



**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2022
LISBON TOWN HALL
6:00 PM**

Mark Lunt 2022
Donald Fellows 2022
Jason Smith 2022
Fern Larochelle 2023
Harry Moore, Jr. 2024
Raymond Robishaw 2024
Clifford Miller 2024

CALL TO ORDER. The Chairman, Fern Larochelle, called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL. Members present were Councilors Lunt, Larochelle, Robishaw, Smith, and Miller. Councilor Fellows arrived at 6:18 PM following the Water Commission meeting. The Chairman excused Councilor Moore. Also present were Ryan McGee, Interim Town Manager; Kayla Tierney, Finance Director; Randy Cyr, Public Works Director; Steve Aievoli, Sewer Department Superintendent; Finance Committee members Curtis Lunt and Dan Leeman; and approximately 2 citizens in the audience.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

A. PUBLIC WORKS

Item taken up out of order, following Wastewater Treatment Plant presentation.

Randy Cyr, Director of Public Works, presented his budget. He said all wages went up due to the pay study, including adding one position of driver/operator. He said he hasn't yet spent the \$25,000.00 for paving because they are still doing sidewalks. He said there's \$10,000.00 in the budget to replace guardrails, we need to allot it due to unreported damage to the rails.

Mr. Cyr said minor equipment is needed, including tools at \$2,200.00 for the new truck. He said the tools will save us money on repairs.

Mr. Curtis Lunt asked what the additional driver is for. Mr. Cyr said we have 7 routes for plowing with the big trucks, right now we borrow an employee from another department. Mechanics are used for extra drivers right now, but now we will be able to use the mechanics truck with the tools.

Mr. Cyr continued that there are fees and fines that are incurred, we need to be ready for them. The line is created just in case, \$2,000.00 because the fines can be high. He said the last fine was \$2,800.00 so we need something to help with that in the budget. He said tree removal went over budget as well, we need to budget more for that.

Mr. Curtis Lunt asked if Mr. Cyr expects to spend all of the \$26,000.00 on engineering. Mr. Cyr said we haven't gotten some bills yet, we will spend it all. It is due to being required to be part of the MS4 program, for fees and permits.

Mr. Cyr moved on to infrastructure and paving. He said we will replace the gas tank with a bigger one to accommodate the school buses. He said by 2028, everything in town will be re-paved. He said roads are getting torn up due to the kind of traffic, large trucks. He said he has a list of all the roads to help keep track of them. Councilor Fellows and Mr. Leeman asked if we should try to budget more, since the paving costs are always going up. Mrs. Tierney explained how tonnage helps with auditing, as well as budgeting.

Councilor Lunt asked about replacing trees and greenery that are removed. Mr. Cyr said they can destroy sidewalks and that there is not room for them. He explained that wider sidewalks to accommodate state ADA requirements also mean fewer trees.

Moving on to Winter Operations, Mr. Cyr reviewed line items. He said \$50,000.00 is the sidewalk contractor. He said to offset, we have billed the State to plow Routes 196, 125 and several other state roads. He said there is labor, fuel, wear and tear, and salt and sand. He pointed out that we previously deposited that money in undesignated funds, and the revenue did not go to the Public Works department. He said we can offset some of our costs by putting it back into the department. Mrs. Tierney further explained that keeping revenues in the departments helps to offset costs.

B. TRANSFER STATION

Mr. Cyr next moved to the Solid Waste Department. He said he is working with the Finance Committee on fees, the transfer station will not be closing any time soon. He said residents like to be able to get rid of their trash. He's going to contract negotiations with Casella soon that will determine if costs will go up. He said cardboard, metal and furniture prices are all up right now.

Mr. Cyr said the new building at the Transfer Station will be ready to put up in the springtime. He also said the roof trusses for the larger building cannot be done so we need to go with the higher cost originally estimated. He said it will not be the \$48,000.00 he was hoping for, it will be \$61,000.00, which was the original budget. He said it will go back to Council for approval.

For wages, Mr. Cyr stated part time is going up to \$15.00 per hour and full time is going up to \$17.00-\$18.00 per hour. He said otherwise, the budget is where it should be. He said the operating supplies went up a lot due to the new shack at \$38,000.00. He said he is currently at 64% of this year's budget, which is less than the 75% expectation at this time of year, and that increasing costs have been factored in. Mrs. Tierney added that we have factored in a 3% increase on trash removal.

Mr. Cyr cited long lead times for new vehicles, Solid Waste is in need of a tractor trailer. He said we will trade in a vehicle, he would like to start the RFP process before the budget year to lock in a purchase and delivery date. He said that will allow a delivery date in August, we have all the specs ready. After discussion about automatic versus manual transmission, there was general agreement that an automatic would be a better choice.

C. STREET/TRAFFIC LIGHTS

D. HYDRANT RENTAL

Mr. Cyr addressed street lights and hydrant rentals at the same time. Mr. Cyr said that we are saving on electricity in street lights by having LEDs in them. Councilor Larochelle pointed out there are still some lights that have the old bulbs, you can see the difference. Mr. Cyr said he would address that and find out which ones.

He said there is no increase in the hydrant rentals. Mrs. Tierney said she reached out the Water Department regarding hydrants but they have not yet decided whether there will be an increase. She said they may be leaning toward an increase in 2024.

E. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Item taken up first, out of order.

Steve Aievoli presented his budget for the Wastewater Treatment plant. He said they have a staff of five, soon to be 6, with 35 miles of sewer lines, and operates under Maine DEP permits. He said a new Sewer billing clerk will be coming on board, and he will be adding certifications to some staff for better coverage.

Mr. Aievoli said wages are highest increase this year due to adding the administrative and billing person, also due to the salaries going up due to the pay study. Mr. Aievoli agreed with Councilor Larochelle to hit the highlights and major changes for the new fiscal year. Mr. Aievoli explained that Supplies and Other went up 25% due to the pandemic increasing the cost of chemicals, about \$6,000.00. He said Professional Development was raised about three years ago, stays the same this year to get new staff trained. It's at about \$3,000.00. He stated it is sufficient due to some free trainings that have been available as well.

Security systems cost went up due to upgrading phones because they have to be 4G or higher for the alarms, the old ones were 2G. Mr. Aievoli said we were not informed that we would need to do it, it has doubled the cost. In addition, the electricity cost has gone up.

Mr. Aievoli explained there is a sewer software fee for Munis, it is a one-time fee of \$17,000.00, and there is a \$4,000.00 fee for the conversion to Munis for the Sewer Department billing. Mrs. Tierney added that it will make it much easier to work with the Water Department and more compatible with other software. It will also be easy for the public to make payments online, because it's in line with the state program we already use.

Mr. Aievoli said the sludge and grit disposal, bio-solids, is an interesting topic, especially with PFAS in the public spotlight. There are per-ton fees that we will need to be paid, \$7,500.00 to \$8,500.00 fee to raise money for fees for testing, etc. He said there is work the legislature is doing right now to address the bio-solids and composting issues going to landfills. Mr. Lunt asked if we know the source of the PFAS getting in the system. Mr. Aievoli said it's a large number of everyday items contain them, it goes to the treatment plant, and that's how it gets concentrated. It's not one source, it is many household sources, and it's being spread on fields across the state.

Mr. Aievoli handed out information to the Council and Finance Committee about the Maine Work Boots Alliance, which is a coalition of businesses and interested parties who propose a science-based approach to protecting Maine people from PFAS. It included information about proposed legislation.



755 Banfield Road Suite 201 | Portsmouth, NH 03801

March 30, 2022

Mr. Steve Aievoli
744 Lisbon Road
Lisbon, ME 04252

Dear Mr. Steve Aievoli,

We are writing to bring to your attention two bills before the Maine legislature, which if passed, would impact our management of biosolids in Maine and increase costs to our customers.

The first bill, L.D.1911, would prohibit the beneficial land application of biosolids and industrial sludges. As initially proposed, L.D. 1911 would have established more stringent screening levels for PFAS in biosolids destined for beneficial reuse, such as land application. L.D. 1911 has since morphed into essentially a ban on the land application of biosolids, *regardless* of PFAS concentration, with carve outs for residuals generated as a result of the processing of certain foods (i.e., blueberries, potatoes, seaweed, fish) distilling of spirits, or the production of precipitated calcium carbonate, commonly known as "lime mud".

The second bill, L.D.1639, would change Maine's definition of in-state waste. This definition is important, because *only in-state waste* is permitted for disposal at the State's Juniper Ridge Landfill. The current definition of in-state waste includes residue from the processing of materials that may initially come from out of State. Once these materials are brought to, and processed in Maine, the residue following processing falls within the definition of in-state waste, and accordingly, is eligible for disposal at Juniper Ridge Landfill. The change in definition would mandate that the total weight of residue disposed of at Juniper Ridge can't exceed the weight of waste initially generated by that processor in the State of Maine. Any exceedance would be considered out-of-state waste, and would not be eligible for disposal at Juniper Ridge.

The perfect storm. The two bills combine to create a perfect storm for biosolids management in Maine. The first bill, **L.D. 1911**, will result in a substantial increase in the amount of sludge to be landfilled. The second bill, **L.D. 1639**, would effectively close Resource Lewiston, a Maine based recycling facility that generates a process residue from oversized bulky waste. This residue is used at Juniper Ridge to stabilize and maintain the structural integrity of the landfill. Without these materials, Juniper Ridge would need to *reduce* the volume of biosolids it accepts for disposal, yet if **L.D. 1911** becomes law, the amount of biosolids required to be landfilled is expected to increase.

Costs are likely to increase. While it is too early to forecast price adjustments, we want to make you aware that the passage of these two bills could require that we divert biosolids for disposal to locations outside of Maine, which we expect will increase our disposal and transportation costs, and consequentially, increase our tipping and disposal fees.

We Need Your Help. While our legislature clearly wants to take action on PFAS this year, these proposals are not the right answer. **L.D. 1639** will shutter a business that provides a product necessary to stabilize landfill disposal of biosolids, yet the State will be even more dependent on that practice if the ban on land application of biosolids in **L.D. 1911** is passed. For these reasons, we urge you to contact you state legislator and urge him or her to vote "no" to both proposals.

We are part of a group of landscapers, garden centers, wastewater treatment districts, and farmers that support a thoughtful, alternative proposal that would prohibit land application or sale in Maine of all sludge, septage or sludge-derived compost and fertilizer unless that material tests below 25 parts per billion for PFOA and below 50 parts per billion for PFOS. This would be the strictest PFAS standard for soil and compost in the country.

For additional information regarding L.D. 1911 or L.D. 1639 and how you can help, please contact me, George Belmont (207-877-4449) or John Leslie (207-461-1000).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Clark James".

A. Clark James
Director of Logistics

The Maine Work Boots Alliance
Talking Points in Support of the Minority Report to LD 1911

- The Maine Work Boots Alliance is a coalition of farmers, landscapers, garden centers, municipal sewer districts, septic service providers, biosolids recyclers and other businesses who have come together to propose a thoughtful, science-based approach to protecting Maine people from PFAS.
- The Maine Work Boots Alliance supports the minority report to LD 1911, which would prohibit the land application or sale in Maine of all sludge, septage or sludge-derived compost and fertilizer unless that material tested below 25 parts per billion for PFOA and below 50 parts per billion for PFOS.
- This would be the strictest PFAS standard for soil and compost in the country – and perhaps the world.
- The Maine Work Boots Alliance opposes the majority report to LD 1911 because it would increase the utility bill of literally every Maine family.
- The majority report would destroy biosolids recycling in Maine. This is contrary to our climate change goals and out of step with every other state and current research at the federal Environmental Protection Agency.
- The majority report would result in dumping 20,000 additional tons of sludge in the State owned landfill in Old Town, without any consideration of the long term consequences of doing so.
- Banning biosolids compost drives up costs for Maine farmers, landscapers and horticulturalists.
- The majority report's attempt to exempt some sludges and ban others is not based on *any* science. There are detectable levels of PFAS – and in some cases elevated levels – in many of the sludges exempted under the majority report.
- By contrast, the majority report would ban a number of products that test de minimus - and in some cases non-detect - for PFAS.
 - Fiberbed is an affordable bedding product used by many dairy farmers across Maine.
 - Fiberbed is made from residuals from Maine paper mills and mixed with sawdust. The paper mill residual and the sawdust **have tested as non-detect or de minimus for PFAS.**
 - The majority report would ban Fiberbed, but farmers in every other New England state would be able to use the **exact same product.**
- Banning these products drives up costs for Maine farmers, which in turn drives up their prices and puts more of them out of business. That means more food from away is shipped into Maine, food that in most cases isn't subject to any PFAS soil and compost regulation or testing.
- A better – and safer – solution would be to set a ceiling for the land application and composting of all residuals.
- The minority report also authorizes the DEP to require testing of wastewater discharge for PFAS and repeals the \$10 per ton handling fee for landfilling sludge, similar to the majority report.

Mr. Aievoli stated he is in support of a scientific approach, and Chief McGee said he supports that. Councilor Miller asked if we will have input on that legislation, Mr. Aievoli responded that the Work Boots Alliance will work to do that.

Councilor Larochelle asked, with the new filtration at the water department, is there a concern regarding chemicals going into the sewer. Mr. Aievoli said no, we accept the discharge from that in the proper way, we go through a whole process for that.

Moving on to trash removal, Mr. Aievoli said there was an unannounced rate increase from the vendor, and that the cost will continue to go up annually.

Mr. Aievoli said the new dewatering equipment was added to the CIP per the last Council meeting. He also said the Vactor truck is much faster and more efficient than the way we did it before. He said we will lease it for 7 more years.

Mrs. Tierney added that the QECB interest went down, and some work was re-aligned to coordinate with the Main Street construction so no IFI was needed for the budget.

Mr. Aievoli said that with the dewatering equipment, he's looking for an extension on the Rural Development funding. His goal would be by the time Main Street is done, it may not be installed for about a year now.

Councilor Larochelle said it looks like Davis Street will be rebuilt, he asked if there are any other big projects down the road. Mr. Aievoli said once we finish the projects we're working on we'll be finished what we started in 2015. He said we need to re-align the Huston Street line. We can use more fund balance to complete that.

Councilor Larochelle said the Planning Board was discussing revisiting the Comprehensive Plan, and these areas could be hundreds of homes over time. He asked if we would be able to extend the sewer into what is now Rural? Mr. Aievoli responded that homes are being built outside sewer reach already, it would be great to be able to do that. Councilor Fellows added that when we did the Comprehensive Plan last time, it was decided not to extend the infrastructure. Mr. Aievoli agreed the infrastructure is getting old, it would be good to start extending it.

Mrs. Tierney said for revenues, the sewer rate increased 3% for residential, and the industrial will also go up. She said there will be a 3.5% overall increase to \$1,422,340.08.

Councilor Larochelle thanked Mr. Aievoli for his presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Lisa M. Ward, Council Secretary
Town Clerk
Date Approved: April 19, 2022