

**Town of Portage Lake  
Annual Town Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 25, 2011,  
Portage Lake Municipal Building  
7 p.m.**

AROOSTOOK, ss

STATE OF MAINE

The polls were opened at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2011, then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2. Polls were opened from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to vote by secret ballot.

**Art. 1** To elect a moderator, by written ballot, to preside at said meeting.

It was moved and seconded to elect Lou Sandy Boutot as moderator. Then and there the meeting reconvened to act on the following article:

**Art. 2** To elect by secret ballot the following officers:

One (1) Selectperson for a term of three (3) years

David Pierce 118

There were five (5) write-ins

**David Pierce is voted selectperson for three (3) years, he will be sworn in at the end of the meeting.**

\*NOTE: The number of votes for David Pierce was read wrong, it should have been 112 instead of 118

One (1) Selectperson for a term of one (1) year

Otis Nelson 54

Barbara Pitcairn 55

**Barbara Pitcairn is voted selectperson for one (1) year, she will be sworn in at the end of the meeting.**

Lou Sandy Boutot reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and, being unable to finish her job as moderator, swore-in deputy moderator David Dunleavy. David Dunleavy then and there started to act on the following articles:

There were 71 resident voters and 6 non-voters present.

**Art. 3** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to appoint all necessary officers, not elected by ballot, for the ensuing year.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None **Motion carried.**

**Art. 4** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the Town of Portage Lake's annual budget during the period from January 1, 2012 to the 2012 annual Town Meeting.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made not to approve the article, seconded.**

Discussion:

Frank Currier: Can that article be clarified?

Francis Grey: What you are talking about is a procedural or housekeeping measure that is kind of a structural effect that the town voted in 2009 to go back to a calendar year with a March annual town meeting, so this article simply allows the town to pay operating expenses during the months of January, February and March until you have your March town meeting. Which you all approved a change in your fiscal year last year in '08-'09 and so this is a returning to that system.

Danny Higgins: With the explanation that he just gave, I withdraw my "no" motion.

David Dunleavy: Ok. The motion has been made and seconded and there has been discussion, so you move to withdraw your motion?

Danny Higgins: Yes, sir.

David Dunleavy: Is there a second in terms of the withdrawal, the motion to withdraw?

**Motion to withdraw the motion has been made and seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: I would like to know why they feel that they need to go over the budgeted items without coming first to the people for their extra dollars and cents.

Francis Grey: Again, it is the nature of the beast, you voted to change the fiscal year to a calendar year with a March annual town meeting, so it is simply the nature of the beast.

Judy Moreau: But this was in the past report books for the last five or ten years.

Francis Grey: In prior years, sorry, I'm not trying to interrupt, but in prior years you ran a fiscal year, right from July 1 to June 30 and you had a September town meeting. So you had your town meeting three months into the fiscal year like this, it is just a different scenario.

Judy Moreau: Yeah, but what I'm trying to get across here is we had this same when we was on the same March to December, we had that there then. But what I'd like to say, what I'm trying to get across is why do we have to do this? Why can't you come to the people and get the money?

Ray Cyr: The reason is our calendar year runs from January 1 to December; this allows us to operate from January until town meeting day in March. We don't have a budget then. But this allows us to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to town meeting day, when the budget is approved. This year the budget will be run from January 1 until December, but we need money next year from January to March. That's what that covers.

Judy Moreau: What I don't understand is why you can't come to the people for it rather than go through this, and then we get our book and none of the 3/12 override is in the book.

Francis Grey: We are following the edicts of a prior town meeting vote where you approved this change in fiscal year with a March town meeting. And this is the result of that.

Gloria Curtis: I think what she is saying is you could go to a special town meeting if you want the extra money. I think that's where she's going at. And just because it was set before doesn't mean they can't change it now.

Francis Grey: It's not extra money, though, it's just....

Gloria Curtis: I'm not saying extra money. I'm saying what she's saying is that if they want money that they need from January to March, they are going to have to go to special town meeting.

Judy Moreau: Exactly. Thank you.

Danny Higgins: I believe, Judy, what they are saying, is to get us from now until the tax bills go out...do you follow me? Whatever passes in this budget..., alright? They need money to operate on. Do you follow me?

Judy Moreau: I understand that fully, but I still say it ought to come to the people.

Danny Higgins: But every time they need to write check they would need to come to the people.

David Dunleavy: She's had her say and we understand what her point is. **Now, it has been moved and seconded to withdraw the motion to not approve article 4.** All those in favor? We are talking about withdrawing his motion to amend article 4. All those in favor of the withdrawal of the motion to amend please signify by raising your hands.

Corrine Routhier: I don't think they know what they are voting on.

David Dunleavy: Is everyone clear what you are voting on? I'll repeat it again. Mr. Higgins made a motion to not approve article 4, it was seconded, we didn't have discussion on his motion because he moved to withdraw his motion to not approve article 4. That needs to be voted on. All those in favor of Mr. Higgins' motion to withdraw his motion to oppose article 4.

**Motion for withdrawal of the motion to oppose article 4 approved.**

**Motion to approve article 4 is moved and seconded.**

Discussion: None.

**Motion to approve carries.**

**Art. 5** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to accept gifts, donations, and grants on behalf of the Town, should such items become available.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Has our grant writer got any grants for the town?

David Dunleavy: That question is out of order, that's not the article. The article is just to allow them to approve it. You have to address your question to the article as written. Extraneous questions as to what is going on in the town are not in order.

Judy Moreau: Ok. I see. So we are not supposed to ask what has happened, but just what is in the future?

David Dunleavy: Theoretically, that may be appropriate, that's right. Any other discussion?

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 6** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to file applications for the 2011-2012 State of Maine Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs including public facilities, infrastructure, planning, housing, development fund and economic development, Department of Conservation grant programs including trails funding programs and community grants programs, National Park Services Land and Water Conservation Fund, State and Federal Emergency Management Agency grant programs including hazard mitigation, Homeland Security, assistance to Firefighters and others, and USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities and Housing grant/loan programs; and if said grant applications are approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such programs.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: May I ask my question now? The one I had before?

David Dunleavy: You will have to repeat it.

Judy Moreau: Is there any grants that has been made available, does anybody on the board know of any grants that have been made available to the town recently?

David Dunleavy: I'll allow one of the board members or the town manager to answer. I'm not sure that's in order because this is really a simple article. But if they want to answer it, I'll allow them to answer it.

Francis Grey: The best past example that immediately comes to mind is the walking trail grant.

Judy Moreau: Would any one of these cover more money if needed for the walking trail?

Francis Grey: I think, potentially, yes.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 7** To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on taxes paid within 30 days of the mailing date and set an interest rate of 7% on taxes unpaid 60 days after the date of tax commitment.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I would like to see this amended, so I'd like to see you vote it down, and the reasons are...

David Dunleavy: If you want to see it amended, you have to move to amend, make a motion to amend, and state your amendment. The reasons are for discussion. You have to move the amendment first, ma'am.

Barb Pitcairn: I move to amend.

David Dunleavy: Ok. What do you want to amend it to?

Barb Pitcairn: To read: **“To see if the town will vote to allow 2% discount on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date, except for businesses or companies receiving a benefit of tax increment financing from the Town”**. An example would be 2%, possibly a savings of \$3000 a year.

**Motion to amend is made and has been seconded.**

Discussion on the new motion:

Francis Grey: It appears that the motion would fall into the nature of discriminatory singling out of one particular account. I don't know if that is really a good idea. Because we could just say “why don't we make a motion to make an exception that the town manager gets an exemption on his taxes but no one else does, or vice versa. I just don't think that's a good idea.

Bab Pitcairn: I simply disagree. Our industrial park is a TIF district, so we could have more companies come in there and go under TIF. So let's just make this as it is, let's revise it and say we are going to be giving them half of their taxes back or all of their taxes back, then we don't need to be giving them a 2% discount on top of it.

Francis Grey: How do you identify who will get the discount and who isn't?

Barb Pitcairn: Do you want me to read it again?

Francis Grey: Yeah. How do you identify who will get it and who isn't?

Barb Pitcairn: “To see if the town will vote to allow a 2% discount on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date, except for businesses/companies receiving the benefit of tax increment financing from the Town”. And then you could finish it off with “And set an interest rate of 7% on taxes unpaid...” so on and so forth.

David Dunleavy: The council has asked if I could give a legal opinion, I am an attorney and I was the Town's former attorney. I would render the opinion that I would agree with the town manager that the amended motion as presented would be discriminatory in terms of tax payers. They all have to be treated equally whether they are individuals or corporations or businesses within the town. Now, that being said you could vote on it if you want, but I believe that amendment wouldn't be a legally enforceable amendment.

Judy Moreau: If we are going to be all created equally, here, then could we, the taxpayers of this Town, all have a TIF? Can we all have a big discount on our taxes? Could I pay half of my taxes?

Francis Grey: You certainly could apply for a TIF and arrive at that with the Town with mutual negotiation. Everyone has the same right to apply for it, but everyone gets the discount equally.

Judy Moreau: I said could we all have a TIF? Can I only pay for half of my taxes?

Francis Grey: You can apply for an economic development project that will create jobs and apply for a TIF, yes.

Barb Pitcairn: Could somebody read that again? I want to make sure they know that this is being amended to what I read.

David Dunleavy: Why don't you read it, since you have it right in front of you?

Barb Pitcairn: “To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date, except for businesses/companies receiving the tax increment financing from the Town, and set an interest rate of 7% on taxes unpaid sixty (60) days after the date of tax commitment”.

David Dunleavy: That is the amended article that has been moved and seconded.

**Motion to amend has been defeated.**

David Dunleavy: We move to the motion on the article, the original article.

Discussion: None.

**Original motion on original article carries.**

**Art. 8** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Sec. 506.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 9** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to bring writs of entry for recovery of such parcels of land as have been acquired by the Town by reason of non-payment of taxes, the time of redemption having expired.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Dan Higgins: After three years, that is when the town is able to become....correct?

Ray Cyr: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

Danny Higgins: Ok. But before you pursue any legal action you have to give any of the relatives, or... correct?

Francis Grey: Wait, what's your question? I don't want you to get a wrong answer.

Danny Higgins: No, they answered it.

Judy Moreau: What does it mean "writs of entry"? Does that mean if, say I didn't pay my taxes for the three years, you could just enter my home? Is that what that means?

David Dunleavy: That means the town could go to court to get a writ.

Judy Moreau: Like a search warrant?

David Dunleavy: Well, it would allow the police to go on your property, the Town to go on your property.

Francis Grey: This would occur in a case of a mature tax lien, where the Town actually owns the property at that point, to my understanding.

David Dunleavy: And someone is on that property, either the land owner or they've leased it to somebody or rented it to somebody.

Judy Moreau: You wouldn't escort the owner off, would you?

Gloria Curtis: That is what it is all about. That's what it means.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 10** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes, to be advertised and sold by bid and to issue a quit-claim deed for same. EXCEPTION: Upon expiration of tax lien, tax acquired property may be redeemed by the previous owner or heirs before bid notice is given.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: Why is article 9 and article 10 to be voted on, what's the difference between the two? It seems we are voting on the same thing.

David Dunleavy: One allows the town to go on the property, the other allows the town to sell the property. Article 9 is to, once the town acquires the property, to get a writ to go on the property and take possession. Article 10 allows the town, once it's acquired, to sell the property. All set?

Frank Currier: "To be advertised and sold by bid"...Can I have a clarification as to where it is advertised and for how long?

Francis Grey: We advertise in the Star Herald. I don't think there is a requirement for how many weeks we run the ad in the weekly paper. I think before we ran it at least twice.

Frank Currier: So, basically the Star Herald is the only place where it was advertised.

Francis Grey: I think that is generally accepted, the newspaper of general circulation in this town and this area. The local paper.

Frank Currier: For how long?

Francis Grey: As a matter of procedure, it isn't specified, but we run it at least twice.

Ray Cyr: Twice for three days each.

Judy Moreau: The Star Herald only is once a week.

David Dunleavy: For two weeks.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 11** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any Town owned personal property under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Mike Bartlett: What does the town consider personal property?

David Dunleavy: Anything that is not real estate.

Mike Bartlett: Such as vehicles?

David Dunleavy: Vehicles, snow plow, anything.

Francis Grey: File cabinets.

Mike Bartlett: They have no criteria they have to meet to get rid of this? It is at their discretion as to who they are going to give it to and how much?

Francis Grey: That authorization, I believe that is enabled under this, yes.

David Dunleavy: Yes, you are allowing the town selectmen to use their discretion if they have a widget to sell that is no good to the town anymore and doesn't have any use. They can take bids and if someone offers them a reasonable price, they can sell it.

Mike Bartlett: Or a \$60,000 dump truck?

David Dunleavy: Yeah, but that is probably not realistic that they will sell a \$60,000 dump truck.

Mike Bartlett: I understand that, but should there not be some criteria to allow all the residents in the town of Portage the opportunity to tax acquire this instead of at their discretion?

David Dunleavy: That is not what the article says, sir. That's all I can tell you.

Judy Moreau: Can we amend this article to read....

David Dunleavy: If you want to make a motion to amend, make the motion to amend, tell us what the amendment is, and then we'll ask for a second.

Judy Moreau: Mr. Dunleavy, I would like to make a motion to amend article 11: "to be advertised and sold by bid" just like the real estate.

David Dunleavy: Would you like to recite the article as you want it amended?

Judy Moreau: Ok. **"To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to advertise and sell by bid Town owned personal property."**

**Motion made to amend article 11, seconded.**

Discussion:

Ray Cyr: It costs money to advertise, a lot of the stuff we sell like filing cabinets is not worth much money, not worth advertising.

Kathy Holmes: If you have a ton of small stuff, do it as a once a year yard sale at the town office.

Lou Sandy Boutot: I wanted to know, I know the town taxes personal property, is that the same thing like if someone doesn't pay their taxes for three years, does it become property of the Town?

Francis Grey: No. You are talking about business equipment. The Town does make an attempt to collect assessed taxes on personal property, which is business equipment. The state statute regarding tax liens doesn't allow a similar process of automatic foreclosure on personal property. I think there is a process known as a mechanics lien that can be used, but I'm not too familiar with it.

Christy Dicker: If you are proposing to do it by bid, having a once a year yard sale isn't going to work. If Judy wants to put it out by bid, it has to go up by bid, it can't be done as a yard sale, so there is a conflict there.

Mike Bartlett: Perhaps, if there is some concern on the part of the selectmen, that they are somehow hog-tied by a change in this article, perhaps we could all agree on an assessed dollar figure of nothing in excess of \$50?

David Dunleavy: That isn't what the motion to amend is, sir.

Mike Bartlett: I understand that.

David Dunleavy: It has been moved and seconded to amend article 11 basically to require the selectmen or the Town publish the sale of personal property that the town may own when it wants to sell it.

Judy Moreau: Publish. That is the word that we need to insert into article 11. Publish it, let the people know what you have.

David Dunleavy: That is the word you used.

Judy Moreau: No, I said advertised by bid.

David Dunleavy: Advertised and sold by bid.

Judy Moreau: I would like to make an amendment to my amendment to have it published, just like they publish the selectmen's meetings.

David Dunleavy: Why don't you withdraw your motion to amend, have it seconded, and we will vote on the motion to withdraw, then you could restate your amendment. That is the easy way to do it.

**Motion made to withdraw the motion to amend, seconded.**

**Motion to withdraw the motion to amend carried.**

Judy Moreau: Mr. Dunleavy, please could we have article 11 to read "To publish any town owned personal property". To publish it.

Francis Grey: State the entire wording.

David Dunleavy: Why don't you state the entire motion with your amendment in it?

Judy Moreau: **"To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to publish any town owned personal property"**. Period. Short and sweet.

David Dunleavy: I think what you are trying to say is "to publish the sale of and accept bids for".

Judy Moreau: There you go, yes.

David Dunleavy: Is that your motion, ma'am?

Judy Moreau: No. Drop the bids, just publish the sale.

**Motion made to amend article 11, seconded.**

David Dunleavy: It has been moved and seconded for article 11 to state: "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to publish the sale of any personal property to be disposed of by the town".

Judy Moreau: Yes, sir.

Discussion: None.

**Motion to amend article 11 carried.**

**Art. 12** To see what money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate from surplus as they deem advisable to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year.

Selectboard recommends

\$75,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Just a little while ago we voted to extend 3/12 of the budget, right, you could override 3/12 of the budget.

Francis Grey: No normal operating expenses for three months is a structural plan for the March town meeting of a calendar year fiscal year.

Judy Moreau: Yes, but it is still 3/12 of the budgeted items. When this article first came on board, it was for emergencies only, like a forest fire or a big ka-boom like in Japan or something like that. But we haven't had any of that, and I don't see any reason why we should hold up \$75 thousand for non-emergencies like lawyers' fees and what else...?

Francis Grey: I don't think it has been spent on that.

Judy Moreau: I would like to make an amendment to reduce this to \$20,000.

David Dunleavy: Would you state your full motion to amend?

Judy Moreau: **"To see what money the town will vote to authorize the selectpersons to appropriate from surplus as they deemed advisable to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year. Reduce the**

**\$75,000 to \$20,000”.**

David Dunleavy: Your motion to amend is to authorize the sum of \$20,000.

Judy Moreau: Exactly right, sir.

**Motion to amend moved and seconded.**

Mike Bartlett: As a matter of clarity, could the selectmen tell us if they used any of this money last year? Could you tell us what for?

Francis Grey: We used \$1,865 as supplemental wages to pay the part time office person after the town clerk had an injury and had extended leave of absence due to a back injury and was out sick. Because of that back injury, we considered that an emergency to provide coverage in the office for the part time employee.

Frank Currier: Any monies that aren't expended can stay in surplus?

David Dunleavy: Absolutely.

Frank Currier: So of the \$75,000 that was appropriated last year....Of the \$75,000 appropriated *this* year it will only be used for an emergency what the Selectboard deems an emergency?

David Dunleavy: That is only a recommendation. The motion is to approve \$20,000. It has been moved and seconded that the sum of \$20,000 be appropriated from surplus for emergency purposes under article 12.

**Amendment to article 12 carried.**

**Art. 13** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Administration Account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

Selectboard recommends	(from property taxes)	\$22,500
Budget Committee recommends	(from property taxes)	\$22,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded to approve the Budget Committee recommendation.**

Discussion:

Francis Grey: As we enter the budget warrant articles, my general comment, these warrant articles if approved as per the Selectboard's recommendations represent a full calendar year municipal operating budget that is \$14,734 less than the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget, a 2.6% decrease. So if everything is passed as presented it's a decreased budget. Article 13 and Article 14 represent together the general administration account. Together they make \$23,500, and this is \$2000 less than in 09-10, a 7.84% decrease, this is already a decrease proposed from the last full year budget.

James Holmes: I have a question, you said if everything got approved based on the Selectboard recommendation. So it would be an even greater increase if we went with the Budget committee recommendation?

Francis Grey: True.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 14** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,000 for vital record preservation and to allow all the fees collected from vital records requests to be used to defray some of the cost of having the old town records preserved.

Selectboard & Budget Committee recommend	YES
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**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How many more books do we have to do? Do you know?

Kathy Gagnon: I have had four done. I don't know how many there is. Many.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 15** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Officers, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Office Staff.



Selectboard recommends	(from property taxes)	\$67,590
Budget Committee recommends	(from property taxes)	\$61,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded to approve \$67,590.**

Discussion: None.

All in Favor: 28

Opposed: 25

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 16** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 and expend \$2,036 carried over from surplus for the purpose of Assessing, updating maps and the Registry fees for deeds and transfers.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Does this include the personal property tax assessing that was discussed earlier in the year?

Francis Grey: Yes it does.

Barb Pitcairn: So, that bid came in and you got somebody...this is going to be included in this price?

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 17** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,225 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees to be used for the same.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: At the Budget Committee, Otis Nelson had brought up some good things about getting grant money for the town office for green energy and stuff. I would like to know if the selectpeople plan on pursuing Otis' recommendation.

David Dunleavy: That is really an inappropriate question, sir. It's beyond the scope of this article, and there will be a new board and it will be a whole different ball game. Your question should be addressed to the new Board.

Danny Higgins: I will address it to the town manager.

David Dunleavy: But your question has to be focused on the article, sir. I'm not trying to give you a hard time. Your question should be limited to the article and whether it should be approved or not.

Danny Higgins: Being that he is the Town Manager, he can recommend to the board of selectmen, correct? To pursue grant money for green energy for this building.

David Dunleavy: I understand your question sir. I'll leave it to him whether he wants to answer your question or not.

Francis Grey: If the new Board feels it is a priority that they want me to pursue then I will certainly do that.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 18** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Planning & Appeals Boards.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 19** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,000 for Code Enforcement activities, in addition to the Plumbing, Building Permit fees and Fines received in the calendar year.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Frank Currier: \$13,000 is a good chunk of change for the Code Enforcement. Where would that go if in addition to the plumbing, building permit fees, and fines received in the calendar year?

Francis Grey: If it's alright, I can provide a little bit of detail to that question. I'd like to point out that in prior years for a full year budget, the Code Enforcement budget was \$14,000 for a full year. This is \$1000 less. And that is ...a 7.14% decrease over prior years.

Frank Currier: So you are telling me that if we spend \$13,000 over \$14,000 we are saving \$1,000?

Francis Grey: Yes.

Frank Currier: That's government. That's the way government does their books.

Gloria Curtis: I don't think that is what he wanted to know, the \$1000 difference. I think he wants to know what the Code Enforcement \$13000 is used for, what are the activities?

Francis Grey: The Code Enforcement Officer processes building permit applications, acts as a staff to the Planning Board, offers advice to people who want to build additions on their homes as far as the compliance with the ordinance and how they can carry out their building projects. And many other similar duties.

Gloria Curtis: In other words, the \$13000 is the Code Enforcement wages?

Francis Grey: No, it is the whole budget, it's not all wages. The payroll on this budget is about \$11,850 and it is based on staffing level of 12 hours a week.

Frank Currier: Based on 12 hours a week at how much per hour?

Francis Grey: It is approximately \$19 per hour. It is professional work and requires state certification.

Christy Dicker: I would to like definitely speak in favor of this. We finally have a very good Code Enforcement Officer in the town, she has worked hard to take all the tests required and has also become the licensed plumbing inspector. She is a very positive aspect in this town, she is a resident of Portage. She is fair, honest and is concerned about Portage.

Judy Moreau: And she has people skills.

Mike Bartlett: Only one thing bothers me. Essentially that the fate of the Code Enforcement activities will be benefited by the number of fines they write.

David Dunleavy: That's out of order, sir. The article is as written, and the fines are the fines.

Francis Grey: They don't make more money for themselves.

Mike Bartlett: No, I realize that.

Maggie Pierce: For Code Enforcement, you are asking one individual to do, oh gosh, many hours of work that most towns do in 20 hours. You are asking it to be done in 8 hours. The 12 hours is because of the summer when septic systems are being put in. All we are asking is that those hours are available during the summer when that is the peak time. In the winter, the hours are decrease significantly to 6 or maybe 8 hours. A lot of that is paperwork to get caught up on what has gone on during the summer because you don't have time to get it done because you are always out in the field. It's not a lot of money, but it is a lot of demand. Last summer I did a lot of pro-bono stuff because there were a lot of people that needed things done, they were only here for the weekend. So I went out and did what I needed to do. It's not a lot of money or time, but it is beneficial that someone is here to make sure it gets done, and that it gets done in a timely fashion.

Anita Theriault: I agree with everything she says, we are very fortunate to have her and she is not overpaid.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 20** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$4,000 from surplus for Abatements.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 21** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$15,000 from surplus for Discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Didn't we just do that back here....?

David Dunleavy: No.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 22** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,530 for annual membership dues for:

Maine Municipal Association	\$1,313
Northern Maine Development Corp.	\$1,481
Maine Tourism	\$ 145

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: There is a mistake in the article.

David Dunleavy: The article is as written, ma'am. That's the article.

Gloria Curtis: It adds up wrong.

Francis Grey: It is true, there is a clerical error there but we've sought legal advice and we are limited by that amount. That's a capped article, so that's all we can raise.

Barb Pitcairn: We could amend it.

Francis Grey: You can't. It's a capped article. You can't raise it.

Judy Moreau: So what you are going to raise is only \$1,530. Ok. You are not going to raise the rest of it.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 23** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for the General Assistance Program and allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

Selectboard and Budget committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Jim Dumond: I think you forgot discussion in Article 22. I don't know if it's recorded. You might have to go back.

David Dunleavy: I asked for discussion.

Jim Dumond: No. I was going to discuss something, but...

David Dunleavy: Well, let's get article 23 taken care of.

**Motion carried.**

Pertaining to Article 22:

Jim Dumond: I'd like to know from the Board or Town Manager what Northern Maine Development Commission has done for the Town of Portage Lake? In the last 30 years?

Francis Grey: They provided a hand out of a pie chart of the benefits that are available to the Town of Portage Lake as a part of our membership dues. They provided this information in response to your question.

Jim Dumond: That's what they've provided us for 34 years? What do we get from grants that they've helped us out on? They've never...

Judy Moreau: We got the TIF.

Gloria Curtis: That isn't there fault, we have to apply for it, we have to ask for help.

Francis Grey: They are like Maine Municipal, they are a resource that is a phone call away of anything we require assistance with as far as economic development and planning and all these other programs. Perhaps in the past we haven't been as quick to pick up the phone as we could have been. But it doesn't mean it's not a valuable resource for the town that we should have.

David Dunleavy: I asked for confirmation, and sir, just for your information, I did ask for discussion on that. Perhaps you misheard me, because this young lady down here gave us some discussion on that.

**Art. 24** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$61,100 for the following accounts:

Property/Casualty/Liability	\$13,346
Unemployment Insurance	\$ 4,591
Workers Compensation	\$ 5,416
FICA/MED (Employer)	\$11,068
Employees Health Ins.	\$25,520
Income Protection Plan	\$ 1,159

Selectboard recommends	YES
Budget Committee recommends	\$52,411.66

**Motion made in the positive, seconded for the Budget Committee recommendation of \$52,411.66.**

Discussion:

Francis Grey: Can the Budget Committee provide a justification for that amount, or why that amount is a good amount?

Jennifer Curran: I'm just curious as to why there is a drop from \$61,100 to \$52,411. Can I get an explanation?

Francis Grey: Only the Budget Committee can explain the rationale for that.

Pat Raymond: During our meeting on the Budget committee they looked at this number here of \$52,411.66, and that was a figure used last year, am I correct?

Francis Grey: No, no. That is a number on a spread sheet that results from a subtraction of the actual costs plus an appropriation from surplus of \$2,430.

Pat Raymond: Anyway, they looked at that number as a group, I was on the board, and they decided that it was the number that should be looked at. It was stressed by the town manager that those numbers were not very accurate to use for this year because of increases of insurances and all that. But that is the number that passed and came from the Budget Committee.

Barb Pitcairn: Can I just add to what Pat Raymond said, because I was on the Budget Committee? I think the topic of conversation was that the employees under this plan make a small contribution towards their insurance, because right now the town is paying 100% for everything. *That* was the topic of conversation. And that's why we went back to the \$52,000.

Otis Nelson: These are fixed rates, right? This is what will be due for the coverage for each of these for 12 months?

Francis Grey: These are the rates for each of these policies for the coming year.

Otis Nelson: I know how my insurance works, if you don't pay it, it gets cancelled, correct? Which one of these will be getting axed if you don't appropriate the \$61,100?

Ray Cyr: Good question.

Francis Grey: You are about \$9 to \$10 thousand short...

Otis Nelson: So then that money would have to be taken out of surplus or emergency funds or something like that.

Ray Cyr: I don't think you can do that.

Otis Nelson: I think you need to think before you vote.

Judy Moreau: The consensus of the budget committee was that the people who are insured on this plan pay a little bit more, pay a part of it or some of it, of their own insurance. That was the consensus of the Budget Committee's request.

Francis Grey: Would that apply also for the workers compensation insurance for the town and the unemployment insurance for the town, and the property/casualty and liability insurance for the town?

Judy Moreau: Definitely.

Gloria Curtis: There isn't an article or anything about it, where the other money will come from or the fact that insurances are going to be cancelled. I don't see how you can argue, I know that you can, but I don't think it's right to go less than they actually need. Is the amount here \$61,100 with maybe a little bit to give? So the \$52,411.66 is absolutely not going to cover it?

Francis Grey: Correct.

Gloria Curtis: And if the employees are going to be paying part of their insurance, isn't that a whole other deal that has to be voted on and set into place before you can change numbers?

Anita Theriault: Does the \$25,000 pay for the total premiums for each employee?

Francis Grey: Yes.

Anita Theriault: The employees have no percentage?

Francis Grey: Single coverage for the employee, not their families.

Danny Higgins: At the Budget Committee we recommended that the employees pay 20%....

David Dunleavy: We've discussed that, but that's not really....I think everybody understands that.

**Motion to approve the sum of \$52,411.66 defeated.**

**Motion made for approving \$61,100, seconded.**

Discussion: None.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 25** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,950 for the Portage Lake Fire Department.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 27** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150 in addition to the balance carried forward of \$398 for the Animal Control Account.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 28** To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate \$10,000 for the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: May I ask, how much is in the reserve account now? Today?

Francis Grey: About \$7,700.

Barb Pitcairn: My question is this reserve account being used to pay for the backhoe or is this a reserve account for future purchases for the Public Works account?

Francis Grey: OK, could I provide...I have some short comments here that speak to this question. This equipment reserve account has historically been used to fund the purchase of a backhoe. In a sense calling it a reserve account is a misnomer. However, this \$10,000 to be raised in 2011 will offset most of a required payment that was made for \$10,902 for the backhoe loan in January. The town borrowed \$66,700 for the backhoe for a seven year term beginning in November of 2008. The first payment was due for January 15, 2009. Final payment will be due for Jan 15, 2015.

Judy Moreau: How much do we owe on the backhoe?

Francis Grey: Four payments of \$10,000, about \$40,000.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 29** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Works Account in addition to any funds reimbursed to that account.

Selectboard recommends	(from property tax)	\$78,500
Budget Committee makes no recommendation		

**Motion made in the positive, seconded to appropriate \$30,000.**

Discussion:

Lou Sandy Boutot: What kind of funds are reimbursed into the public works account?

Francis Grey: Into that account in particular? Well, wait a minute. We do occasionally get some small amounts of revenue coming into the account. I can't...Kathy?

Kathy Gagnon: That account is reimbursed if we should be able to apply for any FEMA money from a bad storm or anything. And the Fire Dept. pulls diesel off of his diesel tank, their account will go back into Public Works account.

Francis Grey: If someone proposes a joint project, like culvert replacement that goes across part of a driveway. They pay for part of a culvert, the Town's going to pay for the part that goes across the road. They will owe the money. Does that go back into this?

Kathy Gagnon: I believe that goes back into the account also.

Otis Nelson: So what's going to be the consequences of whacking this budget by \$48,500?

Francis Grey: The consequences will be pretty major.

Ray Cyr: It will affect roads for sure.

Otis Nelson: Plowing, everything.

Ray Cyr: It is a great impact. Don't forget, we have already cut this budget.

Francis Grey: I mean, I supposed you might be able to afford the wages for the employee, but we won't be able to buy sand or salt.

Otis Nelson: Or diesel fuel, or tires, or whatever.

Francis Grey: I don't think you'll be able to do any repairs on any trucks, or anything like that.

Judy Moreau: The reason behind this madness is we have asked our town managers past and present, selectboards past and present to, please, give us a figure of what it would cost to contract this public works department....

David Dunleavy: I understand there are reasons for what you are doing, but the issue before us is whether or not the Town wants to fund this with \$30,000.

Frank Carrier: Why do I see for Public Works budget \$37,500. Was that for half a year, or was that for a full year?

Francis Grey: That was for half. In prior years for a full year it has been \$75,000. If it's proposed for \$78,500 it is a \$3,500 increase, a 4.67% increase. It is attributed to significant annual equipment repair costs totally over \$10,000

in '09-'10, and over \$9,000 in the six months budget of 2010 short year. So we've allowed for \$5000 of potential equipment repair costs in 2011.

Danny Higgins: The reason I brought up the amount of \$30,000...

David Dunleavy: You don't have to give a reason.

Frank Currier: I would like to hear Danny's reason for thinking it could be cut like that.

David Dunleavy: That is an inappropriate request. You have to make up your mind whether that's enough, sir, the \$30,000 will be enough to fund it.

Frank Currier: So the discussion is closed.

David Dunleavy: No, the discussion isn't closed. If you have a question for the folks up here, then that's fine but questions in terms to the person who made the motion is not appropriate.

Danny Higgins: With respect to the citizens of the town of Portage, may I give my reasons behind it?

Ray Cyr: Yes, I'd like to hear it.

Danny Higgins: The reason why I am proposing this is because last summer we put in six or eight culverts with a little bit of ditching. I feel that we could do it with part time help in the summer time, eliminate workman's comp, and do away with that. That's the reason I proposed \$30,000.

Breen Bagley: How exactly do we fund the highway? My question is, in particular, if we have a major break down, say a motor or something goes, how is that paid for?

Francis Grey: Out of this budget.

Breen Bagley: Say you have something very major, you have that much money built into the budget? Say a \$20,000 engine. Can you cover that out of the \$75,000?

Francis Grey: No.

Breen Bagley: So wouldn't that money come out of the emergency fund which we just cut?

David Dunleavy: That would probably be the case, I believe.

Breen Bagley: So we cut the emergency fund, now we want to cut the highway budget? How in the world are we going to do anything?

Danny Higgins: If they had a major breakdown they could hold a special town meeting to ask for the money.

**Motion to appropriate \$30,000 is defeated.**

**Motion made to approve the Selectboard recommendation of \$78,500, seconded.**

Discussion: None.

**Motion to appropriate \$78,500 carried.**

**Art. 30** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for repairs to the sand and salt shed roof.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: But the work has already been done, so why does it need to come before our approval?

Francis Grey: The work was done in the calendar year 2011, that is the time period for which we are approving a budget so that is why. It happened in January of 2011, the selectmen identified it as an emergency situation with shingles coming off the roof of the sand/salt shed. They were very concerned that water was going to get in and ruin all the sand and salt. So now we must appropriate the funds.

Danny Higgins: But it was paid for when he finished his job, correct?

Francis Grey: True.

Danny Higgins: So, you had to get the \$5,000 from somewhere to pay him, right? If you paid the man after he did the job, he did it in January, he finished the job in January, you paid him in January, where did the money come from?

Francis Grey: It was done as an emergency out of surplus, the money has not been appropriated so now we are

coming before the town and asking them to appropriate money to pay for this work, which was identified as an emergency, felt it needed work.

Brian Cote: Wasn't this approved through the 3/12 article from the last town meeting?

Francis Grey: 3/12 of what?

Brian Cote: 3/12 of the budget, whatever budget....

Francis Grey: 3/12 of what was budgeted for the sand shed in last year...?

Brian Cote: No, no. The carry-over from last year. We voted on that at last year's meeting, to run the government from January to March.

Francis Grey: You are referring to the wording of article 4 which was approved previously: "To see if the town will authorize the Selectboard to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budget amount in each budget category".

What's the budget category we are referring to, I guess?

Judy Moreau: It's not a budgeted item.

David Dunleavy: Does that answer your question, sir?

Brian Cote: No.

Gloria Curtis: I have a question concerning the \$5,000 for repairs for the sand and salt shed. If it's already been paid for and we appropriate this, where is the money going?

Francis Grey: It is going to replenish money that was spent out of surplus that has not yet been appropriated to replenish surplus.

Lou Sandy Boutot: I think what Brian is trying to say is like we approve the first three months of 2012 for bills that will come due. And that when we voted last year to go back to the full year that was automatically approved that the first three months the bills would be paid. Isn't that what you meant, Brian?

Brian Cote: Yes.

Judy Moreau: It is not a budgeted item, it wasn't in last year's...or, the first half...the one in September that we had. That salt and sand shed was not in the budget.

Francis Grey: We could sit here and debate semantics and split hairs, but the question is really before the town. In my opinion I feel, is if you feel it is a worthy expense that the town, the Selectboard, took action what they felt was an emergency to repair the roof of the sand/salt shed, when the shingles were coming off of it, the water was going to get in there...Do you feel that was a worthy expense to spend \$5,000 on that repair work. I do.

Bea Cormier: You are wanting \$5000 to pay for repairs on the sand shed that has already been paid for. Why isn't it in there that this money would be returned to where you got it from? This is misleading. They have already paid for the sand shed repair, now they are wanting another \$5000 for the sand shed repair. You are misleading the people.

Judy Moreau: May we amend it to read "to be returned to surplus"?

David Dunleavy: It doesn't need to be amended, ma'am. You could move to amend it if you want.

Gloria Curtis: Judy, they are not going to take that \$5,000 and pay for the sand shed repair again. We already know that, it has already been paid once. The guy isn't going to make \$10,000. The \$5,000 would have to go back into our account here somewhere.

Judy Moreau: Why wasn't it in the front of the book to say that they spent it to begin with?

Francis Grey: Because this report is for the 6 month budget on the short year. Now we are talking about raise and appropriate for 2011. This was a 2011 expenditure.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 31** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Road Project Reserve Account.

Selectboard recommends	(from property taxes)	\$25,000
Budget Committee recommends		\$0

**Motion made for the Budget Committee recommendation of \$0, seconded.**

Discussion:



Otis Nelson: I believe I was the driver behind this budget committee recommendation. What is the balance of the road reserve, both accounts?

Francis Grey: Approximately \$77,000.

Otis Nelson: And I said due to the way the economy is we need to take a break off this for this year and if we need something, we go to do that account.

**Motion carried in the sum of \$0.**

**Art. 32** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,291 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

James Holmes: What is this for?

Francis Grey: This is for solid waste. We are in an inter-local agreement. The town of Eagle Lake is the primary community of this NASWA, Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association. Wallagrass, Eagle Lake, us, Nashville, New Canada, I believe. That is our portion of their budget that, uh, you know. You pay your local trash company to pick up your trash and they take it up to Eagle Lake transfer station. NASWA pays for that to go to Tri-Community Landfill in Caribou, pays all of the tipping fees. That's our share of taking care of our garbage.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 33** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for the operation of the Transfer Station.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 34** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to re-configure and expand the ramp at the transfer station.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Explanation on "reconfigure", what are you going to do?

Francis Grey: The proposal that the Selectboard came up with, and I think it is a very excellent idea, first of all they will raise the height so they will get some more hexagon concrete blocks so the thing will be 3 feet higher so you will match the height of the container. Number two, there will also be a drive through. They will have a ramp going down so you will drive up and have a container on each side and you're gonna drive through and come out so you won't have to back up.

Frank Currier: I guess that answers my question that is something we don't need to spend this year.

Otis Nelson: This \$3,000 is being raised because the ramp currently is a safety hazard, correct? One of the town employees was almost injured due to the configuration right now. And this work is going to be done in house to keep the costs down?

Ray Cyr: The reason it's being done is somebody got hurt there last year. We are going to solve two problems. The other problem is when people who had trailers had a hard time to back in between the two containers. So now they will be able to drive up and dump their stuff and move around. And we will raise the ramp so we don't have to hoist the stuff up.

Danny Higgins: My recommendation at the budget committee was to...That steel and stuff that goes into the

steel bins, to set that aside...

David Dunleavy: The motion is to approve the article, sir. If you want to speak to either approving or disapproving the article, that's fine, but something having to do with how they will do this or what they are going to do is really out of order.

Danny Higgins: Yes, sir. But if they saved that stuff they could pay for the man's wages.

David Dunleavy: It is a good point, sir.

Danny Higgins: Where are we going to go with, it if it's a good point?

David Dunleavy: Some of these things should be brought up during the selectmen's meetings during discussion. Suggestions like that are things more appropriately brought to the Selectmen's attention.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 35** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Cemetery.

Selectboard and Budget committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 36** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$700 in addition to the balance carried forward of \$664 for Portage Lake Beautification.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: What did we do with some of the money?

Christy Dicker: We replaced some flags, that was where the big portion of it went. The big flags.

Danny Higgins: What must I need to do in order get a flag?

Christy Dicker: Talk to me after.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 37** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in addition to anticipated income from Campground fees, for upkeep and maintenance of the Public Beach, Boat Landing, Seaplane Base and Parks.

Selectboard recommends (from property taxes) \$8,600

Budget Committee Recommends (from property taxes) \$7,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded for the amount of Budget Committee recommendation for \$7,500.**

Discussion:

Francis Grey: This account provides all the expenses for maintaining the town beach, campground, town square and any other parks. There is some income from campground fees but it doesn't pay for all of those expenses. Expenses from fuel costs for mowing increased significantly, and this account pays for portable toilets and also trash removal. If it was approved at \$8,600 it is a 14% increase over prior years. Proposing this, I don't feel bad because the increase is absorbed by all the other accounts that have decreased and municipal budget as a whole is a decrease.

Frank Currier: The difference of \$1,600. You have the seaplane base which we will discuss later so I see no reason not to go with the Budget Committee recommendation.

**Motion carries in the sum of \$7500.**

**Art. 38** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for updates to the Veterans Honor Roll.

Selectboard recommends \$3,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded in the amount of \$3,500.**

Discussion:

Frank Currier: Will this be a one year thing?

Francis Grey: It is a project.

Christy Dicker: Originally, a couple of years ago it had been in the works to try to update the honor roll to get the Civil War names on it and other names on it not currently on it from more recent wars. There are some names on there that are incorrectly spelled. This figure was a figure that I went to John Beaulier, who did the sign, this is kind of a ballpark figure because he doesn't know how many names will go on it, that's still in the works. As soon as we have a more clear picture of what has to be done..., he said this would be enough to cover what needs to be done. He can't just add names to the existing one, he will have to do new panels and such.

Jim Dumond: How do you determine who has been left out?

Christy Dicker: That is exactly what the Historical Society is now working on. That is exactly part of the problem. They are trying to find out exactly that information. But we wanted to get something into the budget to try to get something done by June or July of this year.

Jim Dumond: So if we have any questions we should go to the Historical Society?

Christy Dicker: Yup.

Judy Moreau: Will it be any bigger?

Christy Dicker: Probably. It's going to be added onto. John said he will have to add on to both sides of it to make it work good and be able to put the names on it. It is still a work in progress, we needed to get something into the budget, so that is where that figure came from.

Judy Moreau: We haven't done this in years.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 39** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,500 for Fireworks for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Selectboard recommends NO

Budget Committee recommends YES

**Motion made for the Selectboard recommendation, seconded.**

Discussion:

Barbara Pitcairn: We are a vacation town, we have 2000 people who come here in July and August, and you are going to say no for fireworks? Yet you want refurbish \$5000 for the salt shed?

Wilza Robertson: I agree with the Selectpersons recommendations. Times are hard and the only people who pay this \$3500 are the people who pay taxes.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Some people who pay taxes are the camp owners, and they really look forward to this every year. I would like to make an amendment...Can I?

David Dunleavy: You can move to amend.

Lou Sandy Boutot: I move that we amend to take the Budget Committee...

David Dunleavy: No, excuse me. This isn't an appropriate article to be amended. You have to vote on the motion up or down, it is only a recommendation.

Francis Grey: Can she explain what she would like to do if she prevails?

Lou Sandy Boutot: I would just like to go with the Budget Committee recommendation.

Ray Cyr: The reason we chose not to expend any money on it is because, like Wilza said, times are tough and I would prefer to use it for the Veterans Honor Roll, that is where we got that money. We said we would put the \$3,500 that was proposed and use it for the Veterans Honor Roll.

John Robertson: This has always been a sore with me. Other towns don't do it this way, they don't expect the property owners to pay for it. If the people would like to see fireworks, they are also the same people who would like to see their taxes go down. Let them have some public works, yard sales, cake sales, and raise the money like other towns do. This is not something to spend your money on when we are having such a hard time.

Lou Sandy Boutot: I feel we do pay taxes here and times are hard, but that doesn't mean we can't have something to lift people's spirits instead of thinking "Oh, times are hard, we don't have the money".

David Dunleavy: It has been moved and seconded that no money be appropriated for fireworks, in other words that article 39 be defeated. You would be voting for \$0 be appropriated for fireworks. If you want something other than no money being appropriated, either the sum of \$3,500 or a sum other than that, then you have to vote no.

Gloria Curtis: Just read it again, and then go with what is proposed, please.

David Dunleavy: The motion before the town meeting is to appropriate no money for fireworks, in other words to defeat article 39, vote against it.

All in favor: 28

Opposed: 26

**Motion carried, \$0 appropriated.**

**Art. 40** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 in matching funds as the Town's share of the Portage Lake Association's application for an invasive cost share grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 41** To see if the Town will vote to expend all money received from State reimbursement for snowmobile registrations to the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining and improving trails for use by the public.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 42** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for and accept snowmobile trail grant funds on behalf of the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining and improving trails for use by the public.

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carries.**

**Art. 43** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of aiding to maintain local snowmobile trails for public use.

Selectboard makes no recommendation

Budget Committee recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded for the budget committee recommendation.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 44** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$78 for Aroostook County Action Program.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Frank Currier: On these next 13 articles...

David Dunleavy: We are dealing with article 44, sir, one at a time.

Frank Currier: Every year I've watched this list grow, and this is a little bit here and here. I am not opposed to any of these, but what I am opposed to is having my tax dollars go toward something I may not want my tax dollars go to. So I am going to vote no on all of these, and I would like you all to think about, if you want one of these passed then you take the money out of your own pocket and you donate. Don't ask me to donate to something that I don't want to.

Brian Cote: Last year the social services warrant article, this was all combined into just one article.

Francis Grey: There wasn't any last year, it was a six month budget. They skipped it completely.

Brian Cote: The year before then, why was this put into separate articles? In 2009, we voted as a block. I can't see why you separated everything here this time.

Francis Grey: OK. I thought it was the way to do it, is to give the people the decision on all of these, but if you want to take your choice away and just put it all into one, then, I mean, I guess it could be done that way.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 45** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$295 for Aroostook Agency on Aging.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 46** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for V.F.W. Memorial Day expenses.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 47** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Catholic Charities.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Kathy Holmes: If you are going to give \$100 to Catholic Charities, what about every other church out there? You might want to think about that.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Most of the food pantries in the area are helped by Catholic Charities, so it's not only for one denomination, it's for all denominations.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 48** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$633 for Central Aroostook Humane Society.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 49** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 50** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$44 for St. John Aroostook Resource Conservation & Development.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 51** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$123 for the American Red Cross.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 52** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$390 for Homeless Services of Aroostook.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 53** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200 for Aroostook Council for Healthy Families.

Selectboard recommends NO

Budget Committee recommends YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded for the Selectboard recommendation of “no”.**

Discussion:

Christy Dicker: I just wanted to say why we recommended no on that one. That was a new one and it got in here inadvertently. We didn't want it in here. All the other ones that we have done are things that we've done in the past, and everybody has voted affirmative. So I just wanted to explain the fact that we voted no on that one.

Danny Higgins: The reason I voted no is why are we voting money for a healthy family?

**Motion carried, no funds are appropriated.**

**Art. 54** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Martha's Food Kitchen.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

**Art. 55** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Maine Public Broadcasting.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made to appropriate no funds, seconded.**

Discussion: None.

All in favor: 21

Opposed: 20

**Motion carried, no funds are appropriated.**

**Art. 56** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$200 for Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made to appropriate no funds, seconded.**

Discussion:

Lou Sandy Boutot: What does the Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District do for the town?

Francis Grey: If you would like, I could provide you with a letter that was provided from the Budget Committee that comes from these agencies where they tell what they do and why they think they should get this money.

Lou Sandy Boutot: They do something for us?

Francis Grey: They sent us a letter.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 57** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Scholarships for Portage Lake students graduating in June of 2011.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Is this still divided?

Christy Dicker: By however many students.

Judy Moreau: There is no specific...what college you have to go to or anything?

Christy Dicker: No.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Do they get this money if they have a certain grade average?

Christy Dicker: There isn't a certain grade average, but it has to be a passing grade in the first semester.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 58** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,000 for street lights.

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

James Holmes: Buying more street lights, fixing old street lights, are we putting street lights up on Patriot Avenue? What about street lights?

Francis Grey: Paying the electric bill for the lights we have now.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 59** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,867 for Ashland User Fees (ambulance service: \$11,902; Library: \$1,399; Recreation: \$1,566)

Selectboard and Budget Committee recommend YES

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Gloria Curtis: You are going to take all the little articles and put them separate, and then you are going to take these three pretty good sized articles and put them all into one? So if we vote on it, we are voting for the whole thing rather than separating them. What if we don't want to donate to the recreation or the library... If we don't

agree on one of those? That is something for in the future not to lump them.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Pat Raymond had a good reason why it is lumped together at the Budget Committee meeting, and if he wouldn't mind I would like him to explain it to everyone.

Pat Raymond: I don't know exactly what she's referring to, but when this was asked there was a little bit of contention about certain accounts, one was library and recreation. I said in the past history of Ashland and Portage it seemed there was a little animosity between the towns when it came to these two particular items. Why do we have to pay? We went through a long process over certain years when I was on the Board of Selectmen. Eventually we came to a consensus with the manager, which was Mr. Jim Gardiner, and said they would come up with a plan that would be reasonable and we wouldn't expect major overhauls in the amount of money we would be paying, and it would guarantee us in a sense that it would keep it a limited amount of money. At that time it was a 2% increase or less, if it needed to be, per year. As far as how much use they get, that has always been in debate. If you talk to a number of people, a lot of school kids use that library. Adults use the library, the same as the rec. That is basically what I had to say about that.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 60** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for a Legal Fee Reserve Account.

Selectboard recommends

YES

Budget Committee makes no recommendation

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Francis Grey: We need the \$2500 because, similar to the sand shed, we had a bill that came due during the first three months of the year that was for our insurance deductible for \$2,500 to pay for our attorney for a lawsuit which has since been settled. We actually did already pay the \$2,500; that was our insurance deductible. So that was the basic amount for running into some legal costs for the town.

Kathy Holmes: Why can't this come out of the emergency fund if that emergency arises again?

Francis Grey: I kind of proposed this, and the Board kind of went along with it. They agreed, and I thought we felt we would like to see this be its own account. Previously when they had a legal bill it was actually paid out of the administration account, it wasn't....You know, I don't think getting slapped with a lawsuit counts as an emergency. Some of the townspeople seem like they are very....People have varying definitions as to what they feel constitutes an emergency. Some people have very different feelings on that. But historically this was paid out of the administration account and we felt we wanted to make it its own account.

Kathy Holmes: So it's a deductible that comes out no matter what for insurance. The first \$2,500 is a deductible for that?

Gloria Curtis: My question was that we don't already have a legal fee reserve account?

Francis Grey: No, we don't.

Barb Pitcairn: Thank you to Francis for being up front and honest. I was at the Budget Committee and we asked what this was for, and he didn't say anything. It is good to know what it's being used for. We said no recommendation.

**Motion carried.**

**Art. 61** Shall an ordinance entitled "March 2011 Amendments to the Town of Portage Lake Shoreland Zoning Ordinance" be enacted? (copies of the text of the ordinance are available from the Town Clerk)

Selectboard recommends

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I believe this empowers our CEO and our Planning Board and our Board of Appeals a little bit more. We're not going to be relying on DEP and having them come out here and give us advice. This gives us the ability to govern our own selves more thoroughly on Shoreland Zone. We need this.



Frank Currier: This looks to me like something that ought be carried until a lot of our snowbirds come back.

Grace Nason: Is this making the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance more strict, or less strict?

Barb Pitcairn: I can answer that.

David Dunleavy: No, ma'am. The question is directed at the Selectmen.

Francis Grey: Brian Condon is on the Planning Board.

Brian Condon: This is updating the local ordinance that we have right now. We had a public meeting on it, everything was discussed. Many of the things we had, we got a letter from the state saying we didn't comply, but this makes it so we do comply. So we have our own regulations, we don't have to depend on DEP or anyone else. We have several rules that we go by. They are updated and approved by the state.

Wilza Robertson: Before these are actually adopted, if we approve this will this come before the town for the approval of the people?

David Dunleavy: It is before the town now.

Wilza Robertson: You are saying you want us to approve it before many of us have had a chance to read it?

Francis Grey: If you choose to. It has been advertised, a public hearing has been advertised and held and proper procedures have been followed to notify the public of this ordinance.

David Dunleavy: The only thing right now is either to approve the adoption or disapprove the adoption. If you don't think the adoption is appropriate, you vote to disapprove it.

Brian Condon: We have brought this to a public hearing twice, all of the information has been here at the office. There are only a few ordinances that had to be changed, there is not a great amount that will change in the ordinance. Many of the things that didn't apply to us, like marine life, have been taken out. There are very few changes.

Francis Grey: Brian, would you agree, would you say that all of the changes in here are basically legal technicalities to bring us to compliance with the state guidelines, such as they took language regarding timber harvesting was taken out of the Ordinance and it had to be put back in there even though it's all being repealed at some time when the state has a deadline. It's all legal technicalities, it's not really substantive changes to our Ordinance.

Brian Condon: It's not a lot of changes, but when we were doing our ordinance, the state really didn't know which way it wanted to go with the harvest program. Whether they were going to do it, whether they had the funds to do it. We said we would keep our harvest plan for the time being, as it is now, they will support us. The Maine Forest Service will do the work to monitor our system.

David Pierce: What this proposal is, is only to bring the town into compliance with state regulations, it's nothing new. All it is, is to bring us so we are not in violation of state mandate. It's required.

**Motion carried.**

Art. 62 To see if the Town will vote to pursue having the Seaplane Base structure repaired or replaced.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded to have the Seaplane Base repaired.**

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: What are your...

Ray Cyr: We just want to know what the town wants to do with this.

Danny Higgins: If they decide to keep it, what do you plan to...

Ray Cyr: If we keep it, it's got to be repaired.

Otis Nelson: The building is a hazard right now, due to insurance coverage it has to be repaired?

Ray Cyr: We can't get it insured.

Otis Nelson: There is no insurance on the property.

Brian Cote: I went to one of these meetings and we were discussing the Seaplane Base and we had a several contractors step up to the plate saying I'll do this, I'll do this. I'm wondering if they are still willing to do what they recommended to do.

David Dunleavy: That is really not in order of the article, the article is very clear, sir. I'm not trying to stifle anything, but it is really not appropriate under the article.

Lisa Rubin: The article is asking the town to see how much it costs to repair, or to actually do it?

Francis Grey: What the selectmen felt was there were two options, you could fix it and there would be some kind of cost associated in doing that. The other option was to have the structure removed and to tear it down. But you can't really leave it the way it is because it is in an unsafe condition and it's uninsurable. So we have two warrant

articles, 62 and 63, they could either approve one or the other of them, we hope. It is an important part of the history of the town, it's really the icon of the town.

Lisa Rubin: So if you want to fix it, there will be another meeting to say how much it will cost?

Lou Sandy Boutot: If we do vote to approve it to have it repaired, does the town have a specific plan to what they are going to use it for?

Christy Dicker: We would have another meeting, a special meeting, to find out exactly what the town...

David Dunleavy: The Town Manager has pointed out really what they are trying to get to is whether you want to take the next step and explore having it repaired, or whether you just want to do away with it. If you want to explore having it repaired, then you will have another meeting and discuss what that would entail.

Danny Higgins: What was the Historical Society's....How did they feel about it? I mean, didn't they want that for....?

Ray Cyr: If we voted to repair it, we would probably go talk to the Historical Society and see if they wanted to take it over.

John Robertson: There will always be some seaplanes. There will always be some. And that Portage Lake being a seaplane air base in an emergency situation is on every aviation map that is printed. We have procedures to having that. If we give it away, we will never get it back. It is a place where somebody in an emergency can sit down, gas up, and a mechanic can come to shore and help him. That is why it was put there in the first place. I feel it is too bad to see it just taken away.

**Motion to repair the seaplane base carried.**

**Art. 63** To see if the Town will vote to pursue having the Seaplane Base structure removed.

**Motion made to strike down article 63, seconded.** Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

Barb Pitcairn is sworn in for the one year term of Portage Lake Board of Selectman.

David Pierce is sworn in for the three year term for Portage Lake Board of Selectman.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine Routhier  
Resident, Portage Lake