



**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2017 POSTPONED TO
MARCH 16, 2017**

Dale Crafts, At Large 2017
Normand Albert, At Large 2018
Kasie Kolbe, District 1 2018
Allen Ward, District 2 2018
Christopher Brunelle, At Large 2019
Mark Lunt, District 1 2019
Kris Crawford, District 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER. The Chairman, Allen Ward, called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Ward, Albert, Crafts, Brunelle, Lunt, and Crawford. Councilor Kolbe was excused. Also present were Diane Barnes, Town Manager; Traci Austin, School Committee Chairman; Haley McCrater, School Bookkeeper; Rick Green, Superintendent of Schools; Karen Paradis, Planning Board Member; Lydia Colston, Finance Director; and approximately two other citizens in the audience.

SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Green pointed out the Lisbon School Department's Mission and Vision which drives our professional conversations and the work that we do. Our vision recognizes that all students learn in different ways and in different timeframes and our mission states that we are united with our community to provide a personalized, innovative education for all learners in an ever-changing world. The tentative 2017-18 school budget figures are preliminary and there are several variables to consider prior to the School Committee's final budget approval on May 8, 2017.

Superintendent Green mentioned the three important documents involved in coming up with the final budget totals and pointed out that these too will change:

Budget Summary Report (February 6, 2017)
Cost Center Report (March 16, 2017)
Subsidy Comparison Report (March 13, 2017)

Dr. Green indicated the tentative 2017-18 Cost Center Report currently has a \$648,193 increase in local funding. However, there are multiple factors that contribute to this increase with the three most significant ones being the decrease in state subsidy, decrease in the anticipated revenues, and the actual operational costs of the Gartley Street School, which can be found on pages 41-43 of the February 6, 2017, Budget Summary Report.

Dr. Green said at the top of the March 13, 2017, Subsidy Comparison Sheet, the anticipated revenues currently utilized in developing this budget include the use of Capital Reserves, the Interest Credit from the Guaranteed Performance Contract, Bond Proceeds, School Nutrition, and the Gartley Street School revenues. He reported that although we have included the use of these funds from these revenues sources in the previous budget, there is an \$83,199 reduction in available revenues from last year. On February 16, 2017, he said, Lisbon received the preliminary ED-279 figures, which indicated our state subsidy for the school department was being reduced by \$115,592. This reduction is directly related to the elimination of the state's percentage of funding for School Administration/Support.

Dr. Green reported that the Total Budget/Budget Expenditures includes Local Funds, Additional Local Funds, Revenue, Debt Service, Essential Programs and Services (EPS), Transition Amount and State Subsidy. The total budget, as of today, for the Lisbon School Department, including Adult Education is \$15,678,286.

Dr. Green reported that the Unassigned Fund Balance includes unanticipated revenue (MaineCare, Tuition, etc.) and money that is restricted and unassigned from the prior budget year(s).

Dr. Green reported that the Anticipated Revenue includes revenue from the use of the Capital Reserve Fund, Interest Credit, Bond Proceeds, Gartley Street School and payments from the Nutrition Program.

Dr. Green reported that the Local Only Debt Service includes the local payments for the Track, Gym, and LCS not included in the EPS formula. He reported that the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding model is designed to insure that schools have the programs and services which are essential if all students are to have equitable opportunities to achieve the Maine Learning Results. He pointed out that the 100% EPS number is the result of this calculation and that the amount above 100% EPS is the result of subtracting the 100% EPS amount from the Total Budget. He reported that the ED-279 reports what is essential numbers as compared to what Lisbon residents want over or under those figures as follows:

Description	EPS	Lisbon
Teachers	76.1	74.2
Guidance	4.1	4
Librarians	1.5	1
Health (Nurses)	1.5	3 (because residents want one at each school)
Ed-Techs	7.7	6.4
Library Techs	2.5	1.6
Clerical	6.3	5.4
School Admin.	4.1	5 (with two part-timers it looks like 6 but is not 6)

Dr. Green reported that the Transition Amount is the amount of subsidy that we don't receive from the state because they are unable to fund the 55% that is required by law. The total Additional Local Funds is the Amount above 100% EPS added to the Transition Amount. The State Subsidy is the actual amount of funding that we receive from the state and the Required Local Contribution is the amount of money that you have to raise locally in order to receive the State Subsidy. The Total Local Funding is the amount of money that has to be raised locally through property taxes, which is projected to be at this point \$6,642,276.

Dr. Green pointed out Lisbon's preliminary subsidy amount for the school department has a decrease of \$115,592, so the preliminary budget would require an increase in local funding of \$648,193. He pointed out that there is currently a decrease of \$83,199 in anticipated revenues with a \$60,000 decrease being attributed to the Gartley Street School. He reported the balance to help defray taxes or Unassigned Fund Balance is currently at \$194,270. He mentioned the auditors like to keep that number at 3% or about \$200,000 to keep the school's operational expenses flowing. He mentioned the School Department anticipated it would receive \$21,528 in an Interest Credit from the Guaranteed Performance Contract. He indicated there were several other variables that will impact this budget before its final. Dr. Green asked that questions be emailed or feel free to call him. He said this is a fiscally responsible budget that maintains the programs we currently have.

COUNCILOR COMMENTS: Councilor Ward asked what percentage of this budget were salaries and benefits. Dr. Green said that would be 60-78% traditionally.

Councilor Albert asked if the new ED-279 figures come out again, could it be lower. Dr. Green said yes, but the administration piece is a challenge because they would like us to consolidate, which is a situation that we share with other communities. He pointed out that Lisbon has to consider its collective bargaining units and mileage. Dr. Green pointed out that this budget is \$160,000 less than the preliminary budget presented last year at this time.

After much discussion, Councilor Crafts pointed out that the Council needs to ensure Lisbon is attractive to potential homebuyers and that a higher tax bill in Lisbon as compared to its surrounding communities discourages homebuyers from choosing Lisbon homes. Councilor Albert pointed out that a fully occupied downtown or Main Street can help. He said we need to duplicate that in the rest of the town. Councilor Ward mentioned that 17 new homes build in Lisbon last year is evidence that we are growing.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2017-63) Councilor Crawford, seconded by Councilor Brunelle moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.
Order passed - Vote 6-0.

Twila D. Lycette, Council Secretary
 Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM/MMC
 Date Approved April 4, 2017