

Town of Portage Lake
Public Hearing
Portage Lake Transfer Station and N.A.S.W.A.
Wednesday August 30, 2018

Hearing called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Selectboard chairman David Pierce

There were 20 Portage Lake residents and 2 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. Two members of Ashland's facility were present to answer any questions Portage Lake citizens may have. This is the second public hearing held on this issue.

Town Manager Larry Duchette reports that NASWA is possibly going to be taking out a loan to build a new facility, and if Portage Lake stays with them we would be responsible for at least 16.45% of that cost. He also reports that a few other smaller communities are thinking of leaving NASWA, which would mean that Portage's share would increase.

Comments from the public:

Most citizens were concerned with a decrease in options for garbage haulers if Portage contracts with Ashland; it was brought up that Rick Saucier out of Eagle Lake is willing to remain a garbage hauler for Portage Lake residents. Another concern was whether the Portage transfer station could be left open for people to bring their brush; if Portage contracts with Ashland the Portage Lake Transfer Station will be closed and everything that is currently brought there will have to be brought to Ashland. The good thing for residents if this happens is that Ashland's transfer station is open all year long and more days during the week.

The Board announces that there will be a Special Town Meeting on September 12 to vote on whether to stay with NASWA or contract with Ashland.

Hearing adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Corrine Routhier