MEMORANDUM

TO: Glenn Michalowski, Town Manager

FROM: Christopher Camire, Council Vice Chair

Nicholas Craig, Town Council Member

DATE: June 6, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Senior Property Tax Relief Program

Dear Mr. Michalowski,

We are writing to formally propose the implementation of a Senior Property Tax Relief Program for the Town of Lisbon. This proposal comes in direct response to the significant public concern and outcry we have heard from our senior residents, many of whom are on fixed incomes and express genuine worry about their ability to remain in their homes given the current proposed property tax increase.

The Town Council is acutely aware of the financial challenges faced by our senior citizens. We recognize that for many, their homes represent their most significant asset and a cornerstone of their long-term stability in our community. The prospect of being unable to afford their property taxes due to rising costs is a deeply troubling concern that we share.

We believe it is essential for the Town of Lisbon to demonstrate its commitment to supporting all its residents, especially our most vulnerable. Providing a sustainable senior tax relief program is a tangible way to show that the Town Council hears and responds to the pleas from our community, ensuring that our long-time residents can continue to thrive in Lisbon.

It is important to note that Lisbon would not be pioneering this effort alone. Several communities across Maine have successfully implemented similar senior tax relief programs, demonstrating the feasibility and benefit of such initiatives. These programs serve as valuable models for how we can tailor a program to meet the specific needs of Lisbon's senior population while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

To that end, we have attached a draft ordinance proposal for your review. We kindly request that you work with the Town's legal counsel to review this attached ordinance proposal on an expedited basis. Our goal is to get a sustainable and equitable senior tax relief program in place as expeditiously as possible, providing much-needed peace of mind to our senior citizens.

We are confident that by working together, we can implement a program that provides meaningful relief to our seniors and reinforces Lisbon as a welcoming and supportive community for all ages.

Sincerely,

Christopher Camire, Council Vice Chair

Nicholas Craig, Council Member