



**TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 5, 2009**

Michael Bowie, Chair At Large 2009  
Gina Mason, Vice Chair District 1 2010  
Fern Larochelle, 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, Henry, Larochelle and Cote. Councilor Crafts was unexcused. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; Mark Stevens, Recreation Department; Cathy Ricker, Finance Department; School Committee members Janice Chizmar, Traci Austin; and approximately 20 citizens in the audience.

**PUBLIC HEARING - NONE**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**VOTE (2009-68)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to approve Games of Chance Tournament & other designations, a Renewal Mobile Home Park License for Greg Morse d/b/a Sabattus Creek Mobile Home Park, Renewal Victualer's Licenses for Blake's Grill, Bootleggers, Dairy Maid, Kitty Korner, Lisbon Falls Mart, Inc. (Getty), Riverside Dairy Bar, T&A Diner, and the minutes of April 22, 2009. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

**COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES**

**RECREATION FUNDING REQUEST**

Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Stevens left you a quick letter requesting permission to use \$2,000 from the Recreation Land Use Fund. Carroll Curtis is here tonight and Mr. Stevens will address it.

Mr. Stevens said the Recreational Land Use Fund is funds that are given back to us from the State by the registrations from snowmobiles and ATVs. In the past these funds have been used for improvements to the Park, the MTM Center, purchasing snowmobiles for grooming the trails, and also back in 2002 for fixing the ice rink. Currently, there is about \$16,000 or a little bit more. On behalf of the Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee and with the approval of the Trail Master who is here with us, Carroll Curtis, we are asking for \$2,000, approximately \$1,000 per field at the Pinewoods Road to bring in fill and to bring that to a higher level so that it matches the outfield to make it safer.

Councilor Bowie said does this include just the fill or does it include the work, too. Does the \$2,000 cover just the fill or does it cover the grooming of the sandstone. Mr. Stevens said we plan on the work being donated. We have a lot of people who have committed to helping us out. The money we are asking for is to pay for the infield material itself.

Councilor Larochelle said at the Committee meeting last night, one of the concerns I had was in the past we have used this funding for some of the initial trail work. I was concerned about the funding

being available for a request for another groomer next year, because we have already purchased one. Mr. Curtis was there last night and he did mention that the funds would be there if you take out the \$2,000, there would still be adequate funds for a groomer. Plus, this is a fund that gains money yearly; not tons of money, but the \$2,000 would actually over a period of time be put back into that account.

**VOTE (2009-69)** Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to approve \$2,000 funding request from the Recreation Department. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

### COUNCIL ROOM TABLE FOR PUBLIC MEETING ROOM

Mr. Eldridge said last year in the budget you had put money aside for a table for this Council Room which matched the dais. We took it out of the budget last year because we did not think it was an appropriate use of funding. The gentleman who built this dais stepped forward this year and has offered to build it for us at no cost. So, if the Council could decide if they would like one, then what would they like for a table. I do not know what you really have in mind, but the offer is on the table.

Councilor Larochelle said when the funds were available or when they were asked for was there a design. Councilor Bowie said the thought was and the reason for the request for the table, was lots of times we get people who come to present to us who need a lot of space like the people from Vermont who came with two or three people and they had a bunch of stuff. We put projector equipment out and other stuff. The thought was that we would have matching furniture, a table and a few chairs, something that would sit about three people and be big enough for them to open up books and hold their paperwork.

Councilor Larochelle said it sounds like a very fair offer. Councilor Wells said I do not think we should turn down a free offer. Councilor Henry asked which design did we want; we had a few options, right? Councilor Bowie said I had sent back two options based on Mr. Eldridge's initial email. One was a three person set-up and one was a five-person set-up. So if you were going to have the School Board, or the Advisory Board, or the Planning Board, and they all wanted to sit at the table to come before us they could use that as well.

Mr. Eldridge said just to take an example from our meeting earlier tonight, where you sat around a table and wanted enough room for everyone in the audience to sit in the room then this would be the perfect room to put a table like that in where you could fit ten or twelve people around it.

Councilor Bowie said was he given an original design. Mr. Eldridge said I do not think so. Councilor Bowie said because the bigger you make the table, the offer may diminish. I like that idea, if you could have something that does not take a ton of space away from the public seating. Councilor Mason said could he do anything with leaves in it.

Councilor Larochelle said my recommendation would be that he come in and take a look at the room, I mean, that is what he does. Councilor Bowie said I think that is a good idea. If we can design something that would fit, kind of like the meeting we just held where we had twelve people who needed to sit around a table and have a bit of writing space.

Councilor Cote said how about considering a circle. Councilor Wells said we would lose too much space. Councilor Cote said not that large, but have a circular table rather than square.

Councilor Mason said my suggestion is something with leaves, the same wood and the same design as the dais. Councilor Bowie said so you could make it bigger or smaller.

Mr. Eldridge said he would contact him, bring him in, and see what he comes up with. Councilor Bowie said no action on that item tonight, other than we should move forward.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Eldridge said the Planning Board met and started looking at some of our Land Use Ordinances. We will start the process at the June 2 meeting. We should probably be working on them until we finish them so we will be having the Planning Board look at them. For the next few months you will be looking at Land Use Ordinances and holding public hearings; we have to give plenty of notice for that.

Councilor Henry said in one of the Real Estate advertisements, someone is advertising a 14 lot place but that it has to be approved by the town and the DEP. Now, is that like the cart before the horse? Are they allowed to do that?

Mr. Eldridge said it might be a Site Plan Review process where somebody has come to the Planning Board with an application. I am not that familiar with the Site Plan Review process here, but I think they have to have a public hearing prior to that to see if there is any objection. If it involves wetlands or a vernal pool or things like that, then that brings the DEP into the process. It could be something like that.

Councilor Cote said at one time, the C. N. Brown building where the Rite Aid building is, we had given pre-approval to the Economic Developer to do something with the building. The Board of Appeals looked at the whole site plan and we gave him a variance to allow things to be done in advance so that he could shop for a person to buy the building. As it all turned out, it got torn down and Rite Aid got built. It kind of fell through in this case so it could be something along this nature.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - NONE**

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Eldridge said you should have the applications in your packets and I think everybody is here.

Councilor Bowie said we have four applicants for one opening. Mr. Eldridge said for an indefinite term. Councilor Cote said why has this become an indefinite term. What creates an indefinite term as opposing any other boards that have a three year or whatever. Mrs. Lycette said because it is not specified, the other terms you make appointments for are specified three year terms. This one is just not specified. Councilor Cote said the only thing it brings to question, is that we have more than one application. If we put on a person that is a permanent fixture, people that would like to participate on these boards never have an opportunity until this person decides to leave.

Councilor Bowie said this Committee has been through some ups and downs. At one point we had trouble getting anybody. We finally got a full board, and then we had a couple of alternates, and then we lost the people that were originally there, so we got rid of the alternates and just let them be full-time members. Now I do not know if it is our talk about trying to do more with the community and being more technology savvy and doing things that we are drawing a larger interest in the

Technology Committee. At least recently we have, I think we had an appointment last meeting and now we have four.

Councilor Larochelle asked how many people serve on the Committee. Councilor Bowie said I think they have five. Councilor Larochelle said four active members. One of the comments I would have is there is very little information on the application to actually pick from. Has there ever been a process where the four acting members on this Committee reviews the applicants and tries to make a decision from there. I would think the Committee involved, instead of us just picking someone that we do not know the background on in that type of atmosphere, that the Committee itself would do the interviews and pick the person that would best fit into the Committee. I would think that would be a better choice than us looking at these.

Councilor Wells said why not a Committee of eight. Councilor Larochelle said if people are willing, I think it is a great idea. Councilor Wells said if people are willing to volunteer their time to the town, they all seem to have a background in something to do with computers, then a committee of eight is not to many people and it will probably make a great meeting.

Councilor Larochelle said especially now with some of the purchases and upgrades in software we are looking at that it would be a better time to have more people on that Committee. Councilor Mason said the Committee itself knows more of what they need and what they are trying to do than we do. Councilor Larochelle said absolutely, that is what my point was.

Councilor Bowie said so am I hearing that Council would like to appoint all four. I believe it is possible because I do not believe we have any written guidelines for this particular Committee like you have for the Planning Board, the Appeals Board, or those types of Boards. These Committees tend to be just set up to be the right size at the time.

Councilor Cote said people's lives change on a regular basis, especially with the way things are right now. In a year's time, this Committee could be looking for members again. I hate to see anybody that wants to volunteer his or her time to do something like this be turned away for any reason.

**VOTE (2009-70)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to appoint Joseph Donahue, Clyde Cavender, David Perry, and Christopher Martel. **Order passed – Vote 6-0.**

Councilor Henry said I would like them to introduce themselves to us. I am not sure I know who is who. Christopher Martel, Joseph Donahue, and Clyde Cavender were present and stood up. David Perry was not present.

Councilor Bowie said welcome aboard and thank you for your time. The Committee typically meets on Wednesdays, I am not sure if it is the first, second or third Wednesday, but we will have Mr. Eldridge's Administrative Assistant get in contact with you. We have all your email addresses so we will communicate through technology with you. Councilor Bowie said I appreciate the Council making that recommendation.

## COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Wells said I would like to inform the public that I believe that the Council, School Committee, Advisory Board, and representatives to the town had a very good meeting today addressing the NEASC issues. The School has done a lot of work prioritizing what needs to be managed immediately. I think they came about with some very good plans that I hope we will be bringing forward to the public in a very short period of time that will allow us to move forward and help keep our School accreditation in the future.

Councilor Mason said the Revitalization Committee has been working very hard now for several months now. She said they were holding their final Community Visioning Session at LCS on May 12 from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM. This will be a summary of all the fact finding we have done. Ms. Bradley was here at the last meeting and spoke a little bit about getting a committee to come in to take some of that information and use it. We will be presenting what we have and what the residents who showed up at the meetings have suggested we do here in town.

Councilor Mason said the Revitalization Committee has a flag project going on. What we would like to do is have flags coming into town from both directions and up Main St. It is a flag sponsorship program. We are trying to get some money to buy flags, but also if you would like to buy a flag in memory or in honor of someone, or if you would just like to buy a flag or two, we have this project that is ongoing. I spoke with Ms. Bradley today and she has several who have offered to sponsor flags.

Councilor Mason said we also spoke about a flyer or pamphlet that will come out eventually. If you put that in honor of somebody you can give a short bio about that person, for example if they served in a war or describe why you are honoring them. So, that is ongoing, you can contact Ms. Bradley about that.

Councilor Mason said we will be presenting some of the Revitalization information at the Moxie Festival. We will be setting up a table. Mr. Leighton is working on charts. We will be showing the town what we are trying to accomplish. Also, some of us on the Committee will be attending the Main Street Maine Conference in June. From what I hear it is a wonderful conference with a lot of really good things. There are four of us on the Committee who will be attending so far. Efforts are going forward. I know there have been efforts in the past that a whole lot has not happened with, but we really have a lot of things happening and we are working on that. Please be informed about that, please come to the meeting, we would love to have you.

Councilor Larochelle said Sunday morning I went up Frost Hill Avenue and I noticed some "flocking" going on on top of the hill. So if you notice some pink flamingos around they probably have Councilor Well's signature on them. It is really kind of neat.

Councilor Larochelle said I think one of the things that has happened in the past in this town is that anytime we try to move forward with a project there are a lot of questions that come up. A lot of the time it is after the fact. If anybody has questions about what is happening at the School, about what their plans are, feel free to call. I am sure the names of the Committee members that met will be published. Feel free to call and ask questions, and not just questions, there may be some great ideas out there now and it would be a lot better to get them out now than after the fact. Any information we can get, the more this project gets talked about, the better it will be moving forward before we get too far into the project.

Councilor Bowie said would it be possible, I see a couple of School Committee members here, to publish the Committee members on both our websites. The public would know who to contact, it would give us the opportunity to publish additional stuff later on.

Councilor Bowie said we need to talk about budget schedules. We need to come through the rest of our budgets. We have a current meeting or workshop scheduled for this Thursday to go through the budget. We have another one scheduled for May 12, which conflicts with the Revitalization Visioning Session. Councilor Henry said I have a meeting that night, too. Councilor Bowie said I know the Budget Advisory Board is meeting right now in another room. The issue I see here in trying to get through this in a timely fashion, is that we can do some stuff on our budget and we could think about the School budget or have another session with them, but I do not think it makes much sense until we hear from the Budget Advisory Board. I think it is time now that we have had our public hearings, as well as the other public comments during our other detailed meetings that we get some input from the Budget Advisory Board on what they are thinking about suggesting to

us on both the School and Municipal budget. I would like to move that up somehow. I would like to move that sooner rather than later. Councilor Bowie said I know they probably would not be ready by Thursday. They are meeting tonight.

Mr. Eldridge said they told me their meeting schedule is very much set. The earliest they could do it was May 19. Councilor Wells said they are going to run into a problem on May 26 too, because that is also a School Board Meeting night, because May 25 is a holiday.

Jeff Ganong arrived and said I heard you had a question. Councilor Bowie said we are trying to come through our budget stuff. Before the Council feels they can make or should make any decisions on our Municipal budget, we feel we should hear from the Budget Advisory Board. We do not want to have you guys go through all of this and then us go make a final decision before we even heard from you, right, that would not be a very polite thing to do. The problem we are running into is that right now our schedule is for us to meet with you on May 19 to go over the Municipal and School side of the budget to get your input. It only gives us about a week to review that input and make any additional suggestions on the School side from the Municipal side based on your input or for them to adjust their budget based on what you have given them. It turns out they are going to have a School meeting anyway that day. I think we have to shift ours to May 27. I do not know how that fits into the rest of Council's schedule. We were trying to figure out how we could maybe get information from the Budget Advisory Board sooner without necessarily rushing you. I know you have heard from the public. You participated in all our detailed workshop meetings from the Municipal side. I know you have had one meeting with the School; I do not know if you plan on having any more. I did not know if there was some way you could come through your deliberations and be ready to present to us earlier than May 19.

Mr. Ganong said would you like a time with just the School budget or both. Councilor Bowie said I would like it to be both, but if we had to do one before the other, I guess the School one would be the one we would want to do first so the School could address your concerns and we could understand them to then see how the Council wanted to address them.

Mr. Ganong said right now we are working on the School budget. We will probably have that done by Thursday. We can give you our recommendations on the School budget by the end of the week. Councilor Bowie said you could recommend something to us on Thursday. Mr. Ganong said yes. We have meetings scheduled for Thursday, one tonight and one for Thursday. Our plan is to be done with the School budget by the end of the week, by Thursday.

Councilor Bowie said so what time is your get together on Thursday. Mr. Ganong said 6:30 PM. Councilor Bowie said could you be ready to meet at 7:30 PM. Would that be enough time or do you need more than that. Mr. Ganong said we are hoping to get it done tonight, that was our original goal, that was a very ambitious goal, so yes, I think we can give you a recommendation. Councilor Bowie said can the School be available Thursday, May 14.

Mr. Eldridge said do they have a regular meeting on May 11. Could they make their recommendations to the School Board on May 11? That way you are not making a special meeting for the School Board; it is within their normal timeframe. They could do our recommendations on May 7. Councilor Bowie said he did not commit to May 7 for us. He was very specific in saying the School. Mr. Ganong said we can only guarantee one. Councilor Bowie said would that work for the School Committee. Could they entertain that into their existing agenda?

Mrs. Austin said I do not usually see the agenda, but I know they are meeting tomorrow on the agenda. Councilor Bowie said could you contact Dr. Welsh or whoever first thing in the morning. So, let us tentatively say we can make it work out that we can meet with the School on May 11. Council can attend that meeting just to hear what is said. Then that would give the School some time to discuss some things.

Councilor Bowie asked when do you think you could then meet with the Town. Mr. Ganong said I would not want to go any sooner than May 14 just to make sure we have all the time that we need. Councilor Bowie said what does the Council's schedule look like for May 14.

Councilor Cote said there was some talk of shifting money around, trying to find money. This is going to drastically change whatever budget we may have prepared. Am I the only one who sees it this way?

Councilor Bowie said that is why we want to have these meetings sooner rather than later with the Budget Advisory Board. Based on what they see, I am sure they are taking into consideration this NEASC issue and what we might need to go forward with, so because they have members on the Committee as well, I am sure they are working that into their plan. Understanding what they come back with, we will then have to make our decisions with the School and the Town as to how we address funding. It is a lot of work, but that is why we are sitting here, right?

Mr. Eldridge said what about changing our meeting to May 13. Would you be ready by the 13<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday? Mr. Ganong said without talking to the rest of the Board, I cannot make that commitment yet.

Councilor Wells said why not put them presenting to the Budget Advisory Board for the School part on May 11. Then on May 14 we do a workshop for the School regarding the budget and we put them back to May 19 with us, and possibly meet on May 21 if we have to hold another workshop for our budget. Councilor Bowie said we have conflicts on May 14. Councilor Wells said it is still going to be thrown out to the School Board members to find out what they have for conflicts. Mrs. Austin said I know Dr. Welsh was looking at this earlier and these dates are what she has tentatively penciled in. I would not want to add May 14, because that is not on there. She has May 26 with adoption of the budget question marked. Councilor Wells said, right because that is your regular School Board meeting. Mrs. Austin said she was willing to consider that our workshop meeting. Councilor Wells said yes, she just wanted to make sure that if we were going to stick to that date that we let them know that it would be a workshop instead of a regular meeting.

Councilor Bowie said in order to stick to that date they have to get their input from the Budget Advisory Board. Then Council would want a workshop with the School Board before we adopt it. Councilor Wells said yes, I think we need one in there. Councilor Bowie said if I am the only Councilor who has a conflict, then I would not worry about that. If I cannot get out of it, then I would rather have six members here than have us make this take longer. Councilor Wells said that is just a workshop. Councilor Bowie, but that's a workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Wells said, oh, that is not a workshop with the School. Councilor Bowie said no, we cannot commit to that. Mr. Eldridge said on May 14 the Budget Advisory Board will make their recommendations on the Municipal budget. Councilor Larochelle said at that point we will know what they are thinking and we can move forward.

Mr. Eldridge said we will try to make May 19 a light agenda so we can have a budget workshop afterward. Councilor Bowie said if that is the case, then could we have, there is nothing on the calendar for May 19. Mrs. Austin said I do not know. It is on here; it says Council meeting, it does not say. Councilor Bowie said if we meet with the Budget Advisory Board on May 14, then they meet with the School on May 11, which we try to attend, we should be able to meet with the School Board on May 19 for any recommendations we want to make. Councilor Wells said so we are calling that a School Board/Town Council budget workshop. Councilor Bowie said yes. Right now May 12 and May 7 are scratched.

Councilor Bowie said we could then decide what we want to do on May 26 with the School budget. Based on the discussions we have had, there might be some final changes or whatever based on the discussions we have on May 19 that they come back with. Then we can decide whether or not we are going to adopt it. We have to understand the ramifications which I want to get into of not

making the final adoption of at least the School budget on May 26. We do have room to work if it does not go through.

Councilor Bowie said Mrs. Lycette, did you get a ruling on putting the date on the ballot? Mrs. Lycette said the date needs to go on the ballot. The ballots cannot be printed until you adopt the Warrant. The only concern I have, is that your absentee ballots should be available the next day, but that is just not possible. There are no printers available to do that work that quickly. I spoke with Topsham today and they are in the same predicament. We just need to make you aware that that is an impossibility in the law to be able to comply with those absentee ballots that quickly. Topsham and I will get the ballots out as soon as possible.

Councilor Bowie said can we take the position where if people request an absentee ballot. Mrs. Lycette said I can take applications early, yes. Councilor Bowie said we could take their applications early and the minute the ballots come in we could deliver the vote.

Mrs. Lycette said that is the very best we could do. That is the only thing we could offer. Councilor Bowie said so they could do their absentee ballot and then bring it in. We are only talking probably three or four days from the time we approve the proof. By the time you approve the Warrant it would be at least five days before we get ballots. As long you are aware of this there is not much we can do differently. I do not believe we should print a ballot until the Warrant has been adopted by the Council.

Councilor Bowie said we have to hold the Election within how many days from the adoption date. Mrs. Lycette said within fourteen days. Councilor Bowie said from the adoption date, right? Mrs. Lycette said so if you postpone it to June 2, then perhaps the Election would be on June 16. Councilor Bowie said so we could go to June 2, which would be a week later on June 16 or you could go to June 9 and June 23. Mrs. Lycette said you have to adopt a budget by the third Tuesday. Councilor Bowie said we have to adopt ours, but that does not mean we could not adopt ours on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Once we have approved the School budget so that we are not going to make any changes then it could go for a vote. If we do that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup>, we take it to the voters on the 16<sup>th</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup>, if it gets that bad, and we can adopt our budget anytime in between there prior to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We can have additional workshops to cover that. There is room to go if everything does not work for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Cote said is there a meeting scheduled to meet with Lewiston on the Assessing thing on May 12. The reason I ask is there is something on their website about it. Mr. Eldridge said they may say they want to meet but it is not going to happen until you agree to a date. Councilor Bowie said we have not gone through all that. That is some of our additional budget discussions we need to have amongst ourselves to finalize what approach we are actually taking.

Councilor Cote said with the impending decisions we have to make on the budget as far as the possibly coming into this with the School. Are we going to have any meeting with just the Council to thrash out what we might do ahead of time or are we not, going to it cold turkey? Councilor Bowie said to make additional cuts you mean? Councilor Cote said to try to fund the School issue, to try to find out what we can do. Right now if we go into that meeting and deal with them, we have not even discussed as a Council what direction we may want or not want to go in. I wanted to know if we were going to throw a meeting in there to sit down and discuss this as a Council to see if we are on the same page or what not.

Councilor Larochelle said I would make the recommendation that the committee that has been working to find the best avenue and to get more information that we asked for today, and then we could actually move forward. It's just right now we would be discussing really an unknown. Councilor Cote said if we were going to look for funds or ways to do some creative financing, in advance, we would have some idea of where we are going with this issue. Because if we go into a

meeting with the School and we have not even discussed it as a Council, are we not going in with blinders on.

Councilor Bowie said I think what I heard from the Committee and what we discussed earlier today at 6:00 PM is that we think what the Committee is thinking about is the right approach. It is refining the dollars so we will know how much we need to cut out of the budget. We have certain funds already in the School budget that we discussed that will help offset the payment. Depending on what the payment ends up being, do we need to go find more and if so can the town pony up some of that money or where it can be. I do not think we can make those decisions until we get some of those refined numbers which I think may not be the refined numbers, but an initial cut on your meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It is going to be some kind of statement and recommendation to go forward. I am sure as we continue to go day by day things are going to flush out and numbers are going to start to come forward. We will have more data that can be supplied between the School Board, the Committee, and the Council as to what we are actually looking for and figure out what that payment is going to be. Mr. Eldridge and Dr. Welsh can work together on some of this; it does not require Council and Boards to meet all the time. I mean, that is why we pay some of these people to do and work for us so they can go off and figure out where we can find some money.

Councilor Cote said what I was suggesting earlier this evening, somebody commented that "here we can take the \$235,000 that we were looking at roads, and maybe we can do this" yes, maybe we can have a lot of things, but we have not even discussed it among ourselves to know what direction and that is the only reason why I am bringing it up. Councilor Bowie said I understand. I think my financial statements or accounting were not accurate in what we were trying to look for, although it was a nice big number.

Councilor Wells said maybe what you need to ask this Council though is, how many Councilors are willing to support the School going forward with the Bond to put in a seven space modular and I think there was additional money in there for Science gas work. If you have the majority of the Council that is willing to go forward in that process, no matter what that amount is, it at least tells you whether we are going forward or whether we are saying to the School Department, "yes, we totally agree and we think you should do this, but we think you need to find the \$300,000 out of your budget." I think that question needs to be asked. I think that is where Councilor Cote is going, where are we going here? Are we willing to go back to the voters, sell the point as I said earlier, because it takes selling this to the voters; that we want a positive yes, we want the voters to say yes this is a good use of money and it is a positive step forward for the School Department. And I believe it solves a lot of issues they have, that they really need to address. But if you do not have at least four people willing to move forward in that direction, then the School is really back to square one.

Councilor Larochelle said I think that the selling part of this is the idea that the town is not asking the taxpayers to take out a Bond that is going to be 100 percent all new funding in the sense of repaying this. And part of this as we work though it is trying to find a way of paying for this Bond without actually raising taxes; that is the key factor. So I guess the discussion would be, we need to have a little more information and an idea of the exact dollar that you are actually going to want for the Bond, and exactly how much money we already have to offset it, not so much additional money. Not knowing those numbers, I would support that we have to do something; it is not a question that we would not support it. It would be more the idea that we need more information to make a good decision on it.

Councilor Cote said the key thing that I was thinking about was at the last meeting we sat here and discussed this budget. We had put all our positions back in and kind of backed up and put everything back in all that we had taken away. There were no extra funds for anything. In fact there was bare minimum. Now we are looking for expenditures above and beyond and it's just that something is not adding up here.

Councilor Wells said it is not really expenditures above and beyond, because if they could in a reasonable amount of time Bond and build this, they would cut out a \$21,000 payment for leasing, they would cut out a \$12,000 payment that they had put in for the \$500,000 Bond, so in the first year, and probably even longer than that, those two amounts alone will cover the Bond payments needed for a ten year Bond to go forward with this. I do not think it is an unreasonable request from us to ask them to look really hard at their budget and ask them to see if that \$300,000 could not be \$250,000. Could they come up with \$50,000; they talked about laptops for the High School. Maybe we ask them to reconsider that. We have asked them several times to consider wage freezes for next year. We have done it on the Town side; I think it is a reasonable request to do that on the School side. We might have to go back and ask them to do that. Those are not unreasonable requests, those are just thoughts. They may hear that exact same thing from the Budget Advisory Board. I think the question has to be is this Council, because they cannot go for Bonds without us saying yes, so they have to have the go forth from this group sitting right here, to say that we are going to put a Bond out, we are going to go for a Bond and put this out to the voters.

Councilor Mason said I think the fact is they do have to go for some type of Bond, but as we discussed in a meeting before this one, there are a lot of factors to consider. They need to get out, they need to get bids, because what they had at the meeting before were very tentative rough plans. I think the job of that Committee is to sit down and come up with those hard facts. We have no money figure at this point to move forward with so we need to find a cap somewhere that would be most fair to all involved especially the taxpayers.

Councilor Bowie said I believe that is the intent going forward to do that, to get as refined a number as possible, as soon as possible. I guess I would ask Council, are you in favor of supporting the School with a Bond for that.

Councilor Henry said, yes.

Councilor Larochelle said it has to be looked at regardless.

Councilor Mason said yes.

Councilor Bowie said I am in favor of it, too.

Councilor Bowie said I am concerned with the timing. Can we do it right now or do we have to delay it a little bit and work with the NEASC group. I think that all can be worked out. I am in favor behind this. I think now it becomes, we need to make sure we offset the Bond payment, whatever that number ends up to be, we have to offset that. If there is a way to lessen the Bond, once you have the number, I think that it is prudent for us to discuss and see what we can do in that area to help mitigate this stuff.

Councilor Mason said what was the figure of the modular? Robin Tupper said I think the original one was \$275,000, but I think they came up with an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000. Councilor Mason said, okay, but what I am asking though is about the payments that were put into the budget. There was \$20,000. Mrs. Austin said, no, there was \$25,000 put in for the lease payment on the modulars currently. Then it was \$12,000 for a Bond payment on the Bond that failed. Councilor Mason said so that is \$37,000. Mrs. Austin said, however, depending on how long the building project goes we still have to be in those buildings, possibly depending on what the plan winds up being by the Committee.

Councilor Mason said that was part of what I am talking about. There are way too many options and factors. Some of the suggestions that were made at the meeting may be inconveniencing ourselves a little bit in doing some other things, so it is possible the modulars could go away at some point. Mrs. Austin said, yes.

Councilor Wells said don't you need to make that decision, Mrs. Austin by June. Mrs. Austin said, like Mr. Wall pointed out, I am sure a phone call to Schiavi on a 20-plus year building that is not in high demand that we may be able to contact them and see what we can do.

Councilor Larochelle said I think you really need to wait to see what the dollar factor is going to be. Councilor Bowie said we are not trying to get a dollar figure today. Councilor Wells said basically it is a straw poll of whether to move forward. Councilor Bowie said we are really trying to finalize our budget schedule here.

Mrs. Austin said I do agree with Councilor Wells, that we need to know as a Committee, are we putting all this effort into something that is not supported by the Town Council. So I do agree we need a straw poll to move forward very diligently, very quickly to get information.

Councilor Bowie said I am behind it.

Councilor Wells said I am behind it.

Councilor Cote said I do not think we have a choice.

Councilor Bowie said I think the Council is behind that; it's the timing and going about that. That said, we will still need to figure out if or what we need to do to make sure the goal is whatever we have to do with this Bond is to not impact taxes. So we have to do whatever we need to do to do that on both sides.

Councilor Bowie said back to our calendar, if we do our School budget, School Committee, and Council workshop on May 19, based on all the reviews of the Budget Advisory Board and any changes, I would hope by the 19<sup>th</sup> we will have some fairly solid numbers by then that will give us a good idea of where we are going to end up with going forward and what we need to try and offset. We could potentially still support a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. That should be our goal. If we struggle or run into issues either on the 11<sup>th</sup> or the 19<sup>th</sup>, we do have the opportunity to slide it another week or two, but we cannot go beyond June 9 on approving the School budget.

Councilor Wells said if we have a good meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> we should be able to at that point, tell Mrs. Lycette, here is our date, print those ballots. Councilor Bowie said and she will have the ballots in plenty of time and we will not be stuck without the absentee ballots.

Councilor Henry said there is nothing on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Eldridge said, no, you have a workshop. Councilor Bowie said there will be a workshop with the Budget Advisory Board on May 14 at 7:00 PM. Nothing on May 12, and nothing on May 7, and I am asking us to attend the School Committee meeting on May 11 so we can hear what the Budget Advisory Board provides for information to the School. You want to hear that and how they treat it to help you with your meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Larochelle said tonight's agenda actually has a workshop again tonight. Mr. Eldridge said that is off.

Councilor Larochelle said if we are not going to do one tonight, I would rather see the 7<sup>th</sup> stay as a workshop because we have not discussed anything from our public hearing. Do you think we still have time? Councilor Bowie said I am thinking we can do that on the 28<sup>th</sup> or something. We still have June, from our perspective to go do that. We do not have to rush into that. I do think our main focus right now is to help get through the School budget and get that done so we get it on a Referendum in a prudent time and get that going. The sooner the Referendum goes, the sooner we can work on when we have to deal with the Bond. We have until June 23 by Charter, to approve our budget. We have enough time. I would really like us to hear from the Budget Advisory Board based on everything that went on at the public hearing. We can hear how they interpreted it, how we interpreted it and what that means for us. I do not see a need to rush the Town side any further.

I do not want to think that we are rushing the School side either. I just think that is our more important focus at this time.

Councilor Bowie said one question I would like to ask Council, only because I have heard some grumblings, for lack of a better word, based on our last workshop where we were looking at, we thought, based on the economy, we should put everybody back in, all of the salaries back in, and we were looking at pulling out other items, which we identified a bunch of items to go do that. I would like to know just in general, kind of a straw poll, is Council still leaning that way, because I am concerned about morale issues within the Town, Public Works, Police, every place. I would like to give a sense of where we think Council is going, especially if we are not going to finish our stuff until maybe the first of June. I would like to have a straw poll vote from Council as to where they are leaning based on that workshop discussion.

Councilor Larochelle said in looking at it I do not understand, I realize some positions were put back in, now with all positions meaning the full Codes/Assessing. Was that fully put back in because some member of the staff, I did not know if that was put back in or not. All of the positions that we looked at reducing or cutting were put back in when we looked at the numbers.

Mr. Eldridge said you asked on the Assessing that they put together a budget for the \$100,000 which would include the benefits because that is what Lewiston said they would do it for. Councilor Larochelle said just to go back, I think that was mentioned by one of the Councilors. I do not think that was the group discussion at that point. That is why I was inquiring, because when we make the statement that we are putting back all full-time and part-time employees, that really is not true if that is what that number is going back to. I just want to clarify that because it has actually been mentioned in a couple of different ways. If you mentioned the idea that you are putting back all of the full-time people back to their salaries they had, then that would include Codes/Assessing.

Councilor Bowie said we did add all the salary values back in. Councilor Larochelle said looking at putting that back in, how can you only have \$100,000 in that budget? Councilor Wells said was that in your numbers, Mr. Eldridge. When you gave us a dollar value of salaries, did that include Assessing and Code Enforcement salaries going back in? No? Okay, so that budget then would still have been short \$31,000. Mr. Eldridge said you also made some recommendations to cut, which puts you over now by about \$30,000. Councilor Larochelle said I just wanted to clarify that when you mention the idea of putting everybody's salaries back that makes the statement they are all going back. If that was not the dollar figure we were looking at, then I think it needs to be clarified.

Councilor Mason said the question I asked the Department Head himself was how much business was down. He said twenty percent. If the Department is down twenty percent, we certainly can cut it twenty percent. Councilor Larochelle said but if you only have twenty percent of the snowstorms, you cannot get rid of your truck. Councilor Mason said you are sitting idle for twenty percent of the time. Councilor Larochelle said it could be other work that's getting done. It is one of those things that we need to discuss, that is one of the reasons why I mentioned the idea that if we are going to make the statement to the Town for morale reasons that what we were considering is putting back the dollar figures for the salaries that needs to be a statement that's clarified. Councilor Wells said they would rightfully ask that question.

Mr. Eldridge said what you recommended for cuts was \$358,721. But you restored, not including, Assessing was \$307,000, so you are \$51,000 ahead if you make all these cuts that I am looking at. I am going to be making some recommendations on all of these cuts; those are some things you need to keep in there.

Councilor Larochelle said just before, as Councilor Bowie said, if we are going to make a statement to actually improve morale or try to make people feel better then it has to be a definite recommendation. I just do not think there can be any question about who was put in and who was

not. When they mentioned all, everybody assumes all means everybody that is employed by the Town that was identified in the cuts.

Councilor Wells said I think we ought to at least ask the question, as Councilor Mason said, if it is twenty percent down, is the one cut maybe the part-time person. You still have to look at the budget in a fiscally responsible way. While I made the suggestion that full-time employees positions be put back in, that this is not a time to be cutting jobs when there is not any jobs out there to be found; I still stand by that. I still believe that I would give up \$235,000 in road issues, one because I have a Public Works Director who told me he cannot do all the new road work and do the \$235,000 in roads, knowing full well that I am going to take heat on the fact that maybe there are some roads out there that could use some minor repairs, but the other side is I would still like to see the jobs put back in.

Councilor Cote said there is one thing we all want to remember as Councilors, that we are not here to furnish jobs, we are here to furnish services for our community. In very hard economic times we have got to stop and realize that the taxpayers come first. I think that is making a rash statement that we are going to put all of the positions back without discussing it fully. I know it is good to keep everyone working, and I know it is going to be hard to make cuts, but the fact still remains the money is what is paid out and we are here to represent the taxpayers.

Councilor Wells said but I do not believe we have excess employees in this town. I do not believe we have employees sitting around doing nothing. Councilor Cote said no, we probably do not. Councilor Wells said so I believe that while they made the cuts to find a way to balance the budget that I would still give up the roads to keep people's jobs.

Councilor Larochelle said there is more than the roads that's the thing. Councilor Wells said it is, it's the roof on this building, I know that was one of the items, so there are definitely items there. But, Councilor Bowie asked the question, how do we want to move forward. It really is a morale question, because I am sure they are all asking that.

Councilor Bowie said from a morale standpoint we can give some sense of how Council is leaning, knowing that nothing is cut and dry and final. We are not committing to anything, but with Council, if you can balance the budget, keep no-tax impact, would Council be in favor of keeping the positions.

Councilor Mason said if it is not in excess, then yes.

Councilor Cote said we have a very serious issue here to discuss. One of them we know and that is the town truck. These are serious issues. We do not think about it when it is eighty degrees out, but when it is snowing outside and we need our roads plowed and sanded, you have to take that into consideration.

Mr. Eldridge said I will have some recommendations for you on the 14<sup>th</sup> when we meet and hear how we can play the numbers so it will work. What I think are the necessary items, such as the roof and the trucks. I have already played a number of games so I think we can do it. Let's wait until we all have a chance to discuss it.

Councilor Mason said I think we have to be realistic. There is a lot to consider here. I understand that people are anxious. Councilor Bowie said I understand they are anxious, too. What I am most concerned about is, I know we did not make any full-fledged promises but we also went out and asked every Municipal employee to not take an increase to further minimize the impact. They stepped up and did that. They also stepped up and said we will also take a different insurance plan, all for the benefit of savings and reducing expenses. Councilor Larochelle said to save jobs. Councilor Bowie said I do not want us to be overstaffed either, but I do not think it is going to get any better next year. In doing all of this stuff there are things that you are moving around, it may be

better to lose things in a little portion rather than in a big lump sum. If you had to let one person or a couple go this year, but not make it as drastic as we had originally laid out, then next year you are probably going to have to do the same thing again. It is going to take a while to recover from these economic times.

Councilor Cote said Gov. Baldacci kind of spelled out some gloom and doom this week when he told us that he was going to cut funding K-12 next year. He wants to cut the Homestead deductions on people's tax bills. When we start looking at all this, are we going to be sitting in a position next year where we are going to be real bad guys? We may not be in a situation where we have a choice. These are all things we have to think about.

Councilor Bowie said we have to deal with the cards that we are dealt with in the best way we can in order to best support the citizens and the employees of this community. Councilor Cote said, believe me, I am not sitting here saying I want anybody to lose their job, but we need to look at reality.

Dorothy Fitzgerald, resident of Lisbon Falls, said you are talking about the budget and no cuts and cuts and so forth; no cutting employees and yet you are still targeting the Code and Assessing Office. I do not know why you are targeting them. Also, talking about budgets and the Public Works Department and need of trucks, and yet in the Lewiston Sunday paper, there is an ad in the paper Town of Lisbon Public Works Department is looking for two seasonal part-time individuals for the summer and yet you are cutting money? But evidently the Public Works Department has money to apparently hire two seasonal part-time workers.

Mr. Eldridge said that is strictly summer help for mowing. It is a full-time job; we have there people. One of them is a full-time person that oversees all the mowing. Those positions were in the budget for the upcoming year. We are not talking about a tremendous amount of money. We pay people \$10 an hour; it was budgeted for and is only for this summer. Mrs. Fitzgerald said so that was already in the budget. Mr. Eldridge replied, yes it is.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said I hate to bring this up, but at the last Town Council meeting on the CDBG grant, evidently the Town has \$2,500 for participation. I did not notice that in the present budget and where does that money come from. Mr. Eldridge said that is under contingency. You have funded that money for quite a few years. You budgeted \$7,000 in there for matching funds for grants. That has all been encumbered at this point.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said Councilor Cote mentioned and there have been rumors that you Mr. Eldridge and a couple of Councilor members are going to be attending next week's Lewiston City Council meeting. I am assuming this is in conjunction with Lewiston taking over our Assessing and Code Enforcement Departments. Is this true or not? Mr. Eldridge said, no, that is not true. There is no scheduled meeting for Lisbon Council to meet with the Lewiston Council.

Mrs. Fitzgerald said I hate to bring this up and I cannot believe I am actually agreeing with Councilor Wells, for a second time, but she mentioned on the School budget and the \$300,000 that they are looking for and Councilor Bowie did mention all the town employees agreed in good faith not to take a wage increase, and yet you are targeting the Assessing and Code Enforcement Department. Not only that but with the School budget Union negotiations now, I would think the teachers, the School Department, the Superintendent, and Principals are all concerned with accreditation and about improvements to the school and I would think that it would be a really good show of good faith if they forgo their wage increases and their step increases next year. It was announced on TV today that there will be no increase in Social Security checks for the next three years. I am on Social Security. I still have heating bills, grocery bills, and taxes to pay. I get no wage increase and my checks are minimal compared to what many other people are getting. I think it would be a real big show of good faith if all of the teachers and the School Department would forgo their wage increases. Sorry about that, but that is my opinion. Thank you.

Councilor Henry asked for a revised scheduled to eliminate confusion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTE (2009-72)** Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.  
**Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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

*Cassette tapes are filed in the Town Clerk's Office.*