



**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2015**

Gregg Garrison, At Large 2015
Mark Lunt, District 1 2015
Dillon Pesce, District 2 2015
Christopher Brunelle, At Large 2016
Eric Metivier, District 1 2016
Roger Bickford, District 2, 2016
Dale Crafts, At Large 2017

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. The Chairman, Dillon Pesce, called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Lunt, Bickford, Pesce, and Garrison. Excused were Councilors Crafts, Brunelle, and Metivier. Also present were Diane Barnes, Town Manager; Ryan Leighton, Public Works Director; Verla Brooks, Parks Director; Tracey Steuber, Economic Development Director; Fern Larochelle, Finance Committee Chairman; Donald Fellows, Planning Board Member; and one other citizens in the audience.

MOXIE COMMITTEE

Gina Mason indicated the Moxie Committee wanted to know what the Council was expecting of them this year and in what direction they wanted to see the festival go. For instance, should it grow bigger or continue to reimburse the town for Police and Public Work's services. Should they request additional funds from the town? Should they consider reimbursing the Fire Department for services, which they have not done before? She reported only a small group of individuals work on this event and that sponsorship revenues are declining. She indicated there were only a small number of businesses in town to support this event. Everyone is cutting back so sponsorships are dropping; however the festival continues to get better every year. She indicated that each event during the festival could use items or tools to make it easier to operate. For instance, the parade committee could use a booth in each division and golf carts to move around the area easier. We could use individuals to sell soda or help in other areas, too. The parade brings in 50,000 people annually; that's huge. She said the goal is to get visitors to return to Main Street to visit businesses like the Sausage Kitchen or Drapeau's Costumes. She pointed out that lots of reunions were planned around Moxie Day so people are coming home, which is what they want.

Brenda Rogers reported that she has been serving on this committee going on 23 years and loves it. She grew up in Lisbon, attended Lisbon schools, and graduated from Lisbon. Although she lives in a different town now, her insurance business is located here. She said this festival is good for our community and that she was working on making sure the town is covered. She reported there would be a \$500 increase this year for insurance that cannot be helped, plus liability coverage on carnivals is expensive, and she wanted the Council to be aware of those issues. She said it's getting harder and harder to find sponsors who believe in this festival as much as we do. She asked if the goal was to get bigger and bigger or be content with where we are. We want to draw people here who will come back. The businesses on Main Street benefit a great deal because of their location. She indicated that the festival is starting to grow so much, but the revenues are not increasing.

Councilor Garrison asked about the cost of the Times Record ad in the Brunswick paper. Mrs. Mason said it was more than Lewiston because the ad is bigger and they provide an insert.

Councilor Lunt said this is the first he had heard about the Fire Department being reimbursed and that he didn't want to burden the Moxie Committee for money they don't have.

Councilor Bickford indicated he did not know how much money the Moxie Committee needed, but he would be willing to put something on a referendum ballot to see if residents would be willing to spend a little more.

Mrs. Mason said it is so important to bring people back home; she pointed out that some people meet at the Gazebo for reunions. She said she hoped that people might donate five (5) hours on Moxie Day to sit at a booth to sell soda or something; in-kind things would be helpful as well.

Councilor Pesce pointed out that the festival reimbursed the Police Department \$2,900 for services, Public Works \$4,500 for services, totaling \$7,400. He asked how long the Moxie Festival Committee had been doing that. Mrs. Mason said this year would be their third year. She said Mr. Benson, the former Economic Development Director, suggested doing this a couple years ago when revenues were higher as a good will gesture to give some money back to the town. Mr. Leighton indicated the thought at that time was that the Moxie Festival did not want to burden the department's budgets.

Mrs. Barnes recommended these funds be budgeted in these department budgets and that cuts be made where ever possible to cover those costs.

Mrs. Rogers reported their goal should be to be better each year, not necessarily bigger and knowing the Council would be willing to work with them, she indicated, whenever possible they would be more than willing to reimburse the town for those services when revenues hit banner levels. Mrs. Mason said for now the Moxie Festival Committee would like to build its account, which is currently around \$11,000, to fund expenses, provide support for each event like renting golf carts, etc., and reimburse those departments for services reducing the burden on the town, but right now that's not something we can do.

Councilor Pesce recommended not charging the Moxie Festival Committee for these services. Mrs. Barnes said that's a good idea, but if you budget this, remember some departments may not have anywhere to cut so this could become an increase. Ms. Steuber confirmed the town's current \$2,500 donation comes from TIF funds. Councilor Lunt said this is one of the best things we have going for Lisbon. Councilor Pesce encouraged departments to find savings to absorb these festival expenses without increasing the budget.

Mrs. Mason said the carnival could be a huge source of revenue for them and it needs to become an annual part of this festival. It could bring in as much as \$10,000 or more. Mrs. Rogers pointed out that carnivals are a liability issue so they are going to make sure that's secured. She said if additional costs are involved, then it might not happen.

TOWN OWNED LAND

Mrs. Barnes presented the list of town owned properties, some of which were properties foreclosed upon and taken back in 1990. She presented a list of properties currently being mowed by the Parks Department, along with a list of their volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Larry Fillmore suggested the list of properties be narrowed down to only those with resale potential.

Councilor Pesce concurred and suggested the Council meet in another workshop next Tuesday to go over the new list so those properties approved for sale when ready can go up for sale at the same time. Councilor Lunt said some properties are not big enough for anything; however, the Route 9 property contains 33 acres. Councilor Bickford said he liked Mrs. Barnes suggestion, she made to him before the meeting, that they meet on a Saturday to visit these.

Councilor Pesce asked for a map showing where these properties in question are, along with the new list.

CARD SWIPE SYSTEM FOR GAS/DIESEL PUMPS

Mr. Leighton indicated there were a few options to consider. One would be to replace the existing system with the same system and to reissue new keys for \$3,200. Another option would be to install a card swipe system. One quote was \$4,500 and another was \$10,000 to \$20,000. The card swipe system offers better reporting methods. For instance, you could monitor or bill departments based on their correct usage. He indicated that each vehicle could be detected by the card swipe system through a wireless connection. He talked about saving money if the tanks were closer together and offered to look into moving them.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Fern Larochelle indicated the card swipe system would be handy for tracking vehicle costs during storms for FEMA reimbursements since you could run a report from the date and time the storm started to the end of the storm. We could even track fuel costs during the Moxie Festival weekend. Larry Fillmore suggested there be a card for every vehicle.

Mr. Leighton pointed out that currently this documentation is left to the employees to document, which adds another layer of labor costs.

Councilor Pesce said this is important and suggested making the purchase as soon as possible. It's beneficial for holding employees accountable. He requested Mrs. Barnes calculate department percentages from the current chart and have those departments find this money within their current budget to purchase it this year instead of waiting until next year.

Mrs. Barnes suggested the town find out whether the tanks can be moved first before going out to bid on the new card swipe system. Mr. Leighton suggested he look into what the town needs first in a system since the options are endless for wireless. Councilor Pesce confirmed four Councilors were okay with going out to bid for this item and requested it be put on the agenda when ready.

PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE ADDITION

Mr. Leighton said the fire at Public Works happened 11 months ago. Improvements were made totaling \$194,000. The truck was retrofitted for \$44,000. So far they spent \$239,000 and have \$166,000 left. He asked the Council if they were in favor of going out to bid for an addition to the existing building creating a space large enough to move around vehicles to work on them, for \$166,000. The current ceiling height in the existing garage is 16 feet high, however at times we need a 24-foot clearance. Right now they cannot put the dump body up to work on it, nor work on fire trucks. He indicated if equipment were stored inside it would be faster to roll first thing. He said we have been looking to do this addition for years now and now we have the money.

Councilor Pesce agreed with Mr. Leighton that the steel building should go out to bid, but the rest of the items should be okay since they already went through the existing bid processes.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Council workshop at 8:06 PM.

Twila D. Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM/MMC
Date Approved 01-20-2015