



**TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

Fern Larochelle, Jr., At Large 2010
Roger Cote, At Large 2011
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, 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, Henry, Larochelle and Cote. Also present were Stephen Eldridge, Town Manager; P. Sean Galipeau, Fire Chief; Dr. Shannon Welsh, School Superintendent; Prudence Grant, School Committee Chair; Tracey Austin, School Committee Member; Deborah Danuski, School Committee Member; Roger Therriault; Town Attorney; and approximately 25 citizens in the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING

VICTUALER'S LICENSE - DONALD BOUCHER d/b/a D & D DELI

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

LIQUOR LICENSE & SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT -
RAILROAD RESTAURANT

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

CONSENT AGENDA

VOTE (2009-18) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to approve a Victualer's License for D & D Deli, Liquor, and Special Entertainment Permit for the Railroad Restaurant, and the minutes of January 6, 2009. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES

ORDER 2009- 19 SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS

Councilor Bowie informed the public that the Council adopts annually the School and Municipal Capital Improvement Plan once it has gone through its formal reviews. He explained that adopting this plan would not automatically put money into the budget at this point; adding money into the budget for capital items is a separate process that the School Committee and Council goes through when they set their annual budgets. Councilor Wells confirmed that everything listed for 2009 would not automatically become a part of this year's budget.

Councilor Bowie said the School Committee was requesting the Council order a referendum vote on the services bond. Dr. Welsh asked if the Council's approval of the School's Capital Improvement Plan meant the Council also approved of moving forward with the proposed services bond. Councilor Bowie said those were two separate items. He explained that the Council would vote on the School's Capital Improvement Plan and that another vote would address the referendum question on the services bond. Dr. Welsh said she thought they had already requested the Council's permission to order the referendum vote. Councilor Bowie said the Council was prepared to cover that tonight and explained that there appeared to be a miscommunication about what needed to be done and how the capital plan should be interpreted. He restated that the Council needed to address the School's Capital Improvement Plan to determine whether there needs to be some changes or not before the Council could address the referendum issue on the services bond.

Dr. Welsh said the document speaks for itself and includes a lot of detail surrounding the equipment purchases, continued bus replacement, and larger equipment items, adding that the capital plan talks about the proposed facilities improvement project. Councilor Bowie said the first order of business was to address the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan and indicated he was ready to accept a motion to adopt the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan for the Municipal and School Departments.

VOTE (2009-19) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to adopt the 5-Year School and Municipal Capital Improvement Plan as presented.

Councilor Wells asked whether the School's request for engineering studies could even be bond. Councilor Bowie said they would discuss this before voting on the services bond.

Order passed – Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Wells)

Councilor Bowie said the Council needed to add an additional order (2009-19A) to deal with the referendum vote in support of \$500,000 for engineering services for the potential to either renovate or build a new High School. This is something we need to approve as a Council, he said if we feel that this should go forward. He said we have tried a number of times to get funding from the state, tried teaming up with Durham, and that did not work. Since we have been unable to get funding for a new High School or renovate our High School, he said the question becomes now whether this is the right time to do this; I guess I don't know, he added, if there is ever a right time. He pointed out that the stimulus plan needs Lisbon's project to be shovel ready.

Councilor Wells asked if we could bond these services when we do not know if the voters would approve the next step. Dr. Welsh said she did have an answer. She provided information from their attorney, Drummond Woodsum, who did the Lisbon Community School project. They reviewed the issue and clarified the entire process (see attached). They said this could be bonded or done with a bank note. Bank notes are at 3.25% right now. The approval process starts with the Council issuing an order for a public hearing to discuss the issuance of a general obligation bond or note in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for preliminary expenditures including design costs for a school construction project, plus an order to the Town Clerk to publish a notice of that public hearing. She said the Council would then adopt the order and call for a ratification referendum, which requires voters to consider the item in a referendum action. She said the attorney talked through the referendum procedures and mentioned that he would like to discuss with the Town Clerk the actual process to make sure that he had reviewed everything.

There are benefits to approving a note, which is similar to a home equity loan; you would have a line of credit to work from not to exceed \$500,000. She said we could send out bid invitations or solicit bank proposals if we went with the note. She handed out an informational sheet about the projected process for the expenditure of funds (see attached). Some people have said \$500,000 is a lot of money, she said and are you sure you are going to need all of that or what is going to happen if you have extra money. She pointed out that it might be helpful to walk through this process

presented in a different way. If the voters approve the \$500,000 bank note to fund this preliminary work, then the money would be available for services needed to make decisions along the way. If we only needed \$200,000 she added, then we would only use \$200,000, but if we needed \$500,000 then we could use \$500,000, but not more because the voters had not authorized more.

MSAD #75 in Topsham just completed their first step for \$15,000, which is the new versus renovation analysis. Their analysis indicated it would cost close to \$20 million to renovate, close to \$40 million for a new school if they used the existing field house and locker rooms, or just over \$45 million with the addition of a new wood-floor gym. Topsham has not made a decision on which way to go yet and there were concerns about what they called light construction. In the 1960's, many school were built with light construction, which means they were not as solid as older buildings. Because Mount Ararat built theirs in the 1970's there was concern that it would be light construction and construed to be poorly constructed. As part of the new versus renovation analysis she said, they open up a wall. She indicated that if they find light construction, no insulation, crumbling walls, deteriorating electrical and plumbing that all needs to be redone they would not have to go very far before they could say you have a poorly constructed facility and it's going to cost you less to build new onto that facility. She said sometimes they have to go deeper and it is not so obvious. Lisbon built its High School in several phases. Lisbon built its original High School around 1955 and built additions in 1966 and 1973. The architects would have to look at different sections of this building to do this work, she said and it may cost us more because Topsham built everything at pretty much the same time. There is an unknown cost to the new versus renovation analysis, she said; however, when that data is complete, the School Committee can make a decision based upon the information that they have at that time whether to renovate or build new.

To build new or renovate is similar, she said, except if the architects say the building is solid enough to renovate, then you do an extensive systems analysis, program review, look at alternative energy sources, prepare a schematic design concept along with the site survey and reports from the geotechnical engineers, soil scientists, wildlife biologists, and traffic engineers. It would be slightly different for new construction, she said, because the very first thing you have to do is look at the site to determine whether it can house the size of the facility needed. Questions like how we phase in the project transitioning kids from the existing building into the new building, what does it do to the site, and do we need more land, all have to be answered. You have to go through an analysis of the soil, slop, and grade she explained, which is an 18-step process to follow. She said the process would be slightly different if you use the same sight unless you do not have enough land, then the architects and engineers would need to work that out. Once you determine the site, she said the next few phases were similar again: program review, alternative energy sources, and schematic design drawings, etc. which you present to the community so that they would have some sense of what the traffic patterns look like and how the building would look. As part of our current site evaluation, she said we would still have to do the geotechnical engineering, soil, and biology tests. Although a lot of the work is similar, the major decision point, she emphasized was when the new versus renovation analysis is complete; often the costs are related to the challenges that you face. She pointed out that if we said we were going to build new and the architects look at the current site and determines it is a perfect spot then it would not take a whole lot of money to determine that - the state approves it and we are good to go. She pointed out that the Lisbon Community School started out with 18 possible sites, which encompassed approaching landowners, soil tests, and working with the Department of Environmental Protection that was a very expensive process. She said it all depends upon what you find as you work through each stage, which is contingent upon how much money there is to spend.

With a bank note, she said Lisbon could take out only as much as it needed. She said her attorney mentioned Lisbon could wait to make note payments until the voters approved the school's construction project so that the money Lisbon would be spending for services becomes a part of the total cost of the project and is bonded as such and paid off in that way. If the voters say no, then Lisbon would need to start paying back the bank note.

Councilor Larochelle said Topsham got a good deal, that \$15,000 looked much better than \$500,000 and that even if this comes to ten times that amount it would still not be up to the \$500,000 mark. Hearing the presentation, he said, it appears we need to spend over \$100,000 on the energy analysis, but is that necessary to determine new versus renovate. Dr. Welsh said that was a good question and referred Councilor Larochelle to the green sheet entitled "Lisbon School Department Capital Plan Facilities Project Projected Process for Expenditure of Funds February 2009" (see attached). She pointed out that Topsham spent \$15,000 on the first bulleted item entitled "New vs. Renovation Analysis," and that they would utilize the rest of their funds on the bullets below depending upon the outcome of that decision so Lisbon's \$500,000 is for completing the first bullet and the rest of the services under one track or the other. Topsham will have to spend that money on the rest of these services as well. She said it may only cost us \$15,000 for the new vs. renovation analysis, but we still have to complete the rest of that work prior to going to the voters for referendum approval on the project. She indicated the School Committee felt it is prudent to look at renewable energy sources given the present energy situation because the heating system at the High and Middle Schools need replacing so this would be the time to do this analysis rather than automatically installing an oil burner given the age of the current system.

Councilor Larochelle asked how much Lisbon paid for the new versus renovation analysis for the elementary School. She said because it was back in 2002 it was only \$150,000, but Durham spent \$325,000 a couple years ago. Once the new versus renovation analysis is complete, the School Committee will make a decision (ensuring that the structure chosen will last for 50 years) and move forward with the rest of that track producing the schematic design concept and drawings for the community to approve. Now what typically happens after the new versus renovation analysis is done, she said is that the committee holds a public meeting around the information gathered, obtains a straw poll vote of the people present to ensure that the project moves forward in the right direction. She said the School Committee would make the ultimate decision and move forward. Once you ask for the \$500,000 she said, you do the public hearings, the public informational meetings, and the straw polls to make sure you are moving forward on the right track, but you do not go back to the voters for another referendum until you have the drawings.

Councilor Bowie asked how long this note would be. Dr. Welsh said typically the work takes six months, which had the Council approved the referendum for February the architects thought they would have had this ready for the voters to decide on at the November Election, but at this point, it may take longer than that. The architect's work will take up to six months or no more than nine months to complete.

Councilor Wells asked if it made any sense at all to approve spending \$15,000 to \$20,000 on the new versus renovation analysis and then at that point go to the voters for the straw poll. She said the debt service on just \$20 million would be \$1.6 million in 2010, which is a four-mil increase to the voters. It makes more sense to start right now with \$20,000 to do the new versus renovation analysis, she said and then when the architects recommend new or renovate go to the voters with a straw poll to see if they are willing to take on an additional four-mil increase. My concern right now is, she said, isn't this the wrong time to be doing this with the economy the way it is. She said if we were going to be asking the voters for \$1.6 million per year - wouldn't it make more sense to spend \$20,000 now and then do the straw poll, public hearings, and continue with the engineering work? Dr. Welsh replied that if we get the \$20,000 to do the new versus renovation analysis we would still have to go back out to a referendum vote to ask for the other money, this delays the process and adds the cost of another election to the total. You could do the exact opposite of that, she pointed out by saying to the voters we need \$500,000 to get us to this point, which the voters may very well support, but if they don't - maybe that's when you put the \$20,000 into the budget, get the new versus renovation analysis done and then go to the voters. Councilor Wells said she was wondering whether we could put in the \$20,000 now and go to the voters in June since we have an election then anyway. Dr. Welsh said that would be fine, but that they did not have the \$20,000 right now.

Councilor Bowie confirmed that the note or bond still had to have voter approval because it was over \$100,000. Dr. Welsh said that was correct.

Councilor Bowie asked if the question could be worded in such a way that the public would understand what the long-term commitment might be after raising the \$500,000 services portion for a project of this magnitude. He said unfortunately, there were no other funding mechanisms out there, except local funding right now. Dr. Welsh said the attorneys tend to draft the language in a very formal and legal manner. What our commitment has always been, she said, is that we send out a couple of direct mailings to households, informational brochures that say "attention tax impact," and hold public informational meetings to answer the community's questions and address some of the Council's concerns. The referendum question should accompany recommendations from the Council, School Committee, and the Budget Advisory Board; she said these would be public sessions as well.

Councilor Cote said we are probably looking to put people on the street in the next couple of months without a job and it just seems so very hard to spend money right now.

Councilor Crafts said he liked the idea of raising \$20,000, adding that it made sense, but questioned how to raise it. He said if we could find \$20,000 now they could start tomorrow to get this thing rolling. It makes a lot of sense, but do you want to spend \$20,000 he said, when we are trying to put a budget together and there is not enough money to put the budget together as it is.

Dr. Welsh said they were introducing the proposed order tonight, next the Council orders a public hearing to be held on the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes, and orders notice of that public hearing to be published not less than 7 days nor not more than 15 days from the Council's final action. She said at the public hearing you might hear pros and cons that may influence the Council's final decision on whether to move forward or not with this.

Councilor Larochelle suggested wording the \$500,000 note so that once the \$20,000 analysis was complete and you knew you could not get the rest of the money to complete the project you could stop there and use the \$480,000 for renovations and take away the modulars, fix that end of the school, and pass the accreditation process. He said that at least you would have money available instead of waiting another year for approval. Dr. Welsh said the referendum language has to be very specific. Councilor Wells asked if it would make sense to table this item for tonight and ask Mr. Eldridge to see if there was a way to find the \$20,000 in this year's budget. Councilor Bowie said there were two things to consider - if we want to do something like that (table the item) then we definitely want a note because there are bond deadlines. He said they need approval from the Council tonight to apply for the spring bond because the application is due tomorrow. The bond bank would approve these applications at their March 11 board meeting. According to Greg Connors, Mr. Eldridge said you have until April 23 to hold a referendum or the Council could decide to pull its application. Before we do anything, Councilor Mason said we have to give the public the right to hear all these facts and not every person in this town is going to hear this. She recommended some sort of public hearing. Councilor Bowie said he did not disagree with that, but encouraged the School Department to submit the application so that they would be ready to position themselves for potential bond money. He pointed out that if the referendum failed there would be no harm done and that Lisbon was not committing to anything by submitting the application. Councilor Wells said aren't we committing as a Council that if the referendum gets approved that we have agreed to spend \$500,000. Councilor Bowie replied no, because you have between now and April 23 to hold a referendum, to further discuss and determine whether or not you have enough community support to move forward, get some notifications out, hold some hearings, and if people come back and say go forward then okay we hold the referendum. If we hold those discussions and everybody is saying that times are too tough then we do not hold the referendum and withdraw our application from the bond bank he said. Councilor Bowie said the School Department wants to hear the community comments too and that this action would put us on the short track to hold discussions, get some information out there and allow us this opportunity

without spending a dime. He added that the Council could still look for the \$20,000 or even discuss the note portion of the process. He suggested keeping all our options open and giving them the approval, they need to submit an application. Councilor Wells asked if that meant that the Council would approve the School Department moving forward with the application process and us scheduling public hearings in order to get feedback. Councilor Bowie said he would ask Mr. Eldridge and Dr. Welsh to work together, to schedule public notification meetings, public hearings for the Council and School Committee, and to figure out how best to communicate with the public for feedback.

Ms. Grant said she was happy that the Council was supportive, but not sure if what the Council had envisioned was workable. Dr. Welsh said she would ask Cathy Mesmer to submit an application; I am not sure if she can since it is due tomorrow, she said but appreciated the opportunity. Councilor Bowie said if that fails then we can always move forward with the meetings to talk about the note process before we go to referendum. Mrs. Austin asked that the meetings begin shortly to help with the accreditation process. Dr. Welsh said the School Department had invited Pamela Gray, the NEASC director to speak at 7PM at the Town Hall on February 23 at a workshop session to talk about the NEASC process, our report in particular, the work we have done to address the areas of concern, and also to have her see us. It helps to see the people involved to witness the energy and effort you are making on behalf of the children, she said, and they are aware of the economic times, but we want them to know we are working hard to address the issues. She said there was community support for doing something; we have to figure out what that something is. Councilor Bowie said he would like to attend this meeting and asked Dr. Welsh to remind him.

(VOTE 2009-19A) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Mason to allow the School Department and School Committee to move forward with a bond application if supported by a future referendum vote. **Order passed – Vote 7-0.**

Mr. Eldridge referred to the bond schedule he gave the Council. Lisbon is looking at \$1,859,145 in projects coming up; \$840,000 for Lisbon's local road schedule, \$394,000 in match for Upland Road (half will be due next year and half the following year), and \$256,000 match for the Trails Grant. He said Public Works needs a new loader, which is in the capital budget. He recommended selling the Solid Waste loader, giving Solid Waste the old loader from Public Works, and giving Public Works the new loader for \$153,645. Public Works needs a commercial body for \$46,000 and dump body for \$23,000 he said, and recommended leasing these over a five-year period. The Public Works building needs repairs totaling \$56,500 to fix the concrete blocks and to do pretty much the same thing we did on the Solid Waste building, he said, but if we just fix the work needed over the doorways it would be only \$17,000. Wayne Ricker has a \$90,000 compactor that needs replacing; he suggested bonding that over a ten-year period. He said he and Ms. Ricker have their application for bonding ready to go, but needed Council approval to put that application in tomorrow. He said this may or may not be in their presentation on the 17th because it is still under a lot of discussion; he suggested keeping the bonding alternative open. The Upland Road match for \$394,000 will add one mil to the tax rate; Lisbon would need the Trails Grant match pending possible approval as well. He asked for Council approval to submit an application for bonding. Lisbon would spend the road money within a three-year period, he said. He indicated that this would also need voter approval before April 23 in order to move forward. Lisbon has not done any major roadwork in years, he said, and there is a lot of work to do. He pointed out that some of Public Work's vehicles cannot even hold materials and recommended Lisbon fix this part of its infrastructure. Councilor Cote said we should put the application in and let the public make the decision. Councilor Crafts recommended putting the application in as well.

(VOTE 2009-19B) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to have the Town Manger apply for a \$1,859,145 bond as presented.

Dorothy Fitzgerald asked if the Council could separate the bond for the roads and trails. Councilor Bowie said he did not believe we had to send in the application that way, but that the Council

would separate out the referendum question; one for road construction and one for equipment. Mrs. Fitzgerald said these were tough times and pointed out that while road construction was necessary, she felt the trails segment was perhaps unnecessary. Councilor Bowie said they could separate trails and road construction. Councilor Wells pointed out that just because we have applied for \$1,859,145 does not mean we have to spend \$1,859,145, which maybe Mrs. Fitzgerald's point - that if the voters only approve the roads and equipment then we bond only roads and equipment. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

ORDER 2009-20 FIRE DEPARTMENT, PHASE II - SQUAD 3

Marc Veilleux, the Truck Committee chairperson presented a packet of information listing the items needed in order to complete the truck Lisbon purchased earlier. He said the bottom line did not exceed the money already set aside in the refurbish and replacement account for these items.

Councilor Cote said he would have a hard time spending money at this time; we are looking at a budget, which will require a considerable amount of money to meet the budget, he said and that he understood the money had already been set aside for that purpose, but that he just could not see spending it at this time. Councilor Larochelle said the Council had already approved this investment and that we could not use the truck at all until we purchase the rest of these items. Councilor Cote replied, I know but we cannot afford it. Mr. Eldridge said we already have the money in the bank in the capital budget because they were on a scheduled replacement plan. Chief Galipeau said they created the refurbish and replacement budget so in economic times like these we could move forward. The old squad will go out to bid, Chief Galipeau said and the money will go back into the refurbish and replacement account. They plan to transfer all the existing tools into the new vehicle.

Councilor Mason asked if it were necessary to paint the white truck green. Mr. Veilleux said they were looking to match the rest of the fleet and that they were planning to paint only the lower half below the windows. She said this is only \$750 but it is unnecessary. Gold lettering is very expensive, she said and asked if they could get it done for half. He said the committee was trying to keep everything uniform all the way across the board, plus it was only a \$100 difference. The winch is part of the NFPA standards Lisbon must meet.

Councilor Cote said the problem here is that in the next few months we are obviously going to have to cut and possibly put people out of work. To go out and spend \$33,000 on fire apparatus that we could probably get by without for a while to see what the economy does, is not going to be very well received by our constituents he said. We are putting people out of work because there is no money and we are spending money on things that are nice and granted the Fire Department does a wonderful job, he said but there is no money. Mr. Veilleux said Lisbon has a twenty-year program, that money is allotted for this purpose, and that they have been working within that budget to make things work; this squad had been put off for a couple of years because the rescue needed to be replaced. This money does not affect the operating budget he said. Councilor Bowie said he understood Councilor Cote's point; however, the Council would receive just as much scrutiny for not thinking of that before we allowed the purchase in the first place, but the public is not going to like the fact that we cannot use the new vehicle for emergencies. He said we are in a bad situation anyway, but we owe it to the town since we already saved this money to go forward with it so that the vehicle can perform for the community. Councilor Crafts said we already agreed to do this and we made a public commitment. Councilor Wells pointed out this the money was already there. Councilor Bowie suggested taking up these items up separately.

VOTE (2009-20A) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to award the Truck Body to Messer for \$6,150. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20B) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to award the under mount toolboxes to Black Bear Ladder and Staging for \$1,013.98. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20C) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to award the paint job to Lemay's Body Shop for \$750. Councilor Larochelle publicly acknowledged a conflict of interest involving an estimate he put in for painting work and abstained from voting on this issue and in no way attempted to influence the decision of the Council. **Order failed - Vote 3-3-1. (Opposed: Mason, Cote, Wells) (Abstained: Larochelle)**

VOTE (2009-20D) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to award the compartment lighting work to Car Quest for \$386.55. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20E) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to award the warning system to Strobes N' More for \$3,279.79. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20F) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to award the scene lighting to All Hands Fire Equipment for \$1,600. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20G) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to award the contractor for wiring to Maine Radio for \$1,200. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20H) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to award the Mounting Console to Fire Tech and Safety for \$600. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20I) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to award the brush guard to VIP for \$800. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20J) Councilor Larochelle, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to award the warn winch to GoWarn for \$1,513.95. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20K) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Bowie moved to award the generator to Darley for \$1,500. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20L) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to award the lettering to the Sign Store for \$600. **Order passed - Vote 5-2. (Opposed: Mason & Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20M) Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to award the forestry skid tank to Darley for \$13,855. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

VOTE (2009-20N) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to award the auto charger to Darley for \$600. **Order passed - Vote 6-1. (Opposed: Cote)**

ORDER 2009-21 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROPOSALS

Mr. Eldridge said this was something he would be doing internally and that the Safety & Wellness Committee had proposed this change. He said when he first arrived there were about three different groups doing this work. Chief Galipeau informed the Council that the town currently utilized several different occupational health service companies. He said the Safety & Wellness Committee recommended standardizing the process by using one company, Concentra from Lewiston for our Occupational Health Service. Workers Comp works together with them hand in hand. Councilor Bowie said no formal action would be required.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. RON POTVIN, ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY DISCUSSION

Ron Potvin, a Councilor for the City of Auburn and Corrections Officer for Androscoggin County presented a petition to the Council asking them for their endorsement to form a County Charter Commission. He said this is an important issue and that the County's Budget line was one of the largest lines in the City's of Auburn's budget. He said it is difficult to tell the public just what they were getting for their tax dollars. County government does not operate up front, its more behind the scenes and deals with things like the jail, office functions, record keeping, the courts, he said but we really want to see this operated a little more in the public and up front all in the name of improvement. When we have a level of government receiving negative headlines every week in the newspaper, we have a problem he added. We need to change this; county government does not have any rules, he said just basic statutes passed down from Augusta. He pointed out that 59 officials out of 88 supported this change.

Mr. Potvin said he wanted to keep Lisbon informed about their progress. He asked that Lisbon join fellow Councilors and Selectmen in sending this strong message to the County, that we are now at a crossroads in county government, and is it going to improve and serve the needs of the county. He said the president supports county government across the nation in an effort to save money on a multi-level basis. Maine does not do this, he said and the City of Auburn is asking why aren't we involving other communities. The Councilors, Selectmen, and Town Managers have put together two documents: the first one is a simple petition to establish a county charter commission and the second one outlines procedural changes and lists the concerns towns have about our county government.

- Distribution of County Commissioner agendas to its member municipalities and their leaders well in advance of the meeting utilizing e-mail wherever possible.
- Have a portion of each meeting dedicated to "public comment."
- Hold meetings at times that are more conducive to the working Androscoggin county residents (evenings).
- Improve communications with member municipalities' generally, such as a simple web page with current information on it, televised meetings, or a newsletter.
- Improve budget communications via an executive summary to municipal leaders that gives overviews of major budget impacts and overall proposed tax rate impacts, as well as meeting dates for receiving comments.
- Conduct periodic (quarterly) district meetings to give and receive information from your municipal constituents on such topics as the county Building Rehab process, jail consolidation, the Charter progress, the budget process, etc.
- Eliminate the election of County Treasurer and instead, create minimum qualifications and standards for the appointment of said position (Sec, 156).
- Hire a county administrator to better manage the county's functions, staff and finances (Sec. 82).
- Return the powers of hiring subordinate staff to the various department heads.

The Commissioners have been asking for something they can look at, Mr. Potvin said. It is time to hire a County Administrator. There were ten communities behind this now and only four left to contact. He encouraged the Council to place this item on the agenda for adoption and announced that they have a meeting scheduled at the County Courthouse on March 4 at 2:30 PM to make this presentation. He invited the Council to attend. Councilor Bowie said they are definitely trying to make improvements. Mr. Potvin said he thought Lisbon would be interested in the assessing part and the possibility of joining functions like this on a multi-level basis. He said one of the biggest issues Lewiston and Auburn had was over the control part, which has never been defined; however, this is the level of

government to realize regional savings. Outside of New England, most counties handle Public Works, Recreation, and some of them rely completely on the County Sheriff for law enforcement. A lot of them have County Fire Departments, not Municipal. Not to say that we are going to go down that route, Mr. Potvin said, but there are potential savings to gain by supplying something that covers a bigger area. He said between county government and AVCOG, which also supplies many regional services, we have the parameters to be able to work together; we are all one great big neighborhood. He said he looked forward to working together. Mr. Eldridge recommended placing this item on the February 17 agenda to discuss further.

B. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Eldridge said he attended the Brunswick Naval Air Command presentation at the Brunswick High School. The information was very informative and the Times Record article covered the meeting very well. They talked about job losses and job replacement. He said it sounded like we will be lose about 6,000 jobs, but they are working hard to try to fill those positions with companies. He said he planned to meet with Department Heads next week to finalize their recommendations and to present to them his recommendations. He said they had done a good job making recommendations on ways they can function with less. He said that he was looking at trying to provide the same level of services for a lower cost.

He mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremonies for the Sausage Kitchen and the new Lisbon Falls Florist. They both had very good turnouts yesterday. He said the Androscoggin County Chamber dinner was excellent and the Chamber was pleased that Lisbon had five Councilors attend. He said fuel bids went out. Lisbon's website is currently under construction. He asked Councilors to look at the site prior to the 17th so that they could make comments or recommendations at the next meeting. He said it should be live on March 1.

Mr. Eldridge said Ms. Bradley, Mr. Leighton, and he showed the Campus Avenue School today to a developer out of Portland who buys up buildings and turns them into mix housing for moderate-income levels. He asked the Council to start thinking about how they want to handle this on the 17th and said he hoped to have an offer by then. He said they planned to maintain the historic register requirements and agreed to work with Lisbon to maintain what the Council would like to see in the community.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sandra said she was a disabled veteran and resident from the Lisbon Falls area. She asked the Council to adopt the Governor's Property Tax Relief for Seniors Program for 60-year olds and older. She said towns are now committed to creating a volunteer service program in exchange for property tax relief. She explained that this program adopted by the Governor on April 16 allows residents the opportunity to do volunteer work for up to \$750 off their property tax bill. She said the Governor modeled this plan after similar tax reduction plans in Colorado, Massachusetts, and South Carolina. She said the article told interested seniors to contact their elected officials about adopting the program. She said she was interested in participating. She said this would have to be implemented by someone. She requested the Council take a vote. She requested the Council at least address it when monies could be set aside for it since it says up to \$750, she said.

APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS - TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AND BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD

VOTE (2009-22) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Cote moved to accept Steven Miles' resignation from the Budget Advisory Board and Don Barter's resignation from the Technology Committee. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

ONE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Councilor Bowie asked Councilors whether they wanted to go through interviews for these candidates first. He said there were enough openings for all those that applied with one exception, that being the Budget Advisory Board. Councilor Bowie said, typically, when we have more than one we do interviews. Councilor Wells recommended voting on the information present since we would be filing what we have with what we have for applications. Councilor Crafts suggested filling all of them except the one with two candidates.

Mr. Douglas said he had a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Husson College. This committee would meet once or twice; Councilor Wells said its main task is to hear the Auditors presentation before it goes before the Council.

VOTE (2009-23) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to appoint Richard Douglas of 55 Wing Street to the Audit Committee. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

Mr. Eldridge said this was a new committee and that his assistant Mrs. Durisko would contact him. Councilor Bowie recommended this committee set up an organizational meeting soon and report that back to the Council.

TWO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

VOTE (2009-24) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Larochelle moved to appoint Nathan Gould to the 2011 term and Calvin Beaumier to the 2010 term on the Conservation Commission. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

Mr. Eldridge said his assistant Mrs. Durisko would contact them soon and that he would notify the chair of that committee who the Council had appointed.

TWO APPEALS BOARD MEMBERS

VOTE (2009-25) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Henry moved to appoint Calvin Beaumier to the 2011 term and Laura Henton to the 2010 term on the Appeals Board. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

ONE BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD DISTRICT 2 MEMBER

(Appointment expires December 1, 2009 and Term expires in 2010)

Councilor Bowie asked if the Council wanted to do an interview since there was more than one candidate. Councilor Cote Mr. Comber had filed his application on September 8 for this position and that the Council should consider him. Councilor Bowie said that application was for the Ethics Committee. Councilor Cote said Mr. Comber's application had a check mark by the question "Are you interested in other committees" to which he answered "Yes, Budget Advisory Board." Councilor Bowie asked if Councilor Cote was recommending the Council hold off until they could interview him. Councilor Cote replied, absolutely. Councilor Wells asked if Mr. Comber had showed any interest in this opening after the Council posted it. Mr. Eldridge said Mr. Comber did call and asked that the Council consider his application. Mr. Eldridge said he notified Mr. Comber about the meeting. Robin Tupper said Mr. Comber had a doctor's appointment today out of town. Councilor Cote said the

Budget Advisory Board would have more input in the future. Mr. Eldridge said the Budget Advisory Board will come to their first presentation with the Council on March 17 and then on the following Tuesday they will meet with the Finance Director and Town Manager. Richard Main agreed with doing both interviews later.

COUNCILOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Cote said that he voted tonight against the fire apparatus, that he wanted to let the Fire Department know that he was not out to short change them or to make them feel like they were not doing a very good job, it's just that money is very tight and he was not comfortable spending money at this time. Mr. Veilleux said we all understand that. Councilor Cote said we were looking at some incredible hard times.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ORDER 2009-27 TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PER 1 MRSA SECTION 405 (6) (A) PERSONNEL MATTERS AND (D) LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Councilor Cote said the public informed him that they did not realize at the last meeting that the Council would be coming out of executive session to vote and that they would have stayed to hear what the Council voted on. He asked if the Council would be coming back after executive session to vote. Councilor Bowie replied, yes.

VOTE (2009-27) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Mason moved to go into executive session at 9:15 PM per 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (A) personnel matters and (D) labor negotiations. **Order passed - Vote 7-0.** The Council Chairman dismissed the Council Secretary. The Council came out of executive session at 10:15 PM.

(Janet Henry left at 9:16 PM.)

VOTE (2009-27A) Councilor Wells, seconded by Councilor Laroche moved to extend the Town Manager's contract an additional year and to increase the Town Manager's salary 3% effective January 7, 2009. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2009-29) Councilor Cote, seconded by Councilor Craft moved to adjourn at 10:20 PM. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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