



**TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2008**

Fern Larochele, Jr., At Large 2010
Charles Smith, At Large 2008
Michael Bowie, At Large 2009
Gina Mason, District 1 2010
Janet Henry, District 1 2009
Dale Crafts, District 2 2010
Norma Wells, District 2 2009

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. The Chairman, Norma Wells, 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, Smith, Bowie, Mason, Crafts, Henry, and Larochele. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; David Brooks, Police Chief; Richard Main, Budget Advisory Board Chairman; Shannon Welsh, Superintendent of Schools; Prudence Grant, School Committee Chairman; Traci Austin, Deborah Danuski, Janice Chizmar-Comber, and Faye Ingersoll, School Committee Members; and approximately 60 citizens in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PAWNBROKER LICENSE FOR JIMI'S TRADING CENTERS

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT FOR
CASA MIA, INC. D/B/A GRAZIANO'S RESTAURANT

The Chairman opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments. The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2008-46) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to adopt the Minutes for March 4, 10, 11, 18, and April 1. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

PAWNBROKER LICENSE FOR JIMI'S TRADING CENTERS.

VOTE (2008-47) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to approve the Pawnbroker License for Jimi's Trading Centers. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION
& SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT
FOR CASA MIA, INC. D/B/A GRAZIANO'S RESTAURANT

VOTE (2008-48) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to approve the Special Entertainment Permit and Liquor License for Casa Mia, Inc. d/b/a Graziano's Restaurant. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

RENEWAL VICTUALER'S LICENSES

VOTE (2008-49) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to approve renewal Victualer's Licenses for the following:

Big Apple
Canton Pearl
Casa Mia, Inc. d/b/a Graziano's Restaurant
Food City
Lisbon Dunkin Donuts
Lisbon Falls Mart, Inc. (Getty)
Nino Corp. d/b/a Lisbon Getty
Lisbon House of Pizza
Miller's Variety
Sam's Italian
Subway
X-tra Mart

Order passed - Vote 7-0.

PROCESSING ABSENTEE BALLOTS BEFORE THE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

VOTE (2008-50) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to approve processing the State June Primary absentee ballots on the day immediately prior to Election Day at the Town Hall at 10AM. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Item taken out of order

B. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Ricker pointed out that revenues were down a bit. Lisbon's two largest revenue sources come from state revenue sharing and vehicle excise tax. She said traditionally Lisbon collects 33% of its vehicle excise tax in the last three months of the year. She mentioned at a recent workshop the Lewiston City Administrator predicted that excise tax collections would be flat if not decreased in the future because of the current economic situation.

Ms. Ricker said she researched the question asked last month about park fees and discovered them in the miscellaneous line. They are under park fee line now. These fees come in during July, August, and September.

Ms. Ricker said on the expenditure side that things were pretty close to the same as last month. She presented a sheet detailing accounts with potential surpluses and shortfalls that the Council could use for transfers. Councilor Wells said the Budget Advisory Board must review the transfer list first before processing and asked Mr. Eldridge to schedule this meeting.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS

A. SCHOOL BUDGET

Dr. Welsh presented the school's 5% reduction budget (see blue packet attached). She said this 3% decrease from the current 2007-2008 budget totals \$14,516,333. After running the numbers again, she said, there is still a decrease in State Funding of \$514,259. The increase in local funding would be \$36,324. She said, in addition to the \$500,024 cuts mentioned last week, the specifics of what the additional \$263,467 cuts would look like are as follows:

- Cut One 6th Grade Position At The Middle School
- Cut One K-12 Music Position
- Cut One 4th Grade Teacher Position
- Cut One Kindergarten Ed Tech Position
- Cut One LHS Ed Tech III Position For In-School Suspension
- Cut One LHS Art Position
- Reduction Of Games In Co-Curricular
- Cut One Ed Tech At The Middle School

Dr. Welsh said the golden rod paper in the packet lists all the combined reductions that would occur to get to the \$763,491 decrease or to meet the 5% reduction the Council requested. She presented the warrant articles for reference. The last pages of this document contains the ABC report or supporting documentation for each of the required warrant articles, which now comply with the new consolidation law.

Dr. Welsh said she also prepared warrant articles and supporting documents for the School's 3.4% reduction budget (see pink packet attached). She said a 1.3% decrease from the current 2007-2008 budget totals \$14,779,800. The decrease in State Funding would be \$514,259. The increase in local funding would be \$299,791. She said the specifics of what the \$500,024 cuts mentioned last week looked like were as follows:

- Anthem BC/BS Insurance Decrease To 4% (Budgeted 10%)
- Decreased Professional Service Funds
- Cut Curriculum Coordinator To Part Time
- Reduce Curriculum Funds
- Keep Existing Modularity Instead Of Replacing Them
- Cut Three Assistant Coaching Positions
- Reduce Academic And Other Clubs
- Reduce Technology Funds
- Cut Summer Intern
- Reduce Field And Grounds Maintenance
- Implement Conservation Efforts
- Increase Cost Of K-8 Lunch Program To \$2.00
- Reduce Director And Secretarial Position To 4 Days A Week
- Reduce Operations Budget For Fields And Grounds
- Eliminate Purchasing Walk-Behind Floor Scrubber
- Cut One School Resource Officer (SRO) Position
- Cut One Professional Day For Teachers
- Cut Two Kindergarten Ed Tech Positions
- Eliminate Elementary Foreign Language Program
- Eliminate Hockey Program
- Cut One Ed Tech At LHS

Councilor Wells said she was sure this was not an easy task and she thanked the School Committee and Dr. Welsh for all of their hard work. She pointed out that the Council must present a fiscally responsible budget to the voters. One of the hardest things the Council must do, she said, is to figure out how to do that without a huge increase in taxes. She said the School Committee did an admirable job this year when they presented the Council with their first budget; however, the State decided to take an additional \$514,259 away from their State subsidy. This made it difficult to figure

out how to manage this decrease along with increased heating, electricity, food, and gas prices. She added that the Council had to consider all of this as they looked at the entire budget, including both the School and Town side. She said some taxpayers tell her they can absorb the increase and then others say, "Please don't give me a tax increase." The Council must strike a balance and at this point, the projected 5% decrease or the \$763,491 cut still means residents will see a 1.5 mil increase in taxes that represents \$150 per \$100,000 worth of valuation on a home. She anticipated heating oil companies might increase costs to the point where heating our homes might double what it was two years ago and predicted it might cost everyone twice as much to put gas in their cars and food on the table, adding that the Council is looking for a balance of the entire process. She concluded that the Council wanted to look at two different proposals tonight from the school.

Councilor Bowie suggested the School Committee reduce the number of professional days to the five required to help preserve positions. There were eight budgeted. Each professional day costs about \$35,000. Dr. Welsh said one professional day was reduced, but what the School Committee is striving to do is to keep the time needed for staff to work on curriculum materials and gain the training needed to help improve literacy and other work that is required. Last year the State again changed Maine's Learning Results significantly in Math, Science, and English Language Arts (writing and reading), which means significant shifts in what teachers need to teach. The School Committee needs to make sure teachers are teaching what the State is expecting us to teach now. Materials can move from grade to grade, but the content requires stabilization. She said when the State changes this, teachers have to go back and re-think what they are teaching. To be fair to students and to give accurate information to parents on their student's performance Lisbon needs to make sure teachers are teaching what is on the test in 2008-09. Mrs. Austin said the School Committee just received the same proposal last night for the first time and that their committee plans to tweak it again before implementing the final plan.

Councilor Mason encouraged everyone to remember this is our public education system and asked the School Committee to look a little more closely at co-curricular. She said she was not for taking sports out of the school system, but she was for looking at it in different ways to help cut costs there. She remarked that our primary focus here should be to educate our children.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Elaine Cyr, Art Teacher from Harpswell pointed out how important art can be to students. She said losing one art teacher and five courses would have a negative devastating effect. She said this program has grown way beyond the basics and that her students are learning so much more. She said some of these students would go on to art colleges and make a living from art.

Pam Ouellette, Art Teacher from Topsham pointed out how passionate both teachers were about art. She said their program covers pottery, portfolios, and much more. She said students want more than just the basics. She invited everyone to their art show on May 7 from 2:15-3:15PM and 6-8PM at the LHS.

Josh Holmes of 10 Cross Street in Lisbon said he did not mean to offend anyone, but he supported educational courses over co-curricular and art activities. He said he pays \$700 a month to send his kids to a private school.

Jonathan Carsley, K-5 Music Teacher from Auburn said this program affects 116 in chorus, 97 in band, and 61 in strings. He said losing one position would drastically alter the program. About 570 students attend the general music program at LCS and 342 students attend at the Middle School. He quoted the Lisbon Community School's mission statement that says, "Empowering today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world" and pointed out that music plays a very important role in the creative thinking process.

Roger Cote of 189 Ridge Road and Budget Advisory Board Member said that co-curricular can turn a kid around and that it turned his kid around.

Several students commented as follows:

Eighth grader ... "I have played the trumpet since 4th grade and I love it."

Fifth grader ... "kids enjoy band and chorus very much."

Freshman ... "joined the band in 6th grade and competed at the state level."

Junior ... "attended art classes since elementary school and said it is an excellent program."

Junior ... "I took studio arts and I have decided to pursue an art career."

Councilor Wells explained that first the voters would attend a public hearing on April 28 to discuss the budget. Then on May 13, the Council would approve the budget and on May 20, the voters would decide by referendum whether to adopt it. If the public vote is yes, that is the budget adopted. If the public vote is no, then the Council would have to decide whether the budget was too low or still too high and then send it back through this process again. Councilor Wells announced the Council would be taking a five-minute break. The Council meeting resumed.

OTHER BUSINESS

C. FRANK HOGAN'S HOT DOG STAND

Frank Hogan requested permission to set up and operate a mobile hot dog unit at the Lisbon Boat Launch. He said he had been talking about this for a couple of years and that he wanted to sell hot dogs, chips, soda, water, and so forth. He presented his proposal to purchase a new mobile hot dog unit. He said he would like to operate from 10AM to 3PM and maybe one night until 7PM. He said he thought he might want to operate five days a week. He said he would like to set up two or three picnic tables that he would remove daily. He said he wanted to put up two to four road signs on Route 196, two in the westerly and easterly direction. He said he would pick safe locations and probably put one up on his property located at the top of the hill. He showed the Council a copy of what his sign might look like. He said he might sell t-shirts and put some of the proceeds into a scholarship fund. He said he would like to begin this business by May 31.

Councilor Larochelle said this would not be an easy decision to make and that a lot of research might need to go into it. Councilor Smith requested a copy of the Itinerant Vendor ordinance. Councilor Wells pointed out Lisbon was required to have so many boat and trailer spaces available. Mr. Hogan offered to make a horseshoe type turnaround to accommodate his unit. Mr. Eldridge asked about insurance coverage. Councilor Mason said this would be an asset to the Town and encouraged the Council to make this work. Councilor Bowie asked that the Town Clerk and Code Enforcement/ Assessor review this request against the ordinance and provide the Council with a report on what's doable there and to also identify what other types of businesses could potentially operate there. Councilor Wells said the Council would need to meet on April 22 to take up the Town's budget since there is not enough time this evening and recommended Mr. Hogan's request go on that agenda. She asked Mr. Eldridge to have the Sign Ordinance and Itinerant Vendor ordinance reviewed as well so that they could make a decision that evening.

A. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said he hired a part-time person on a temporary basis for 20 hours a week in the Excise Office; there were no guarantees given to her that this position would be available come July 1. The Economic Development Office has moved into the old Recreation Department Office. He said he would be finishing up with his side of the budget on April 22. He said he would give the Council several different proposals to review.

Mr. Eldridge recommended establishing an Economic Development Loan Review Committee to strengthen internal controls for loaning funds. He suggested the committee consist of the Finance Director, Economic Development Director, Town Manager, and one other individual perhaps a Councilor or banker. After the committee approves, it would then go to the Council for final approval and be made public. The Council unanimously approved and Councilor Bowie volunteered to serve.

He informed the Council that WRE Reality listed the Campus Street School building, which is on the Historic National Register.

B. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Item taken out of order. See discussion on page 2.

C. FRANK HOGAN'S HOT DOG STAND

Item taken out of order. See discussion on page 5.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Item taken out of order. See discussion on page 3.

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINT ELECTION CLERKS

VOTE (2008-51) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Smith moved to appoint the following Election Clerks for a two-year term.

Democratic Election Clerks

Austin, Cynthia
 Chizmar-Comber, Janice
 Doboga, Constance
 DeWitt, Donna
 Donle, Lacey
 Galgovitch, Dorothy
 Gayton, Monique
 Gray, Sheila
 Ladner, Evelyn
 Ladner, Richard
 Hale, Marie A.
 Hanlon, Karen
 Huston, Sharon
 Kidder, Diane
 Madden, Edward
 Morin, Flora
 Perron, Madeleine
 Poole, Jonica
 Poole, Scott
 Stewart, Dona
 Smith, Dorothy
 Smith, Alfred
 Tardiff, Patricia
 Yenco, Addie

Republican Election Clerks

Baumer, Helen
 Booker, Camille
 Brown, Kaylan
 Carville, Gladys
 Cooper, Jessica
 Douglass, Linda
 Douglass, Gerald
 Dunn, Lorraine
 Dunn, Katherine
 Durisko, Jody
 Fournier, A. Jeannie
 Ganong, Margaret
 Ganong, Jeffrey
 Ganong, Jewel
 Goddard, Cheryl
 Grinder, Barbara
 Michel, Gwen
 Michel, Daniel
 Ricker, Shirley
 Smith, Duanne
 Sullivan, Elsie
 Tancrede, Lise
 Tupper, Zachary

Order passed - Vote 7-0.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Wells took a few minutes to thank each of the Councilors for doing such a huge amount of work lately. She said April and May should still be very busy. She encouraged all to attend the April 28 public hearing at the Lisbon Community School as well.

Councilor Mason commended Pine Knoll Landscaping for doing such a wonderful job with their business on Route 196. She was impressed with what they have done. She encouraged everyone to stop in and see just what they are doing. "They are really doing a great job." "It is very nice."

BUDGET WORKSHOPS

A. SCHOOL BUDGET

Item taken out of order. See discussion after Council Orders, Resolutions, & Ordinances above.

B. TOWN BUDGET

The Council moved this item to the April 22 Special Council Meeting Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2007-52) Councilor Bowie, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to adjourn at 9:13 PM.
Order passed - Vote 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Twila Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM

These minutes are not verbatim. See cassette tapes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.