500 in overtime.

Mr. Eldridge said on the snow removal everything stayed the same. The Budget Advisory Board recommended we put another chunk of money in to bring it closer to what we actually expend. It's

a shot in the dark. If you have a real light winter you may not use this much. If you have a heavy winter you will over expend it. This is the only department that you can do that. Councilor Bowie said I am okay with the \$81,000.

Mr. Eldridge said we are all set with the Town Engineer's budget, Public Works paving, which was \$235,000, Interagencies and Maine Municipal. AVCOG is the same along with Moxie Days, all the way through to Transfer and Recycling. I took out overtime and reduced the MSW budget because of the fact that he kept his part-time person there as well. We had anticipated that the percent increase, which is by contract, was going to be the maximum and it came in quite a bit less than what we had anticipated, so, Mr. Ricker felt he could reduce that part of his budget keeping him at full time, also, bringing Mr. Ricker up to 40 hours. No change in personnel that we know of. Mr. Ricker said there is someone retiring. Mr. Eldridge said there is someone retiring in March though. Mr. Ricker said it would not be refilled. Councilor Bowie asked, is Council okay with that? Councilor Wells said does Mr. Ricker want 40 hours. Mr. Ricker said I will take the money. Councilor Henry said Mr. Ricker's volunteering to take fewer hours is very heroic; I call that virtuous that he gave up those hours because he wanted to save positions because he is fully retired with MMA and I just want to say thank you to Mr. Ricker for your service.

Councilor Cote said the question I have, Mr. Eldridge, is the position that is going to be retiring. At this point, we are not going to be looking to replace him. Mr. Eldridge said, that's correct. Councilor Cote said is that a realistic goal. Mr. Eldridge said he seems to think it is. It's his call. Mr. Ricker said we'll cross that bridge next year. We'll see what the economy is and how things are going. We have him funded until next March or April. Mr. Eldridge said so he's almost here for a full year.

Mr. Eldridge said the Library budget is with a part-time person put back in. This budget is what we agreed to at the last meeting as being fine. Technology is another one you said was fine.

Mr. Eldridge said Town Buildings - here we go. I reduced the Town Buildings budget by \$15,000, we talked about \$20,000. In talking with our Town Engineer and doing a little research on my own, we had budgeted \$30,000 to fix the roof in this building. I, basically, just cut that in half. Until we have an engineer in here that knows what the problem is, from what I read and talked to several people, that we have a ventilation issue here. If this roof has been leaking for as long as I hear it has been then we probably have a lot of wet insulation or stuff that isn't working anymore. We need to get somebody up in there to examine that area. We need to make sure we have the circulation and insulation there that will prevent this from icing up. Right now, I took \$15,000 off and it should fit into phase one of what we had for a proposal, which was an estimate. I think we will be very safe with that. This keeps us on track with all the other capital projects that we felt we needed to do.

Councilor Cote said this is an issue that I think, when we talk about taking the \$50,000 out of our surplus, this is where it should be spent. This building is too new a building to let it have the problems that it has. This should be fixed once and for all. Let's just bite the bullet and get it done because this building is not just going to heal itself up. Councilor Bowie said, you're right, there is an issue, and I don't think we should go appropriate any money until we know what the issue is. This building doesn't leak in the rain. We could have the worst rain storm we've ever had and this building doesn't leak. It only leaks in the winter, right? Councilor Cote said because we have a ventilation problem. Councilor Bowie said well, there you go. You have all kinds of things going on between the roof and the ceiling. Councilor Cote said that costs money to fix. Councilor Bowie said we have a \$1,000 in there to go investigate it. Councilor Cote said what are we going to do after we go investigate it? Councilor Bowie said then we will know exactly how much it will cost. Just like we asked the school to do; go find out what the cost is before you try to go appropriate money to determine something you don't know what the total cost is. Mr. Eldridge said there is money in this line in the particular department to fix the HVAC system in this building, which Mr. Leighton alluded to earlier, and to fix some of those issues. If we are looking at insulation problems, having somebody come in and pull out the insulation that is no longer functioning, I think \$15,000 is fine,

it's not the whole building that's icing up it's just in the eve area. I think we need \$15,000; that should do the job. Councilor Laroche said, with the ventilation, if you needed to add the heat tape that they are recommending, even with the improvement, the heat tape wouldn't be drastic I don't believe.

Councilor Mason said how was the \$30,000 assessment made to begin with. Mr. Eldridge said we had somebody who came in, a local contractor, and gave us an estimate for all metal flashing in the eve area of the valleys where it freezes up. Councilor Laroche said ice control is still going to be done with heat tape though. Councilor Mason said oh, absolutely. Flashing tends to let things slide better than roofing does in some instances. Councilor Laroche said, right. Councilor Bowie said I just think we need to find out what the underlying issue is that is causing the heat loss causing the ice build up and we need to figure out what that is first before we go throw \$30,000 into redoing all the valleys. Mr. Eldridge said I think this budget will allow us to get done what we need to get done and at least attack the problem in the building with enough funds to take care of it.

Mr. Eldridge said the Public Works building is in there, too. Some of the work to the MTM roofing is in there. Councilor Bowie said, Public Works, is that for structure or is that for the re-pointing? Mr. Eldridge said that's the re-pointing of the brick work. Councilor Cote said is that going to fix the building where the brick is falling over the door? Mr. Eldridge said, yes it will. Councilor Bowie said are you okay with that Council? Councilor Laroche said that's good for now; we'll move on.

Mr. Eldridge said we had agreed on contingency; we had cut that back to just \$10,000. Councilor Bowie said, the only thing is, you have to swap those numbers around. The \$3,000 goes on the top and the \$7,000 goes on the bottom. Mr. Eldridge said I can make that change.

Mr. Eldridge said Economic Development started off with \$67,480 originally and this one is (and paused). Councilor Wells said, I think that's \$58,050. Mr. Eldridge said we took out the Administrative Assistant position, brought this down to what you asked for. Again, the goal of this department, just to talk a little bit about how we fund this department, is that the salaries get funded or the whole department, through administrative fees from grants and programs where you have funding available to you or through TIF's and that should be our goal for this department. She has done this in her salary line by using funding that is available to us in administrative costs. Last year we eliminated a \$3,000 administration fee that you were paying to AVCOG so we do it in-house. That was eliminated from this existing budget. Through some of the RLF funding we are able to use some of that for administration fees so you don't have to raise it from taxation. That should be the goal for this department that we use business, TIF's, funds from whatever else we have there to help fund this department.

Councilor Laroche said the difference in the 200 line, was that committee and events expense that changed or whatever. Mr. Eldridge said we removed \$500 from committee and event expense. She did ask originally for \$2,000 and we took \$500 out. We removed \$300 from advertising and marketing and \$250 from printing and binding; we reduced the postage by 40%. Office supplies were reduced as well by \$500. Councilor Bowie said, okay.

Mr. Eldridge said abatement. This was a recommendation from the Budget Advisory Board that you put \$8,000 into your abatement line. We did that and we off set that in the revenue side by \$8,000 so it's a wash because when you do abatements you also do supplementals. Generally, there is no impact, but for accounting purposes, Mr. Main, wanted it so we put it in there for him. I've always done it through the overlay, but this is a legitimate way of doing it as well.

Mr. Eldridge said Recreation we left alone. That hasn't changed. We moved some things within the department, but the bottom line didn't change. All the positions are still in there. 40 hours for the Secretary/Programmer along with the part-time Assistant Director. Councilor Bowie said okay.

Mr. Eldridge said that was the last item; this gives you a difference of \$59,070, which I can make up in the overlay. With the numbers that you have based on what our current valuation is and revenue stream that will give us an overlay just around \$180,000, which is considerably less than we had last year, but it's actually more than you had when I came on board here. You had an overlay of \$168,000. We are a little higher than you were two years ago, but this keeps the tax rate flat at \$25.50 all things being even. Councilor Bowie said questions from Council.

Councilor Larochelle said I'm just going to go back to the top and look all the way through. The biggest question I have going through those and the other ones is we actually kept the Fire Department flat with last year and the only question I would have is, you know, we talked about safety through the rest of the programs, is that I noticed that equipment is actually down from year's past, but it is what we budgeted this year to replace the equipment that is needed. It's nice to have fire trucks and it's nice to have people, but if they don't have the gear to do it properly, I just want to know with that bottom line, with the overlay, are we looking at a change that much different if we were to put this \$7,000 back in for equipment? Mr. Eldridge said, so, we'll add \$7,000 back to this number and it will reduce your overlay.

Mr. Eldridge said, what the Budget Advisory Board was saying was that they wanted to bring it back to last year's figure, they aren't necessarily saying take it from equipment. I think if you do the recommendation for the Budget Advisory Board for the \$7,116 and leave it up to the Chief to decide where that's going to come from, which is what we do throughout the year anyway with all of our budgets, we'll pick and chose.

Councilor Bowie said but we need to pick a line item to take it out of. That's what we have to vote on. Councilor Wells said we have to actually put it in a 100, 200, or 300 line. Chief Galipeau said 100 line if you are asking me where to take it from. Councilor Larochelle said that's the line we actually added to so you would have better coverage during the day. Mr. Eldridge said well, you could compromise and just cut back the per diem to what you had last year. Councilor Henry said are we training people and then they are leaving for other departments, no? Mr. Eldridge said if you are targeting this for turnout gear I don't recommend that we cut the turnout gear, that's a safety factor that these people need to enter these buildings. Councilor Bowie said does that cover all of the turnout gear or only a number, does it reduce the number of sets you can replace.

Chief Galipeau said that's an ongoing program like everything we have been doing and that's going to hinder the program. Councilor Bowie said I understand, but my question was. Chief Galipeau said that's as many as we were slated to replace this year in our program. Councilor Bowie said \$7,000 worth. Chief Galipeau said yes sir. Councilor Bowie said so why is the protective equipment budget \$13,600. To me that would only say that we are taking half of it out. Chief Galipeau said that's eight sets of gear. Councilor Bowie said the eight sets of gear is \$13,000. Chief Galipeau said that's correct. Councilor Bowie said that's \$1,700 a piece so if we take \$7,000 out of it you can get four sets of gear. Chief Galipeau said which leaves four other individuals all with outdated gear. That's why I'm saying the easy way to do that is to take it out of per diems. Councilor Bowie said that's not enough. The per diem is only a \$4,000 increase. Are you fully staffed with all of your subs? Chief Galipeau said somewhat. Right now we only have two in those positions.

Councilor Cote said how about if we give the funds to the Chief for protecting the individual to fight fires and take the \$50,000 out of the Fire Truck reserve account where the money is as tight as it is. Councilor Wells said we'll take the \$7,000 from the \$50,000 you mean. Councilor Cote said or take the \$50,000 right out completely and not have to take so much out of the bottom line. Councilor Larochelle said I think we have to preserve the fund, because if you pull the rug out of that, as much as I would love to take that money out, it's just once you make a point that's just an easy place to target. Every day you are going to find that as years go on. Councilor Mason said because it will catch up with you or when the time comes you will be that many years behind.

Mr. Eldridge said you could increase your revenue by the difference and that may work. Councilor Larochelle said my question was, I would love to see that building painted and everything, is that we actually at one point in time with the stimulus and everything coming that being a shovel ready project was that even a consideration at all.

Mr. Eldridge said I spoke to the USDA today about qualifying for some of the recovery act funding for that project and all of our projects we have here in town, the Public Works garage, the Campus Avenue School, or the MTM building would qualify for those grants, but because the income level here is \$37,000 we don't qualify. If we were at an average income of \$33,000 we would qualify for grant money. We do qualify for loan money. So what I am doing is going back to the US Department of Energy and talking to them to see if there is money available for conservation efforts. Some of the things in the Public Works project plan addressed the heat loss, air quality, and things like that so I am hoping those are things we can fund through some of the recovery money, but I haven't got an answer from them.

Councilor Larochelle said the only question I have is I think there was a little over \$50,000 targeted for the Public Works building in your carry over project. The structural repairs and for bricks falling off I believe was just under \$20,000. If I remember right, I am wondering this year if we just fix the things of concern and I just hate to only make the building look better. If we are still pushing the idea that we want to replace it, at some point in time, then I think it needs to be done without a doubt, it's just the idea if there is other evils in the building or if there is other concerns, you know. That's the reason I asked about the stimulus if there is any option to get it that would be something we would look for first, but evidently there is no money there. Mr. Eldridge said for the structural aspect of it I don't believe there are, but the heat, energy, and costs for things like that there would be. There may even be funding for the ADA issues you have there. You have a building that is not ADA compliant so that presents an issue as well. The brick work that was throughout the whole building needs to be done. Can you as a Council honestly say that the town is going to fund replacing that building in the near future? You have had, what, three referendum votes. You need to invest some money into this building so we don't have large bricks falling out. Yes, we are going to get the ones that we know of fixed, but how do we know that's there's not other issues with the brick work there. You are losing it over the doors; you might be losing it in other places. Councilor Larochelle said will that \$50,000 fix all the rest. Mr. Eldridge said it will re-point all the brick, fix what's crumbling, and seal it.

Mr. Eldridge said we can reduce that by the difference between the per diem and the turnout gear and hope that the bids come in and we will do what we can. Councilor Larochelle said what did we pay for the solid waste building? That actually came in under budget. We got a good deal. Mr. Eldridge said the same company bid it. Councilor Larochelle said if I remember right, we were able to use funds that we had left over. It was under \$30,000 for the complete re-pointing. Mr. Eldridge said why don't we reduce the building budget by the difference between the \$4,177 and the \$7,116. Councilor Bowie said well, I'm not personally sold on reducing the \$4,177. One of the reasons why we increased the hours is because we were having trouble having drivers available during the day because there are other communities offering more per diem hours for these people and they are taking those positions rather than working here. I think that is a safety issue during the day not to have drivers available so I'm not in favor of taking out the increase for the per diem.

Councilor Wells said according to our latest control report, which is the end of May, we have only expended 75% of fire fighter wages. Is that because they are only paid monthly? Chief Galipeau said they are paid quarterly. Councilor Wells said so we will expend the rest of that money by June 30, okay.

Mr. Eldridge said why don't you take the \$7,116 out of the building budget and see what comes in for bids and we will get done what we can. I think we will still get more done than we would if we had just done the \$17,000. If we don't finish it, come back at it next year. Councilor Larochelle said we are not taking away from that building because we have actually proven multiple times that it

needs work; there is no question about that. Mr. Eldridge said, well, at least we get something done. We will get the work over the doors and some of the brick work done and maybe a little paint. I think you need to leave that up to us to what we need to do and what we can afford to do with what we have in our budget that way we don't take anything from the Fire Department. Councilor Bowie said I'm okay with that. Councilor Wells said alright. Councilor Henry said I ran on not ever cutting fire for anything. Councilor Mason said who was painting the building? Are we doing this ourselves. Mr. Eldridge said no, the company was doing it. We haven't put it out to bid. We had somebody come in and give us an estimate. It was the same company that did the transfer station. They did a real nice job so we went to them to get an idea about how much this would cost and that's where we ended up. Mr. Beal said if you get it pointed we'll get it painted.

Councilor Larochelle said was there a lot more brick work that needed to be done in the last building in comparison to this building Mr. Beal. I mean, in the last building there was a whole lot of brick work in the structure that was just falling out. Mr. Beal said I don't believe we have a lot of bricks falling out, I believe there are a lot of cracks. Councilor Larochelle said the last building we repaired there was actually major block ends. Councilor Bowie said I hate to ask this question, but in Public Works, capital, what's in that? Mr. Eldridge said nothing. Councilor Bowie said I thought we had a truck body. Mr. Eldridge said ah, yes, that's in there. Councilor Bowie said and if I remember correctly what we discussed and agreed upon was that we were replacing one body, stainless steel, and we were patching the better of the two. Mr. Beal said it can't be done.

Councilor Larochelle said I think what they agreed upon in looking at both bodies my self, neither one of them can be patched to make them work. What they actually chose to do is actually get bare bodies made with no equipment and actually transferring all the equipment, hydraulics, cylinders that was still usable onto the structures. Basically, what they need to do is replace the structure of the body; one, is stainless one is steel and reuse the hardware reducing the cost to the point of making it feasible. Councilor Bowie said you are recycling the equipment that supports the body. Councilor Larochelle said exactly. Councilor Bowie said okay, good. Councilor Larochelle said and also doing the maintenance, a switch over in-house. Councilor Bowie said so what's the bottom line here.

Mr. Eldridge said what I have done is I have zeroed out all of the things that I have taken out of the Fire Department and I am taking it out of the building account, which will leave \$59,070 and will keep the tax rate flat and we will work with the overlay. Councilor Bowie said what's the Council's feeling on that?

Councilor Larochelle said we are actually basing this whole budget on a year that something is going to be voted through that may not even get voted through, so. We may be getting more revenues. Mr. Eldridge said probably not. Councilor Larochelle said we are actually doing a budget in a zero but the zero we are looking at is not a zero from maintaining from last year, we are looking at actually reducing the revenues, so. To achieve this, this isn't maintain the status quo from last year it's actually taken a major deduction in the revenue and still coming in flat. Mr. Eldridge said you have reduced your overall expenses by almost \$700,000, which is a considerable sum of money when you are talking about a \$7.3 million dollar budget that you had last year. That's a major cut.

Councilor Bowie said so are we ready to vote on all their items. Councilor Wells said so are we just voting on this page. Councilor Bowie said we are voting on every account, 100, 200, 300, and 400 and then on the total overall because we committed to do that in accordance with the recommendations from our Ethics Committee. Councilor Wells said okay. Councilor Bowie said I just want to ask a question of Council, because we have had discussion on it, there is no pay raises in here so are there any abstentions required by Council in this budget vote. Councilor Wells said I don't think there should be. Councilor Bowie said that's fine because Councilor Henry has to abstain from the Recreation Department budget. Councilor Henry said no, not next because she is not working. Councilor Cote said I'm not saying just to. Councilor Bowie said I understand what

the vote was because it was brought up in one of our workshops that there was no increases, and it was brought up by other Councilors members other than me, so I want to make sure we know what we can vote on and what we can't. I am looking for Council's recommendation on that based on no pay increases by anybody in the town.

Councilor Henry said I dare say I am really torn by this budget as it means something to me personally. Belle Mathieu is like a daughter to me and it would be her job, but I am also torn that this is supposed to be run like a business and its really hard. Councilor Bowie said we all have friends in town that work here, but my situation is different so I am trying to make sure we do the right thing here. Councilor Henry said I know, but there is going to be three positions up this next November and Councilor Cote said did win and you can look at any newspaper article, he ran for cutting Police and Fire and I think Councilor Crafts has similar feelings; he won as our State Representative. You know, I am just really torn about this budget. I do know there are many people who are fully retired; receive retirement wages and then receive I know not increases, but I am really torn about this budget.

Councilor Bowie said I guess I am hearing that you want to stay with the original agreement and move forward. Councilor Larochelle said I am saying yes just to save any questioning after. Councilor Bowie said so we have the first one up Elected Officials. The vote will be either in favor or against the final new number, which is represented on the screen that are the values we've all just discussed. I just want Council to vote officially on each of the accounts based on those values.

A motion was made and seconded as follows:

For 1011 Election Officials:

Line 100 \$ 17,730	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 2,500	Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1012 Town Manager:

Line 100 \$116,847	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 20,300	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 700	Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1013 Insurance:

Line 200 \$621,441	Vote 7-0 carried.
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For 1014 Legal:

Line 200 \$ 34,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
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For 1021 General Assistance:

Line 100 \$ 10,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 30,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 300	Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1040 Finance Department:

Line 100 \$118,551	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 2,500	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 4,650	Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1041 Tax Collector:

Line 100 \$100,114	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 6,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 14,266	Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1050 Town Clerk:

Line 100 \$ 76,023	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 8,200	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 800	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1060 Assessing/Codes:

Line 100 \$ 73,840	Vote 4-3 carried. (Against: Cote, Crafts, Mason)
Line 200 \$ 2,850	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 600	

Councilor Henry said this is just a poll right. Was that bringing the Assessor's Office back to full time? Councilor Bowie said that brings Code Enforcement to full time and the Assessor to 30 hours as a new employee new hire and it does not have the part time person in there. Councilor Henry said I would have changed my vote, just so you know this is a poll vote. Mr. Eldridge said this is the vote. Councilor Bowie said this is a regular vote against this budget and then we will vote at the end. Councilor Henry said I want to change my vote. Councilor Wells said you can't change your vote. Councilor Henry said for this one, but this isn't the final, final vote, right. Councilor Bowie said yes, this is the final vote. Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Henry)

Councilor Mason said accounts where there are no changes, can't you just totally vote for everything. There are several where there are no changes. Councilor Bowie said if you would like to do that. Councilor Mason said it would be a lot quicker. Councilor Crafts said he would rather just go through them.

## For 1070 Election:

Line 100 \$ 6,975	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Henry)
Line 200 \$ 7,815	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 1,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 400 \$ 5,000	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1090 Animal Control:

Line 100 \$ 50,077	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$ 6,710	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 3,600	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 400 \$ 500	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1100 Police Department:

Line 100 \$ 994,562	Vote 2-4-1 failed. (Abstained: Bowie) (Against: Cote, Crafts, Mason, Henry)
Line 200 \$ 44,404	Vote 5-2 carried. (Against: Crafts, Cote)
Line 300 \$ 73,580	

Councilor Mason said what was the difference that the Budget Advisory was advising on. You had said \$69,580 and \$73,580 is what Mr. Eldridge recommends. I just want to know what the difference was and what it was. Mr. Eldridge said we increased maintenance and repairs because we are only buying one car. Councilor Larochelle said we were going to do a project, where we are keeping one of the cars. Vote 7-0 carried.

Line 400 \$ 27,634	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1110 Fire Department:

Line 100 \$ 171,578	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
Line 200 \$ 33,330	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$ 30,450	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 400 \$ 36,059	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1111 Fire Truck Rescue:

Line 400 \$	50,000	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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## For 1130 Hydrant Rental:

Line 200 \$	231,784	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1140 Street Lights:

Line 200 \$	103,775	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1150 Parks Department:

Line 100 \$	36,904	Vote 7-0 carried.
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Line 200 \$	3,375	Vote 7-0 carried.
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Line 300 \$	2,925	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1160 Public Works:

Line 100 \$	452,531	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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Line 200 \$	68,950	Vote 5-2 carried. (Against: Cote, Henry)
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Line 300 \$	163,400	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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Line 400 \$	109,436	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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## For 1161 Snow Removal:

Line 100 \$	59,360	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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Line 200 \$	39,069	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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Line 300 \$	81,000	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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## For 1162 Town Engineer:

Line 100 \$	36,568	Vote 7-0 carried.
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Line 200 \$	2,600	Vote 7-0 carried.
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Line 300 \$	300	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1163 Public Works Capital Projects:

Line 400 \$	0	No vote
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## For 1165 Public Works Paving Projects:

Line 200 \$	0	No vote
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## For 1170 Interagencies:

Line 200 \$	1,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1171 Maine Municipal Association:

Line 200 \$	7,900	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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## For 1172 AVCOG:

Line 200 \$	8,581	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1173 Memorial Day:

Line 200 \$	1,500	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1174 Lisbon Emergency:

Line 200 \$	0	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
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## For 1175 Moxie Day:

Line 200 \$	2,500	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1176 Historical Society:

Line 200 \$	2,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
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## For 1180 Health Officer:

Line 100 \$	9,964	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	550	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1190 Community Service:

Line 100 \$	3,700	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	26,550	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	500	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1200 Transfer &amp; Recycling:

Line 100 \$	153,696	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	342,450	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	41,600	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 400 \$	27,595	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1220 Library Department:

Line 100 \$	122,114	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	6,980	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	36,765	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1230 Technology:

Line 100 \$	45,600	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	50,450	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 400 \$	20,000	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1250 Town Buildings:

Line 200 \$	119,034	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
Line 300 \$	58,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 400 \$	96,200	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1260 Conservation Commission:

Line 100 \$	175	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	250	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	150	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1291 Planning Board:

Line 100 \$	2,900	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	2,620	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	50	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1292 Board of Appeals:

Line 100 \$	950	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 200 \$	150	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 300 \$	50	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1310 Contingency:

Line 200 \$	3,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
Line 500 \$	7,000	Vote 7-0 carried.

## For 1320 Economic Development:

Line 100 \$	53,150	
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Mr. Eldridge said there was some stuff left out. We had a total of \$52,150, but we left out professional development and then mileage, so it's going to go up \$2,900. For some

reason it wasn't put in, \$3,000. Councilor Mason said what was left out. Mrs. Bradley said membership, like the membership to the Chamber, what happened is all the 100 lines got missed and it was just the salary line that got listed. But the Chamber, EDCM and MCDA memberships, mileage, and professional development, all of those were left out. So that should have been \$ 56,475 instead of \$53,150. It was \$3,325. One the second line we cut advertising & marketing and committee & event expense and we cut the postage and it should have been \$6,500 not \$4,450. Councilor Cote said this changes that whole budget. Councilor Henry said which would change the entire bottom line, which makes us more in a mess. Mr. Eldridge said it raises it by \$5,000. Mrs. Bradley said it was \$67,480 and you guys had me cut another \$4,000 out of that when we came the first time so its \$63,475. Actually, initially it was \$73,030 and we cut it down to \$63,475. Mrs. Lycette said what is the number for postage, its not \$450 or is it \$450? Mrs. Bradley said it is \$1,400; it was initially \$2,000 and then we had bumped it down to \$1,000. Cutting it to \$1,000, we calculated on three bulk saturation mailings in addition to regular mail. Mrs. Lycette said is it supposed to be \$1,000 instead of \$450 in that line. Mrs. Bradley said the total 200 line was supposed to be \$6,500 and that included advertising and marketing at \$2,200; we cut that from \$2,500 to \$2,200. Committee & event expense we started at \$2,000 and we bumped that down to \$1,500. Communications is 14 and then postage was \$2,000 and we bumped that down to \$1,400. Councilor Henry said in the year 2007-2008 we only entirely for this particular office \$ 42,241.43 and now we are asking to bring this in all of a sudden. I just don't understand it. I know she has to perform her job. Councilor Bowie said be careful with the 2007-2008 budget because we were without an Economic Developer Director for a period of time. Mr. Eldridge said three months. Councilor Bowie said so you had salaries you weren't paying during that time frame. Councilor Larochelle said what is the final number on Economic Development. Mr. Eldridge said \$6,500 for the 200 line and \$56,475 for the 100 line and \$450 for the 300 line totaling \$63,450; we have to make a \$5,525 adjustment somewhere. Councilor Larochelle said the difference from last year is a decrease of about \$6,400. Ms. Bradley said 69 to 63. Councilor Wells said that's not totally true. Councilor Bowie said here's my recommendation, that we don't make those changes and you find that money in the budget someplace. Mr. Eldridge said we can do that. Councilor Cote said I second that recommendation. Councilor Bowie said leave the numbers as they are and we will find it in the budget. Mr. Eldridge said I will leave these numbers in the budget and take it from someplace else. Councilor Bowie said we are going to vote on the numbers to be that way and you can go find the money so you can adjust or make transfers to go adjust those numbers later on after we approve the budget. Because otherwise we would have voted on all the other line items being at a different value. So take those out and find the money someplace else from other budget or whatever and make the transfers necessary to cover those specific things. Councilor Wells said how can he do that. Councilor Bowie said because he can come to us and ask us to make the transfer if he is going to end up over expended. Councilor Wells said oh, I see, okay. Councilor Bowie said which more than likely he will and so we will have to make the transfer or adjustment within the budget between one account to another.

Line 100 \$	53,150	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
Line 200 \$	4,450	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)
Line 300 \$	450	Vote 6-1 carried. (Against: Cote)

For 1360 Abatements:

Line 500 \$	8,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
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For 1370 Social Security:

Line 500 \$	215,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
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For 1380 Maine State Retirement:

Line 500 \$	53,000	Vote 7-0 carried.
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For 1420 County Tax:

Line 500 \$ 570,792      Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1440 Debt Service:

Line 500 \$ 298,345      Vote 7-0 carried.

For 1480 Recreation Department:

Line 100 \$ 115,786      Vote 7-0 carried.

Line 200 \$ 12,810      Vote 7-0 carried.

Line 300 \$ 13,275      Vote 7-0 carried.

Councilor Larochelle said the Police Department budget was actually voted down. Mrs. Lycette said the vote was 2-4-1 for Line 100 for \$994,562, which failed. You need to revote that 100 line in the Police Department.

Councilor Larochelle said we have to approve a number. Basically, we have to find out what Council wants to do, what their reasoning is for voting either way. I'm sure there are many different ones. This number here represented the idea of maintaining services the way they have been without increasing the budget at all. To me this represents the idea of us honoring and the idea of them taking a pay freeze and reducing their health benefits. So I guess what someone else's recommendation would be and why did we want to make the change I guess we have to listen to, to come up with a different number. Mr. Eldridge said those who opposed need to pipe up.

Councilor Crafts said what was the total amount for the two positions we were trying to getting rid of from. Mr. Eldridge said it was \$66,000, it's a crap shoot. Councilor Crafts said that's what I am recommending coming off that 100 line, \$66,000. Mr. Eldridge said if we don't get the grant and it doesn't get filled then what do we do, I guess, is my question as a manager. You said you weren't going to cut any positions and everybody's honored that, now we are singling out one department. Councilor Crafts said you know, you keep saying that everybody said that, I've never said that. Councilor Wells made that recommendation that night and she would like to put them in, sure, but not everybody agreed to that. The idea that Councilor Larochelle bring up, and I know you people got made at me the other night, you brought the budget, and if it was true, the town manager and the council was not going to cut any positions because we had an agreement with the Police Department, then why did you bring the budget with the positions cut? I don't understand this argument that we agreed to that agreement. If I agreed to it, I don't remember that. That's fine, if some of you haven't agreed to it then honor it, but I never agreed to that. I keep being put in the position that I agreed to that.

Councilor Bowie said the discussion that I remember is, and I think you were in favor of this Councilor Crafts, is that it was too much of a gamble to take positions out based on thinking we were going to get a grant, right, to kind a bet on the come, right, so to speak. I remember you making those statements. Councilor Crafts said well just remember this, for three budgets, since you've been here with me, I have tried to reduce the size of the Police Department, has that been my argument for three years. Councilor Bowie said yeah. Councilor Crafts said so that's my recommendation, you don't have to vote for it, is \$66,000.

Councilor Mason said I think I have a problem with this because there are so many grey areas in this department. We talked about cutting positions and being okay. Yes, we did reduce their increases. We were going to try for a grant and now we are not going to try for a grant. I understand there are a lot of other people out there, but our chance is just as good as someone else's. We did come in with a budget proposing that we were going to go for the grant and now we are not even going to try for the grant so that's my problem. There's a lot of grey area there. I am not trying to cut services, but I am trying to get a solid what is it; what do we want? I don't think we really know.

Councilor Wells said I don't think we have ever stated that cutting the positions was okay. It was cutting the positions in hopes of getting the grant that meant that we weren't going to lose positions that is the overall bottom line there. So yes, you are taking a gamble, but odds are that that gamble doesn't sound like something we want to be moving towards. I agree totally with what Councilor Larochelle said our entire number of employees in this town, not just the Police Department, town employee not counting the school all agreed to take a wage freeze, offered to change their medical insurance, and I don't believe we should be gambling those two jobs on a what if. I'm sorry Councilor Crafts, but you and I know that we are not going to agree on that, but we have had that same opinion for three years. Councilor Crafts said I am not talking about the grant, you are. Councilor Wells said as far as you are concerned just cut the positions.

Councilor Larochelle said the thing that I really get hung up on is that we have public hearings to hear the public; concerned citizens of Lisbon. At the public hearing, if we are there to listen to the people, I assume we are not wasting our time sitting out front presenting our budget, I don't believe I heard anybody say that they want to reduce services. As a matter of fact, there was more people than not, stacked, fielded, call it whatever you want, but those were the people who wanted to come out, other people didn't, stating the idea that they wanted to keep the services; the Fire Department, the Police Department, the School, services that we have. So if we are not going to listen to what the public hearings are then why do we even set them up? That's my opinion, yours could be different. Councilor Crafts said of the public hearings, every one that I've been to since I've been on the Town Council not very much public shows up, mostly town employees show up, but out on the street and everybody I talk to and all my friends and people that I talk to keep asking me, we need to shrink the size of the budget of the Police Department so that's what I am going on. I'm going on what the public tells me and what my friends tell me because when I go to the public hearings, there is not very much public off the street there. Councilor Larochelle said so we should deal with more public talk than public hearings. Councilor Henry said, well no. Councilor Larochelle said I go there for a reason, to listen to the people. Councilor Crafts said you can go there for whatever reason you want, but I feel that I am listening to the people on the street.

Councilor Henry said Councilor Larochelle it came out, when people came out, maybe people don't want to make a public face to what they want, but when they go behind the ballot they are voting for someone profaning he's going to cut them and you get him wining over Councilor Smith and supported, it's the people that are coming. Like I wasn't going to cut and I want it to remain the same too, but my daughter's were saying but mom it's a business and if that's what the people want then if you are a public servant then you better be voting what the people want. I am not returning. I won't return and I don't want to see it cut in the long run, personally. It's an emotional decision for me. But business wise, we just fired someone today from my business. It's like they weren't doing their job and now I have 20 applicants for the same job. 400 people showed up for four jobs at Time Warner. It's a difficult awful time. We saw BIW cut 67 jobs today. Jay is totally gone under with the papermaking and we are a green state. I don't understand it.

Councilor Larochelle said luckily we are able to maintain and keeps things level. We have no increase. You have to realize that there was \$700,000 reduced out of our budget this year. You talk, people want to reduce the budget, and we took \$700,000 out of our budget and still maintained services. If someone asked you if you were doing it, I mean, you can't; if you take the percentage out of a \$7,000,000 million dollar budget, that's a big percentage in one year.

Councilor Crafts said you are right and I agree with that, but you are missing my whole point. For three years I have tried to shrink the Police Budget; that's all my point is.

Councilor Cote said the only thing that I am going to say on this Councilor Bowie is when I ran for Council they told me what they wanted. They put me in here knowing that fact and I didn't hide if from anybody that I felt that the Police Department was too large and that I am going vote to cut two positions from the Police Department and that's my vote. If we can apply for a grant to replace

them, so be it. But if you people don't want to apply for the grant then that's your business, but the fact still remains is that I was put here and that's one of the things that I ran on that I would try and cut the Police and Fire budgets and I am going to continue to do so.

Councilor Larochelle said the purpose of cutting the budget is not to save money but strictly to reduce the Police force.

Councilor Cote said no, it's the bottom line. You see it's about \$59,000 over and those two positions would rectify that almost to nothing.

Mr. Eldridge said when we first started this budget process the goal of my office and department heads and you were that I would bring you in a budget with a zero increase and try to maintain as many jobs as we could. We brought you in a budget, some of you wanted to put things back in and cut other places, and we've done that. We've brought in a budget with no increase. Nothing changes. You still maintain all the level of services you have. With the economy down, if you don't, read the paper you can see what's going on, this is not the time to be cutting public safety. You are putting officers at risk if we cut back when they are responding. We have done as an administrator and as a department head team what you have asked. Next year, it's probably going to be a very different picture, but this year we have brought it in flat, we've held all our jobs, employees have pitched in; I think we need to go with this budget and get on with this and look at next year. Because next year if the economy keeps going the way it's going it's going to be tougher. Next year we are not going to have the health care areas to cut, we are not going to have the paving to cut. If the excise tax bill passes, we are going to be in an even tougher situation. For now, nobody loses their job even though everybody around us is losing jobs doesn't mean that Lisbon has to cut jobs. We have done I think a good job in bringing this in and everybody's has worked hard including Council. We need to let this budget go with this number and move forward. We have maintained all our level of service, our Fire, Police, Public Works, and everybody is busy.

Councilor Mason said I think there is something else that we have to consider is that I would hope the School Department next year would consider putting a freeze. I know we beat that dead horse, but you know we have got people that are going to have to lose jobs here, does that mean they are still going to get increases in the School Department next year, we don't know, but we can't fix that this year. I am just really torn. I am very torn here because we did say that we didn't want to cut jobs, but I've heard say that there are jobs that could be cut back in the Police Department that maybe things aren't quite as productive in some of the positions that there are there. I've been told that. I don't know. It's a difficult choice.

Councilor Crafts said I did ask Chief Brooks and he said he could make the schedule work so that backup would be out there on the street for the Police Officers by adjusting the schedule if we didn't get them two positions. So I just want to make that point.

Councilor Larochelle said I truly believe as the whole budget goes like a teeter-totter that's there is no way you can actually take out two Police Officers and take out the overtime too, because the two don't work. You have to have people on the streets so either you have got to have more overtime or you can't cut both, do you know what I mean. You can't cut both ends I don't believe, you know what I mean. Again, there is just a lot more to that equation than just a number I believe.

**VOTE (2009-86B)** Councilor Crafts, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to cut the 100 line in the Police \$66,000. Councilor Mason said I would go with one, not two. **Vote 3-3-1 failed.** (Against: Wells, Larochelle, Henry) (Abstained: Bowie)

Mr. Eldridge said one of the things we need to think about here is that we are arguing over two positions, we have come in with a flat budget, I know you probably know this but here we are June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we haven't got a budget done yet. You have got 66 employees who are, I am going to tell you that the morale is at the worst it's ever been in every department here. Because one, we have been

playing with the numbers, coming back and forth with cutting jobs, keeping jobs, trying to find a way to make it work, which is our job, but if we don't have to cut jobs, I do not understand why we are willing to cut jobs. We have done the work. We have brought it in flat. Taxes will not go up. We have found a way to do it. I think we need to move on that. I we are confronted with the same problem next year with less revenue we won't have any options, but this year at least we have an option.

Councilor Crafts said I am not sure if you missed what I said, but I will say it for the fourth time: my position is about cutting he size so do you understand where I am coming from. Mr. Eldridge said I understand what you are asking Councilor Crafts, but I don't understand why you think we need to cut the size. You have been cutting the size of your police force, if I am not mistaken, you are down two to three officers from where you three or four years ago. So you have been diminishing the size. How many positions are you down Chief Brooks from where you were. Chief Brooks said we cut one last year. Mr. Eldridge said what did you do prior to that. Chief Brooks said we were at 16 for a few years. Councilor Crafts said that right Mr. Eldridge, that's one position. It's not three or four. I absolutely believe 100% that the public is overwhelming behind me so since they are the taxpayers and I got elected by them I represent them, not everybody is going to agree with me, but the majority of the taxpayers agrees with me so that's my position. Stop brining it back; we are balancing the budget and we don't need to lay anybody off. That's not my argument. That's your argument.

Councilor Wells said but he is allowed that argument just like you are allowed yours. Councilor Crafts said but he keeps coming back to me. I don't understand. Mr. Eldridge said I am talking to the Council as a whole. Councilor Crafts said didn't you just say that you didn't understand me. Mr. Eldridge said I don't understand why anybody would want to cut positions when you don't have to because you have maintained the level of service you have had for x number of years and you brought in a budget you have that's flat with no increase to the people of Lisbon. You have maintained their public safety levels and I have heard from a lot of people, I have a letter here that states they want to maintain the level of service of their Police Department. It's somebody who participated in the neighborhood watch training. If you have every single one of them in here, they would be telling you the same thing.

Councilor Wells said you know Councilor Crafts, you say that and you say that your constituents are the ones who are telling you to cut and yet I can tell you that every single person I talk to says the opposite. Councilor Crafts said then you have different constituents. Councilor Wells said I do Councilor Crafts, I do, but there are 9,000 people in this town. Councilor Crafts said so don't vote for it. Councilor Wells said that's right, so we are going to sit here an argue until we come up with a number we all agree on. Councilor Henry said what would Councilor Mason be willing to cut? Councilor Mason said one position. Councilor Henry said which is how much money. Councilor Crafts said half of \$66,000 or \$33,000. Councilor Mason said that's all because of what I've been told; there are positions that could be consolidated and positions that could be more productive.

Councilor Larochelle said you do realize that the way the force works is that the person on the bottom comes out; it's not people in between, right. Councilor Mason said well, that's not necessarily so is it? Councilor Larochelle said with the union it isn't the high man on the poll that goes away; it's actually usually the low person on the poll. Councilor Bowie said it depends upon who they target. Councilor Mason said I don't want to see anybody lose their job, but we have to keep our personal feelings out of this and we have to look at the Town of Lisbon as a business. That's said and nobody wants to lose their job, but we are in tough times folks, very tough times.

Mr. Eldridge said we have cut seven hundred thousand dollars out of our budget and I heard at the meeting last time that the School Budget cut theirs by one hundred and twenty dollars from a fifteen million dollar budget. Let's talk about the percentages here.

Councilor Crafts said you saw my vote last time and I just want you to know the statistics on Maine. Maine is fourth from the top of the states with the smallest classroom size in the United States. That's great, the smaller the better, but can poor Maine afford to have almost the smallest classroom size in the whole United States. I don't think so. I think there is money in that budget. That's why I voted last week to cut it a little bit. Everybody else, and Councilor Henry sat right here, and commended Mr. Ricker, but why didn't the teachers do the same thing that this gentleman is doing. Councilor Cote said we are not dealing with the school budget. Councilor Crafts said last year we raised taxes so don't forget last year we raised taxes. We weren't going to raise taxes last year, remember? In the end, we caved. Councilor Bowie said we caved based upon what we heard from the public. Councilor Cote said I can assure you that in November the public will be speaking again. The public is not going to tolerate spending like this forever. They are going to start rebelling and when they start rebelling, we are going to have a lot bigger issues than we have here tonight.

Councilor Crafts said I am also going to tell you in Augusta, I just left there that's why I was late, they are already talking that we are going to be called back in the end of September for a supplemental budget on the one we just passed three days ago because there isn't enough money, revenues are still tanking. So what does that mean? You have seen every time we don't have any money, we take it from the towns. \$140 million this time, and how much more in September and how much more in January when we do a second supplemental? We are talking multiple supplemental budgets that a lot of people are saying, so keep that in mind. That's all I got to say.

Councilor Wells said we need another proposal because right now we are at a standstill. Councilor Bowie said I think right now the Council is doing a dissatisfactory service to their town employees. Because I think we or the Town Manager and his staff went forward to ask for them to give in on some stuff; the salary freeze, insurance change, and they stepped up to the plate and did that. In all honestly I believe it was done because they were trying to save positions. I think you have a budget that saves those positions and what the town employees were led to believe. Now we are going back on that.

Councilor Crafts said what I understood, and correct me Mr. Eldridge I don't want to speak out of line, that you never did agree to not cut positions. Mr. Eldridge said I told employees with the change in health insurance and the wage freeze that that would help not cut as many positions. Councilor Crafts said and it did, right? Mr. Eldridge said oh, it did Councilor Crafts. Councilor Crafts said but did you say that you wouldn't cut any positions, because you came in with a budget. Mr. Eldridge said I did not guarantee I said that I would not have to cut positions. Councilor Crafts said I am just trying to clarify what Councilor Larochelle and Bowie are sticking to on this whole thing. And I know it's not true, because you came in with a budget, proposed a budget with positions cut. So I don't think you would say that and then turn around and do that.

Mr. Eldridge said we had initially looked at cutting anywhere from ten to fifteen positions with just under a million dollars shortfall in revenue.

Councilor Bowie said so let's go do that? I mean, I've said this a hundred times. Go back to the first budget, right? Don't do pick and choose here. Right, we are trying to do this in a cohesive manner. If there is opportunity to save in one position and we've been presented that there is opportunity to save in a bunch of other positions, why don't we go cut them all, right? Then everybody feels the pain and that's where we are at, and then, right but right now you are trying to talk it out of both sides.

Councilor Henry said he isn't. He has stuck to what he has meant. Councilor Crafts said I have only been talking about reducing the size of the police force for three years. You guys keep trying to change my story. No, no, Councilor Bowie.

Councilor Bowie said okay, but you were just voted down, okay. So now there needs to be a new story. All I'm saying is I still think that you are doing a dissatisfaction to the employees that serve you and the Town of Lisbon. Councilor Cote said I think if you don't you are doing a dissatisfaction to the taxpayer. Councilor Bowie said I think we have kept the tax rate flat so I think that's a good thing for the taxpayers. Councilor Crafts said you didn't last year Councilor Bowie. Councilor Bowie said one year in six years. Councilor Crafts said in the worst year since the 1929 depression that we have had economically, the year we decide to raise taxes. I voted against the budget.

Councilor Bowie said but we don't have a crystal ball, right? You could say that you shouldn't have lowered it the year before that. There is no change.

Councilor Crafts said I did say last year that hard times were coming, it would not be the year to raise taxes, but you raised them anyways. People need a break. Councilor Wells said we need a motion. Councilor Bowie said we need a recommendation.

Councilor Henry said I just don't think there is a lot of fairness all through this. I mean, I was surprised that I was voting. I thought I was voting the opposite way to keep his hours for forty. Councilor Wells said his hours are forty. Councilor Larochelle said you voted to keep his hours forty. Councilor Bowie said it was the Assessor. Councilor Larochelle said the forty hours were for Mike (the Code Enforcement Officer). Councilor Henry said oh, so they are cutting a position there. Councilor Wells said right, the part-timers gone. Councilor Henry said so there is a position we have already cut. Councilor Cote said our proposal is that we cut two positions in the police force. Councilor Larochelle said Councilor Crafts already made that proposal. Councilor Bowie said we already voted on it and it was a no vote. Councilor Cote said what I believe, is that's what the taxpayers of our community want.

Councilor Henry said you know what I was thinking is that Councilor Mason went for half, just one position and maybe the reorganization, Chief Brooks finds a way. I just don't know. I heard from a lot of people that a lot of people in that department are fully retired and receiving MMA benefits and then of course you have kept their salary position. I don't know if that's true. I don't even know it would be legal to cut funds that way.

Councilor Larochelle said I had someone the other day say why we have full time parks; you know big cities don't have park's people that run full year around parks; we have full year round parks and why do we have that. This all the way through, people say you really don't need a library open on Saturday s, you know. You go through the budget every line has that same story. I mean, so I totally agree when it comes to cutting jobs I say give them back their wage, give them back their insurance, and let's just cut the total salary they are looking at. It ends up being the same in dollars.

Councilor Henry said if he goes after the grant and he gets it, you add a position, right?

Councilor Larochelle said if I can keep my expenses even and keep my services and that's what we are trying to do this year, absolutely, that the goal. Councilor Crafts said you wouldn't cut your expenses on your insurance. Councilor Larochelle said no, I am just saying at the end of the year if I can keep just as many things equally as well and I can keep my budget even, I'd do it. I don't actually cut services.

Councilor Crafts said but he cut \$700,000 out of the first budget you are talking about. Councilor Larochelle said \$700,000 in expenses, but we didn't reduce services. Councilor Crafts said out of the first budget. Councilor Larochelle said no, I'm talking about the one you are looking at right now. Councilor Crafts said oh, I thought you were talking about Councilor Bowie's suggestion; let's just go back to his first budget.

Councilor Bowie said we need to do something here.

Councilor Mason said is there a way of reshuffling funds anywhere. Councilor Bowie said as far as. Councilor Mason said magic some how. Councilor Bowie said I guess I am not sure what you are trying to get here. Councilor Mason said I'm not sure either. Councilor Bowie said are you trying to reshuffle funds so we don't have to cut or what. Mr. Eldridge said we've shuffled funds. Councilor Crafts said we've shuffled to death.

Councilor Larochelle said I make a motion that we revote on the budget as listed on the item to see where it falls again and then we can beat this all night long so to bring back up that line. Councilor Wells said \$994,562. Councilor Larochelle said what she said.

**VOTE (2009-86C)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to revote on the Police Department 100 line for \$994,562.

Councilor Crafts said I didn't catch that. Councilor Larochelle said I made a recommendation and you don't have to vote for it. That's fair, right? Councilor Crafts said this is a democracy. Councilor Bowie said we have a motion for \$994,562. All those in favor, opposed.

**Vote 2-4-1 failed. (Against: Cote, Henry, Crafts, & Mason) (Abstained: Bowie).**

Councilor Wells said okay, come up with something else guys. Councilor Crafts said we did. Councilor Bowie said you didn't come up with anything that passes yet. You have to come up with something that passes or you are going to sit here all night.

Councilor Mason said I am going to make a motion that we cut one per person. Councilor Crafts said are you telling me Councilor Bowie that I have to change. Councilor Bowie said no, somebody needs to give in or somebody needs to make an adjustment.

Mr. Eldridge said can I just ask a question. Why are we cutting a position just to cut a position or why are we cutting two positions just to cut positions. Councilor Mason said we talked about a grant and we are not even applying for the grant now. Why is that? Mr. Eldridge said we have applied for the grant, but the chances of it; there were eight billion dollars in requests for a one billion dollar funding. Councilor Mason said do you see the grey areas here, we were we weren't we are we aren't. Mr. Eldridge said the application is already in and that hasn't changed. Councilor Cote said but you said you couldn't apply for it if you didn't cut the positions. Councilor Mason said that's what I thought. Mr. Eldridge said if you don't cut the position, okay, then the application becomes null and void because you have to have that position on the block. It has to be considered being cut. Councilor Cote said let's cut it and apply for the grant. Mr. Eldridge said but if you don't get the grant, then you lose two positions. Councilor Cote said we didn't have a problem gambling with the Assessors Office and taking that to 30 hours and taking a part-time position out. Mr. Eldridge said we didn't have to gamble there. Councilor Cote said no we just did it. Well, why don't we just do this? Mr. Eldridge said because it's a change in service.

Councilor Larochelle said we actually had three police officers retire or actually, I mean, that would be a different scenario than the idea of rehiring. Councilor Cote if you have a person in the Assessor's Office for 30 hours as opposed to 40 hours, it's going to change the service regardless of what anybody thinks. When Mike's out on the street doing his job, hopefully they will take the hand cuffs off him and let him do his job. You are going to have times when the Assessor is not going to be there, there will be nobody in the office. Councilor Crafts said did we put a freeze on anybody. Councilor Bowie said I was going to recommend after we passed the budget. Mr. Eldridge said we had recommended earlier. Councilor Bowie said that we would not replace. Mr. Eldridge said that if anybody was to leave their job, short of everybody who is working for the Town of Lisbon who is looking for another job, if somebody leaves then we would not replace them unless it was a key position, such as the Finance Director, Town Manager, Economic Developer, some of those key positions, but if we could find a way not to have to fill that position then we would not fill that position. That was one of the things that we proposed in adopting this budget.

Councilor Crafts said is that what we are agreeing to because I don't think we ever really. Mr. Eldridge said you never agreed to it, no I'm just saying we made that recommendation. Councilor Bowie said I am going to recommend that as a part of our final vote on that.

Councilor Crafts said Councilor Cote probably won't, but I might go with Councilor Mason's suggestion one position and then freeze any positions. It's not what I really want to do, but we need to. Councilor Henry said move on. Mr. Eldridge said you need to complete this budget. You know that next year is not going to be any easier for us. Let's get through this budget and worry after were done about what's going to happen next year. These are the facts we have in front of us. We can provide the same level of service we had been providing and we can do it with no tax increase.

Councilor Crafts said well I can just say that I have been on this Councilor for the third budget. Every budget I've tried to cut the size of the Police, this is the first time I have had a chance to cut the size of the Police, and you are telling, asking me not to. Mr. Eldridge said yes I am. Councilor Crafts said no. Mr. Eldridge said if we don't have to lay people off, I don't want people to lose jobs because in one way we are going to pay for it. Even if you lay someone off we are going to be paying something, unemployment. I would rather have that person on the street doing public safety and taking care of business here in Lisbon. This Council should be able to hold their head pretty darn high that you have cut \$700,000 dollars out of your budget and you haven't laid anybody off. Councilor Cote said except for the part-timer in the Assessing Office. Mr. Eldridge said for \$7,000 Councilor Cote, come on. Councilor Cote said you don't have to make up stories. The figures are there. You took a position out. Don't sit there and lie about it and say that you didn't. That's a dam bold face lie Mr. Eldridge. Mr. Eldridge said that's a \$7,000 position and we are not going to get into personnel and what's going on in the Assessing Office Councilor Cote. That's not appropriate.

Councilor Cote said well, I fee we can cut two positions in the Police Department and we can still function very well in this community Mr. Eldridge. Councilor Wells said okay. Councilor Bowie said alright alright. I don't want anybody to get hostile here, but we have already voted on removing \$66,000, it didn't pass. We tried going back to the original budget that we have, that hasn't passed. Council needs to come up with some option in order to get through this, right. Council has to come to an agreement. Your constituents put you in here to do something and you guys have to come to an agreement and we can agree to disagree all night long, but you got to pass a budget so that you can get moving.

Councilor Crafts said it very clear if Councilor Mason would agree to cut both positions we could go home. Councilor Mason said no, I'm a Crafts too remember. Councilor Crafts said don't I know. Councilor Mason said and I a women at that, so. Councilor Crafts said don't I know. Councilor Wells said okay we need a proposal.

Councilor Mason said can we table the Police Department budget and come back to it. It has to be voted on it tonight, right. Mr. Eldridge said you have everything else voted. Councilor Larochelle said it's not going to change today or tomorrow. Councilor Wells said this argument isn't going to change tomorrow.

Councilor Wells said am I also correct in also saying that if we were to make a cut of one position at this point that our newest position on the Police Force just graduating from the Police Academy and if I remember correctly from a couple of years ago that meant that we just spend \$15,000 on this person. Councilor Bowie said yes, but I mean, we are not cutting a specific position. You are cutting a dollar value. It is entirely up to the Town Manager and the Police Chief to figure out what position that is for that value, right. Councilor Wells said the union doesn't say that the lowest man goes. Councilor Bowie said if they elect to go in the union. The Police Chief could decide to retire, right. You wouldn't have to worry about that. I mean, I'm not suggesting that, but I mean there is other positions out there that could be impacted by this. Its not to say that's it's a Patrol Officer. So

you may not get what you are thinking about. Councilor Cote said cut this \$56,000 and the bottom line will be a bit closer.

Councilor Larochelle said I hate to say this but the only things that the arguments are valid, I can see what you are saying, but I didn't take this position to be a Department Head, nor when the Town manager came up did we even want to take the role of being the Town Manager or Department Head. My job here tonight isn't and I appreciate very much you saying you want to keep bodies, that's not our job to run a Department and determine how its run. Our Department, let me finish I gave you plenty of time, is the idea to determine what is the amount of money that we are allowed in the budget. You know we could actually cut that budget by \$100,000 and the Chief could still keep all those people. Councilor Cote said that's up to him.

Councilor Larochelle said why should we, you know Mr. Beal, you know I don't think you need six drivers, you have six trucks go with five and swap out mid way through the day. Mr. Beal said I've got seven and I only have six people now. Councilor Larochelle said I know, but I'm just saying though that our people voted us to be Department Heads.

Councilor Crafts said you missed my point; the motion was to cut the bottom line \$66,000. Councilor Larochelle said no, you clearly said the dollar value means nothing, its two bodies. You stated that right across, don't back up, you can't back up. Councilor Crafts said my argument always has been to shrink the size of the Police Department and how do you shrink it, there is only one way money. Councilor Larochelle said you stated earlier that the dollar factor wasn't as big a deal as the two people. I mean going back to this, I mean; it's the idea that I'm not going to tell a department who to cut and how they need to do it. We just need to vote on a dollar factor. Councilor Crafts said that was my motion.

Councilor Mason said so can we do that, vote on a dollar factor. Councilor Bowie said right now, you are voting on the 100 account so you are voting on salaries, Council, so you are in fact voting on positions. You are voting on positions whether you like it or not. You guys are made the heck, if you would have and I am not opposed to necessarily redoing the whole Police Department budget and saying cut the total value. I don't know if you can get to a number there that makes sense, but you know, I mean if you look at any of the other lines in the Police Department you don't have that kind of money to cut whether its \$66,000 or whether its your \$33,000. You know, you don't really have any place to go take any of that money. Councilor Wells said why is it Councilor Bowie then they couldn't take the whole budget, which is currently \$1,139,910 and subtract Councilor Mason's \$33,000 and vote on it as a single budget and leave it up to them to figure out.

Councilor Larochelle said we actually just did that in the Economic Development Director's budget. Councilor Mason said yes we did. Councilor Wells said so why couldn't you just take that amount. Councilor Henry said what would be that bottom line. Councilor Wells said \$1,106,910. Councilor Bowie said so you are saying take the total value. Councilor Wells said of his budget, which equals, I have to add the \$33,000 back in, \$1,139,910. I took our Councilor Mason's \$33,000, which comes to \$1,106,910. Councilor Bowie said my only point there is if you look at the numbers on the board the only place you can do it is potentially in, if you don't want to talk positions, is in the 200 and 300. Councilor Wells said no, I am saying as a whole. Councilor Bowie said I understand that, but the only place to go back and take that. Michelle Turmelle said you can't do that. Councilor Henry said you have to do line by line. Councilor Wells said yes we can, we can vote on it that way. Mrs. Turmelle said the Ethics Panel said no. Councilor Wells said no, the Ethics Panel said Councilor Bowie can't vote. Mrs. Turmelle said on the salary line and if you don't. Councilor Bowie said what it means is that I would have to abstain from the entire vote. Mrs. Turmelle said that's right. Councilor Bowie said don't worry, I'll do that, don't you worry okay.

Councilor Mason said I am going to make a motion that we go with #1,106,910 for the total budget for the Police Department. Councilor Cote said does that eliminate a position. Councilor Mason said one. Councilor Bowie said well, it's not cutting any position it's just cutting \$33,000 off the

bottom line. Mr. Eldridge said what is the dollar amount you are proposing? Councilor Mason said \$1,106,910. Councilor Wells said there is no second. Councilor Bowie said I have a motion. Councilor Larochelle said now it's my understanding is that you are allowing the department to run it any way it wants to. Councilor Mason said, right. Councilor Larochelle said if you can hire five more people within that dollar frame, you have no problem with that. Councilor Mason said as Councilor Crafts stated I have had a lot of people confront me and say the department is so huge. As I said before and I am not going to go back on what I said before, but we have to represent the voter. We are trying to do that with what we've got and with what we are working with. Like we said its sad that people lose jobs, but that's just the way it is. Well, maybe this way nobody will lose a job. I just think we need to cut the budget. The grant is kind of a crap shoot as we said before. I don't know. The whole thing is very confusing, so.

Councilor Cote said you know what, when it was originally proposed it wasn't a crap shoot. It was almost a certain thing and then as it went it got more of a crap shoot until, you know, it's like when you want to trade your car by the time you trade it its no good at all. Councilor Larochelle said are you saying us sales guys are bad people. Mr. Eldridge said three weeks ago we heard from the funding source on this particular grant that we just go the numbers that the one billion dollar funding has eight billion dollars in requests. That just came in three weeks ago. Both Chief Brooks and I got copied on that so that is where the little bit of the leeriness comes from.

Councilor Bowie said I have a motion, but I don't have a second. Councilor Henry said I would like to know from our attorney if we can even do that.

Councilor Bowie said Council you can vote on anything the way you want to do it there, right. The Ethics Committee recommended we vote on a line item level so that we did not impede anything to do with abstentions that were required. So what I am telling you that I will do is if you are going to vote on this total bottom line, I am going to abstain from the vote. I am not going to be part of the vote so that it won't look like I'm voting on anybody's salary, right. Even though there are no increases. So I don't think you have broken anything because by charter in all actuality if you read the charter the only thing you have to do is vote on the total bottom line. Councilor Wells said right. Councilor Bowie said that's all you've got to do by charter. You don't have to go through all this, right, but you've done it in year's past and it was recommended based upon the Ethics Committee review of that so that you didn't get into trouble with people who may need to abstain. So you can go forward with this motion and make a vote on it if that's what Council wishes to do.

Councilor Cote said the bottom line is that we are over by \$59,000 right now. Councilor Wells said we are not over. Councilor Bowie said you are not over, right, because it deals with your overlay and how your tax rate is set; there is a \$188,000 you told us, right. Mr. Eldridge said yep. Councilor Bowie said that is there that is what's considered a buffer, okay, so the fact that you're \$59,000 off right now slightly over, right, being 100% completely flat, it's covered in your overlay. Your overlay instead of it being \$188,000 will be \$59,000 less.

Councilor Larochelle said Mr. Eldridge, if we take \$66,000 out of this budget, okay, will any taxpayers be effected at all. Would their taxes go down at all? Mr. Eldridge said no. Councilor Larochelle said their tax bill will be the same thing it was last year. Mr. Eldridge said it will not change. Councilor Larochelle said it's not going to go down. The taxpayer is not going to get a bill and say my tax bill went down because you took away two Police Officers. That's what I believe by looking at this.

Councilor Crafts said I realize that we have been trying to come in flat with no tax increase this year, but it still doesn't trump my argument. Councilor Larochelle said I realize, but I'm saying don't go by the dollar factor or by the people complaining about taxes because taking the dollars away is not going to effect anybody's tax bill. We are talking about a very small percentage on a very large budget.

Councilor Wells said and you have to ask why are we cutting public safety at this time when it's not going to affect the bottom line. In a time when everything out there tells you not to cut public safety including our State Troopers in Augusta are increasing their numbers.

Councilor Crafts said that's because they were cut in the past. Councilor Wells said it still says Councilor Crafts that they are increasing them. Councilor Crafts said I will quote you Councilor Well, I am not going to change your mind and you are not going to change mine. Councilor Wells said I know, but do you know what we've got four people here who have got to make a decision here Councilor Crafts because you know where yours and my vote is. So we have four people who have to make a decision. We are still sitting here fighting over one line item. Nobody's getting anywhere to making a proposal to compromise and we have to compromise to finish this.

Councilor Crafts said I haven't heard any compromises from you guys. Councilor Larochelle said we already have, we took \$700,000 out of this year's budget. Councilor Wells said so there. Councilor Larochelle said we have been beating this thing to death for three months. Councilor Crafts said I'm talking about this issue. Councilor Larochelle said I just think why would you actually cut public safety if it's not going to affect the tax bill of anybody. That's the bottom line. I mean, if you told me my tax bill was going to go down a \$100, I am just not going to see a Police Office go by, I'm going to wait ten minutes instead of five, I probably think that that \$100 maybe worthwhile, but. Councilor Crafts said so you are saying that \$66,000 doesn't really matter, its only \$66,000. Councilor Larochelle said the government probably spends that in one year in fuel going back and forth.

Councilor Cote said you tell the tax payer sitting home trying to pay their tax bill that \$66,000 don't matter and see what they say or think about it. Councilor Larochelle so go back and tell them that the \$180,000 that all the employees gave up doesn't mean anything. Councilor Cote said we are not an employment agency buddy, sorry. Councilor Larochelle no, but we are a public service that actually keeps public safety in place, right. We balanced our budget. Councilor Wells said we met the goal, we did.

Councilor Cote said everybody is cutting. Councilor Larochelle said one meeting at the school, I thought it was very legit, one person asked to the School Board the idea that it was a \$1,000 different in a \$14 million dollar budget and the answer was that's a \$1,000 less and a \$1,000 is a \$1,000, okay. We have actually cut several hundred thousand dollars out of the budget, I mean. It's one of those things where everybody is cutting and the School has done a great job this year cutting. The town has done a great job cutting and we actually have a zero increase.

Councilor Crafts said I commend that. Councilor Larochelle said to me we ought to be celebrating, even doing high fives instead of beating to death about this final figure. Councilor Cote said how much did we go up last year though. Did we replace that fund yet? Councilor Larochelle said was it because of the Police Department that it went up last year. Councilor Cote said that was part of it. Councilor Larochelle said I think we had a lot of other issues that happened last year. Councilor Cote said everybody contributes to the budget. Councilor Larochelle said I think the cost of fuel actually increased it, heating fuel, and there were a lot of things that came into, that factor.

Councilor Bowie said we are not getting any place Council. Councilor Henry said I want to remind you that they did reduce their budget by \$207,360 so there was a reduction, right. In the Police Department, that's pretty good. Councilor Wells said yes it is. Councilor Larochelle said I want to make a motion that we go back to the original budget and that we do this all night long until we get tired. Mr. Eldridge could you go back to that line so we can get that number again and I will make another motion. Councilor Wells said their overall budget between last years and this year, you are right Councilor Henry, is down \$207,360. So that's a huge amount of money.

**VOTE (2009-86D)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved \$994,562 honoring what the people have done in the town as far as the wage freezes and cuts, looking at the idea that they did drop their budget by \$200,000; I mean it isn't like we increased it. **Order passed - Vote 4-2-1. (Against: Cote & Crafts) (Abstained: Bowie)**

Councilor Mason said because they cut it that much I'll voted for it. Councilor Henry said I hope Chief Brooks is actively looking for any grant money he can.

**VOTE (2009-86E)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adopt the Municipal Budget resolution for fiscal year 2009-2010 totaling \$6,745,945 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LISBON AS FOLLOWS:

That the Municipal Budget for the Town of Lisbon for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010 be and hereby is adopted with a total expenditure of \$6,745,945 balance with a total of \$2,764,368 in estimated revenue. A summary of appropriations is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A. A summary of estimated revenue is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B.

**Order passed - Vote 5-2.**

## ADJOURNMENT

**VOTE (2009-87)** Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Wells moved to adjourn at 9:37 PM. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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