



**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 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 at 6:05 p.m. and waived the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Ward, Albert, Kolbe, Brunelle, Lunt, and Crawford. Councilor Crafts was excused. Also present were Diane Barnes, Town Manager; Ryan Leighton, Public Works Director; with Dorothy Fitzgerald for citizens in the audience.

STORMWATER 101

Phil Ruck from Stillwater Environmental Engineering explained the EPA's mandate resulting from a federal program that started trickling down into Maine in the early 1990's. The municipal programs got underway in 2003 and we are in the third cycle now. From 2003 to 2008 (cycle 1) and 2008-2013 (cycle 2) Lisbon was not in the program. However, it was discovered that Lisbon and York did meet the threshold based upon the census figures and were included in 2014-2018 (cycle 3). Lisbon began by creating a plan, addressed curbs, gutters, retention ponds, removing contaminants, construction sites, post construction sites, and pollution prevention for spills, leaks, salt, and how we maintain vehicles. We identified our goals, current practices, and the timeline for implementation. We are over half way through this permit process so far. Lisbon's next permit is needed on July 1, 2018 and each cycle has stricter requirements than the last.

Councilor Albert questioned why Lisbon was added and pointed out the mandated costs associated with adding us. He indicated Lisbon had zero control over whether we should have been included or not. Mr. Ruck reported that someone somewhere has some statistical number that put Lisbon into the program based upon the 2010 census tracks. He said there is a \$37,500 violation fine per day for not complying. He mentioned there are ways to save money by participating in the regional plan and joining their educational and outreach programs.

Mr. Leighton said this has not been all bad for Lisbon; we created an electronic database for inventorying our infrastructure. We use a web-based program, done on a tablet, and saved in the cloud. It has forced us to map all our storm drains, which we did by filling out inspections forms and then performing annual cleanings. We passed the MS4 program audit because we were prepared and they found no issues. As we head into another permit year we could potentially need to address more items. Mr. Ruck will look for the best ways to reach our goals and find the best solutions for Lisbon, plus prepare our annual reports, use their interns to perform inspections, document what's needed for compliance, and take care of everything for a budgeted amount of \$22,000. He said we were spending \$10,000 but that amount wasn't even making a dent. There is a lot of prep work to be done in order to be prepared for an audit. Some of the prep work like street sweeping we are doing, but storm drains weren't getting done until we purchased the sewer truck.

Mr. Ruck said the Clean Water Act passed in the early 1970's is the driving force and that he didn't see that being dialed back anytime soon. Councilor Brunelle asked how many hot spots we have. Mr. Ruck pointed to Canal Street and the Maple Street area. The EPA forces DEP to do more enforcement measures and so DEP expects compliance. He said the cycle will deal with illicit discharge detection and focuses on construction activities. Lisbon's CEO understands those requirements. Lisbon will need to develop a capital improvement plan, manage its assets, and understand where its assets are. This includes inspections, trainings, documentation, and reporting.

Mrs. Barnes said she asked Mr. Ruck to prepare a 5-year schedule detailing what Lisbon has to do each year for the next 5-years.

Councilor Ward asked about sand and salt management. Mr. Leighton explained this would be covered in a chloride reduction plan, which would include determining the level of service, best practices, inspections, and street sweeping to keep it out of the basins.

Councilor Albert asked for links and more information. Mr. Leighton asked that the completed surveys be given to him when done.

SEWER STUDIES

Bill, from Olver Associates, said his firm represents 65 towns in Maine and have a staff of 48 employees, plus they operate 15 plants in Maine. He said Lisbon retained his firm to look at the current system used to treat sewage. He said Lisbon has made some great infrastructure upgrades, but there are some short and long-term goals still to be addressed as you plan for the next couple of decades, along with prioritizing capital improvements and finding funding sources.

The current system contains 35 miles of sewer pipes, 12 pump stations, 4 miles of pressurized force mains, a wastewater treatment plant off Summer Street, and about 1,976 connected sewer users. He pointed out that the overflow point is a concern because untreated discharge is a problem. Groundwater can be high in the spring so leaking pipelines, clay lines, which at capacity overload the treatment plant and affect the overflow points. He said rain events can blow this out of the water. The long-term focus would be to get rid of this excess water. Looking ahead 20-30 years Lisbon will need to address the sewers located in areas of other utility or roadway improvement projects, in poor structural condition in danger of failure, contributing to excess groundwater infiltration and/or stormwater inflow, along with sewers that could overload downstream pump stations. When prioritizing these improvements, he recommended the focus be from west to east since downstream impacts are cumulative.

Bill reported that although Lisbon has done a lot of work actively upgrading its pump stations, there is still work to be done. The first pump station to work on would be on Davis Street. It needs major pump and building upgrades, a new hydraulic drive grinder, a new aerated grit removal system, and classifier. It needs upgrades to all three pumps to increase capacity, plus a new generator in the outside enclosure and new flow meter equipment.

Bill reported the plant has an archaic dewatering system instrumentation panel and only one sludge centrifuge. It would be a good idea to have a backup. He noted the Chlorine contact tank is too small.

Bill presented estimates totaling 12,460,000 in remediation projects, \$3,975,000 in pump station upgrade projects, plus \$3,695,000 for capital improvements to the treatment plant.

He recommended focusing on the highest priority short-term capital improvement projects first, like the 3,500 lineal feet of sewer line on Main Street and coordinating that with the 2018 MDOT roadway project. Next, improve the 12,000 lineal feet of leaking sewer lines failing upstream of the D & B pump station. And, then upgrade the Davis Street pump station, plus expand the treatment plant's chlorine contact tank. He estimated these short-term capital improvement projects would cost around \$8,800,000.

Bill presented three options for Rural Development Funding that included the following:

Option	Project	35% Grant Match		30% Grant Match	
	Cost	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
1	\$9,000,000	\$5,850,000	\$3,150,000	\$6,300,000	\$2,700,000
2	\$5,000,000	\$3,250,000	\$1,750,000	\$3,500,000	\$1,500,000
3	\$3,000,000	\$1,950,000	\$1,050,000	\$2,100,000	\$ 900,000

Bill projected estimates for sewer rate impacts anywhere from 11% to 32% depending upon the various funding scenarios. He suggested Lisbon apply for Rural Development funds, determine which package to submit, determine which loan best fits the towns needs, and secure the project scope based on the sewer fee impacts. Lisbon would be under no obligation to take the funding package if approved. These loans are for 2% to 2 ½% for 29 years. He indicated Rural Development will let town's refinance with DEP; the key is how much grant Lisbon can get. He reported Rural Development did say they will consider a grant for Lisbon.

Bill encouraged Lisbon to get ahead of this so it will not be responding to enforcement issues down the road. He recommended one rate for all and that a surcharge be established for higher percentages of organics and solids.

Councilor Ward suggested Lisbon shoot higher and position itself better for obtaining a grant. Councilor Albert indicated once pre-approved Lisbon could ratchet it back to what we want to accomplish and what rates make sense for us. Mr. Leighton said in order to qualify Lisbon would have to raise its rates to qualify. Mrs. Barnes said she would add this item to the next agenda for approval to submit an application.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE (2017-35) Councilor Kolbe, seconded by Councilor Albert moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. **Order passed - Vote 6-0.**

Twila D. Lycette, Council Secretary
Town Clerk, Lifetime CCM/MMC
Date Approved March 7, 2017