

**Town of Portage Lake
Public Hearing
Portage Lake Transfer Station and N.A.S.W.A.
Wednesday August 22, 2018**

Hearing called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Selectboard member Barry Kenney

There were 22 Portage Lake residents and 3 non-residents in attendance.

The purpose of this public hearing is to allow the citizens of Portage Lake the opportunity to comment on potentially leaving the inter-local Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association (N.A.S.W.A.) and joining the Ashland Transfer Station facility. Three members of Ashland's facility were present to answer any questions Portage Lake citizens may have.

At this time Town Manager Larry Duchette gave a brief history of the Town's involvement with NASWA, and future plans for a new facility at NASWA for which Portage Lake would be responsible for a number of years, which would be an added cost to the \$40,000 we pay yearly for the use of their facility. Ashland's facility would be slightly cheaper, and would be on a year to year contract basis. A hand-out was given to those in attendance explaining this. Also, Ashland's facility is open more days a week and for longer hours than the Portage Lake facility, which the residents liked. If Portage leaves NASWA and joins Ashland, the Portage Lake Transfer Station would have to be shut down. The Town wouldn't have to maintain it like the old dump site.

The first major concern from the residents was the lack of options for garbage pick-up. Many residents currently have either Doug Chasse (DDR) from Ashland or Rick Saucier (Saucier's) from Eagle Lake pick up their trash. DDR is slightly more expensive than Saucier at this time. If Portage leaves NASWA, it is unknown if Saucier will continue hauling trash from Portage Lake if he has to take it to Ashland. This would leave only DDR to haul garbage, or the residents could bring it to Ashland themselves. Many residents didn't think it was fair to expect tax payers to pay for joining Ashland via tax dollars, and then ask them to use their own resources to bring their trash to Ashland. One business owner said he would have to hire someone to bring his trash to Ashland, which would be an added expense to his small business.

Another major concern was the brush pile at the Portage Transfer Station and whether residents would still be able to take their brush up there if the Transfer Station closes. Residents felt that people would simply dump their brush anywhere, especially at the end of Cottage Road in the Town's School Stumpage Lot. It was suggested that residents could simply burn their brush in a fire ring instead of hauling it to the Transfer Station. Another suggestion was to

see if Ashland would allow the Portage Transfer Station to remain open only for brush during the spring and summer. Ashland's Transfer Station representatives will look into that option.

Other concerns included the potential increase of trash along the road between Ashland and Portage Lake from garbage falling off the back of vehicles transporting it to the Ashland facility, and also the potential increase of garbage hidden in wooded areas by people who didn't want to drive to Ashland or pay someone for pick-up.

Larry will be attending a meeting for NASWA on August 23; he would like to know if there is support for leaving NASWA so he could let them know Portage Lake may potentially be leaving the organization. He will gather more information at that meeting and bring it back to the Town during another public hearing. Barry Kenney asked for a show of hands for those in support of Larry attending the NASWA meeting and letting them know of this potential plan. Most residents in attendance were in favor of that.

Hearing adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Corrine Routhier

PROPOSAL FOR LEAVING NASWA (NORTHERN AROOSTOOK SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION)

- We are now paying NASWA \$39,711.77 per year. We also pay an average of \$4,300 per year for the operation of the Portage Lake transfer station
- Leaving NASWA and joining Ashland would mean an immediate savings of \$5,135.21.
- NASWA is contracting with CES for professional services at a cost of \$22,800.00 just for exploring the option of a new facility. Portage Lake will immediately be responsible for 16.42% of that cost (\$3,743.76) which wasn't budgeted for in the 2018 municipal budget.
- NASWA is proposing to build a new facility, and Portage Lake will be responsible for our share of that investment as well, over a period of several years.
- NASWA has several non-compliant issues related to the design and operation of the current transfer station that will have to be addressed at an added cost to us.
- Ashland cost will be approximately \$38,876.56 per year, but it would mean closing the Portage Lake transfer station.