

**Public Hearing**  
**Portage Hills Country Club Special Amusement Permit**  
**Portage Lake Municipal Building**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

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Public hearing called to order at 6:00 p.m. by David Pierce, Selectboard Chairman.

There were 24 residents in attendance.

The purpose of this public hearing is to inform the residents/property owners in the Town of Portage Lake that Portage Hills Country Club is applying for a special amusement permit to be able to have live performances at its establishment at 98 Country Club Ave. The public hearing allows any neighbors and/or abutters to the property to voice their opinions, either for or against, the issuance of the permit.

**Public Discussion:**

Judy Moreau questions whether the permit is for liquor and bands? Dave Pierce states the permit is for special entertainment only—having bands. She asks if there can be a statement in it that would state that after a certain time the volume of the music can be turned down. Dave makes reference to a state ordinance that he believes mentions 10 pm. Dylan Cyr-Cormier states the noise level is hard to control, but the Country Club doesn't have the ability to have the band inside. Reuben Caron wants to know if the noise ordinance pertains to the village area; he believes that the Country Club is not in the village limits. Dave says that will be looked up; he knows that people all around the lake can hear the music. Judy would just like the volume to be turned down; Danny thinks this is a reasonable request. Taunja Jandreau mentions there are other issues that need to be brought up so an informed decision can be made. The Country Club's food license expired in July 21 of 2016, and in order to have a liquor license you have to have a valid license to sell food; the state is waiting for a water test in order for that to happen. She states that food was still sold there even though there wasn't a license to do that. The Country Club applied for a dance permit last year, for which an inspection by the state was done; seven violations were found but the state Fire Marshall's office has not been contacted by the Country Club with their plan to mitigate the violations. The state has sent two letters and made one phone call. She states that at this point there cannot be any dances on the premises until the violations are taken care of and a state dance permit is issued from the Fire Marshall. Reuben Caron questions what that has to do with the special entertainment permit? Taunja says you cannot have a public dance because there are 7 violations against you—they have no dance permit. Dylan Cyr-Cormier says the dance permit isn't based on the food nor liquor license; is there anything written that says I have to have liquor license before I get a dance permit? Taunja says you can't have a dance permit until you take care of the violations. Dave Pierce says he is concerned that nothing has been done by the Club before this. Dylan Cyr-Cormier says he was contacted once by the state. Taunja counters that the Fire Marshall's office sent two letters and contacted Dylan either by email or phone. Dylan Cyr-Cormier

questions if all of this work was done while Taunja was on Town time? Taunja responds that this IS part of her job. Dave says Taunja just went to a required state training that brought a lot of this stuff into the open. Reuben says this weekend there is a membership clean-up party scheduled at which time the exit signs will be put up and the fire extinguishers; he states that the issue has been that they have been closed since last November. Taunja says that Scott Cyr, who did the inspection, said "Just for the record they are not licensed at this time and should not hold any dance events until they are. They were sent a statement of deficiencies on 11-8-16, a reminder on 1-11-17, and nobody has responded with what their plan of corrections would be. So at this point they are in violation and subject to summons if they hold an event". Steve Jandreau says this is not so much an issue from the Town, this is a state issue. Dave confirms that this is state; the Town just found out about this. Jan Cyr states that the course was closed in November. Dave says they need to fix this stuff and get the Fire Marshall to sign off on it; it is premature for them to be here tonight. He says if the Board approves anything tonight, they would be illegal. Reuben says he doesn't believe the state Fire Marshall states that if they were to hold a dance, that they would get a summons. (Reuben asks for a copy of the response from the state Fire Marshall's office; he's given a copy) Reuben says they don't have plans to have dance; Taunja says that on their schedule of events they have a dance planned for May 25 or 27. Reuben states that if the problems aren't fixed then the dance will be cancelled. Dave says the Board will have to table a vote on the permit until they have proof that all of the violations have been fixed. Jan Cyr asks if all of the requirements were fixed by Monday morning, she questions if they can hold another meeting to vote on it, or will the Board play hard-ball? Dave says they can hold a special meeting, but it comes down to the state Fire Marshall's office to clear them before the Board can do anything. Dylan says he has plans to fix all of the violations and will take pictures and send them to the Fire Marshall's office. Dave states that the Club should have let the Selectboard know about the violations before tonight. Reuben asks if the Selectboard can approve the special entertainment permit pending approval from the state Fire Marshall, so that a special meeting can be avoided. Dave says the best that can be done legally, is as soon as something comes to them from the State Fire Marshall, a meeting has to be posted for 7 days to hold a meeting to resolve it; until then, the Board cannot do anything legally. Dan Higgins asks if anyone was notified of the violations. Dylan says Brian Cote took the Fire Marshall through to do the inspection, and he has talked with the Fire Marshall himself. Dave questions the hood over the stove; Dylan's solution is to not use the top of the stove to cook but they can use the oven. Dave reiterates that the Town would like to work with the Country Club when it is legal.

Public Hearing adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Corrine Routhier