



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Christopher Brunelle, At Large 2016
Eric Metivier, District 1 2016
Roger Bickford, District 2, 2016
Dale Crafts, At Large 2017
Normand Albert, At Large 2018
Kasie Kolbe, District 1 2018
Allen Ward, District 2 2018

CALL TO ORDER. The Chairman, Roger Bickford, called the meeting to order and waived the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Bickford, Brunelle, Metivier, Crafts, Kolbe, and Ward. Councilor Albert arrived at 7:35 PM. Also present were Diane Barnes, Town Manager; David Brooks, Police Chief; Daniel Michel, Lieutenant; and approximately five citizens in the audience.

TOWN ONE-TIME RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Councilor Bickford explained there would be no questions asked at this meeting tonight and that questions were welcome at Tuesday's regular meeting when this item would be on the agenda. He said Chief Brooks asked him to bring this item forward for the Council to think about and then vote on it next Tuesday.

Chief Brooks indicated he began working for the Town of Lisbon in August of 1974 and Lieutenant Michel December 1976. Together they have put in 81 years of service. He indicated they were still working because they needed health insurance benefits for themselves and spouses. He reported many State Police Officers receive health insurance benefits when they retire, even today. Federal retirees, like his father, had full medical benefits at 100% when they retired after 21 years of service, but Lisbon retirees have nothing. He pointed out that discussions began last summer. He explained that at present a 2 for 1 concept could mean a reduction in administration and the creation of a patrol level position.

Chief Brooks indicated this presentation was ready for the Council to review under Chairman Pesce's term last fall, which is now being presented. He went over the figures in his presentation. He pointed out the Finance Director found savings as he went through this exercise. He reported within four years, potentially, there could be approximately a \$105,000 savings within that budget.

Councilor Ward asked if anyone else would fit into this category. It was reported that only two were eligible. Councilor Metivier questioned whether, with this proposal, Lisbon would be short an officer. Chief Brooks said she hoped the Council would redirect funds to bring back one full time position, which would mean reinstating that one position cut in 2015-2016.

Mr. Karass said it is never a question of how much there will be in savings, but whether the savings will materialize. He explained the ongoing costs of health insurance for the Chief and Lieutenant that would still have to be budgeted, which is complicated by the inadequacy of coverage in town to be filled, but agreed there would be some savings but that is as far as anybody can go at this point. It was reported that these costs would remain a constant since they are already in there. Mr. Karass remarked how do we make up the gap and yes there is some savings.

Chief Brooks said the town cannot keep cutting personnel in the Police Department that they are down to 13 today, which is a 24% cut in personnel and man-hours drastically reducing coverage. He suggested this one-time retirement incentive could fix that lost patrol position. Seeing no further comments, Councilor Bickford announced this item would be on the next agenda on Tuesday.

VOTE (2016-28c) Councilor Metivier, seconded by Councilor Crafts moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.
Order passed – Vote 7-0.

Twila D. Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM/MMC
Date Approved March 1, 2016