

Town of Portage Lake
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 28, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.
Portage Lake Municipal Building

AROOSTOOK, §

STATE OF MAINE

To: Corrine M. Routhier, resident of the Town of Portage Lake, County of Aroostook, and State of Maine

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Voters of the Town of Portage Lake, in said County, qualified by law to vote in the town affairs, to meet at the Municipal Building in said town on **Thursday the twenty-seventh (27th) of March, 2014, at two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon until seven o'clock (7:00 p.m.) in the evening**, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

ART. 1 To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
Harry Hafford is elected moderator.

ART. 2 To elect by secret ballot the following Officer(s):

One (1) Selectperson for a term of three (3) years
One (1) Portage Lake Schoolboard member for a term of two (2) years
One (1) Portage Lake Schoolboard member for a term of three (3) years

Election results are as follows:

Selectperson for 3 year term: David Pierce

School Board member for 3 year term: Robert Reece

School Board member for 2 year term: David Farnum

And to notify and warn said voters to assemble at the Portage Lake Municipal Building on **Friday, the twenty-eighth (28th) of March, 2014, at six-thirty (6:30 p.m.) in the evening**, then and there, to act on the following Articles to wit:

There were 26 resident voters in attendance; 0 resident non-voters; 1 non-residents

Moderator asks for a vote to pass Articles 3 to 11 together as a block, deeming these standard Articles that don't change from year to year. **Motion made and seconded for the Moderator's suggestion. No discussion on the motion. Motion carries. Articles 3 to 11 are passed as written.**

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.*

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, 2015 to the annual March Town Meeting.*

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS

YES

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

ART. 6 *To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to file applications for the 2014-2015 State of Maine Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs; and if said applications are approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds and exercise such authority as needed to implement such programs.*

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS

YES

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

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

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

ART. 10 *To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to sell and/or dispose of any property acquired by tax lien after first offering the property to the previous owners for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest, and if they decline, advertising for sealed bids on same, stating the lowest bid acceptable, and to allow the Selectboard to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the town.*

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS

YES

ART. 11 *To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to publish the proposed sale of any Town acquired property and Town owned personal property over \$500, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.*

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS

YES

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

\$25,000

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

ART. 13 To see if the Town will vote to deposit all monies received from the Maine Department of Transportation, Local Road Assistance Program (formerly URIP) into the Public Works Road Reserve Account for the 2014 year.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Does anybody know what the figure is?

Larry Duchette: Last year it was \$10,840, you can find that on page 48. That goes directly into the Road Reserve.

Judy Moreau: This year? Do you know what this year is going to be?

Larry Duchette: No. And we won't know; it changes a little bit from year to year.

Motion carries.

ART 14. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$60,000 from anticipated revenue sources for the purpose of reducing the 2014 tax commitment.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: What's the anticipated revenue?

Larry Duchette: It runs about \$100,000 to \$120,000 a year.

Judy Moreau: From what account?

Larry Duchette: From other income—excise taxes from registrations and such. You can find that right in the report.

Motion carries.

ART. 15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for a Legal Fee Reserve Account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 16 To see if Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,856.87 in addition to the balance of \$15,143.13 carried forward for a total budget of \$28,000 for the General Administration operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$70,474.26 in addition to the balance of \$2,025.74 carried forward for a total budget of \$72,500 for Town Officers, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,156.65 in addition to the balance of \$3,243.35 carried forward for a total budget of \$6,400 for the following:

Personal Property Assessing	\$2,400
Real Estate Assessing	\$3,500
Registry of Deeds fees	\$500

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: For the assessing, you're not going to assess again this year, are you? This is to build the pot up again?

Larry Duchette: No. That is a standard yearly cost that we pay to Mr. Tarr for handling our books and keeping track of all the records.

Motion carries.

ART. 19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 to set up a new Revaluation Reserve Account on the Town books in anticipation of the next 10 year total town property revaluation.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$26,187.22 in addition to the balance of \$2,812.78 carried forward for a total budget of \$29,000 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees and any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$405.00 in addition to the balance of \$595.00 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,000 carried forward for the Planning & Appeals Boards.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,116.66 in addition to the balance of \$2,883.34 carried forward for a total budget of \$12,000 for Code Enforcement activities, and to allow plumbing & building permit fees, fines received in the calendar year, and any other reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 23 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,000 for abatements and \$15,000 for discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of tax bills.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,588.82 in addition to the balance of \$28.18 carried forward for a total budget of \$3,617 for Annual Membership dues for:

Maine Municipal Association	\$1,399
Northern Maine Development Corporation	\$1,423
Maine Welfare Directors Assn.	\$30
Aroostook Municipal Assn.	\$30
ME Muni. Tax Col. & Treasurer's Assn.	\$50
ME Town & City Clerk's Assn.	\$50
Maine Tourism	\$145
World Acadian Congress	\$390
Maine Acadian Heritage Council	\$100

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau:

The World Acadian Congress and the Maine Acadian Heritage Council? Is that pretty nearly the same or is it different?

Larry Duchette: It's different. They are two different organizations all pertaining to the same events. This will be the last time you will see this after this year because the event will be held in August and that will be the end of these donations to these two organizations.

Judy Moreau: OK. Next question, my favorite pick. Northern Maine Development Corporation. I assume they are going to help us with our Comp plan?

Larry Duchette: They are, and actually after doing some research and this being my second year here, we save more than that by being a member and buying our road salt through them. It is worth our investment.

Hollie Umphrey: That was my question. I just wanted to know what we receive as services from them because we pay \$1,423 to be a member to NMDC, and what do we receive? Because when they go to work for us, we still have to pay for things like grant writing and anything else.

Larry Duchette: We get some things from them. We do get the salt, by being a member all of the communities buy as a whole. We paid \$61 a ton last year, which is a huge savings.

Judy Moreau: How much was the savings?

Larry Duchette: I don't have that exact number here with me. I can get it for you.

Hollie Umphrey: It is a big savings by buying in bulk.

Judy Moreau: Oh, I thought you just said...

Larry Duchette: We only paid \$61 a ton this past year, right now it is selling for around \$130 a ton.

Motion carries.

ART. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$168.34 in addition to the balance of \$3,831.66 carried forward for a total budget of \$4,000 for the General Assistance Program and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YES

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

ART. 26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$53,441.34 in addition to the balance of \$4,558.66 carried forward for a total budget of \$58,000 for the following accounts, and to allow any reimbursements or dividends to be used for the same:

Property/Casualty/Liability	\$11,200
Unemployment Insurance	\$4,500
Workers Compensation	\$4,925
FICA/MED (Employer)	\$10,000
Employee Health Ins.	\$25,200
Income Protection Plan	\$1,080

**SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMENDS YES**

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

ART. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,980.87 in addition to the balance of \$4,564.95 carried forward and the balance of \$954.18 from the Rural Community Fire Protection Grant account for a total budget of \$28,500 for the Portage Lake Fire Department operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Yes, to the fellow sitting next to you who belongs to the Fire Department, have you have any bites on the flyer that you have posted?

Dave Pierce: Not that I know of yet.

Judy Moreau: There have been no young people to take hold to join our Fire Department?

Dave Pierce: Nothing I know of, unless someone has contacted Larry.

Judy Moreau: How many fire fighters do we have currently on the roster?

Dave Pierce: We have 9 I think.

Judy Moreau: Nine?

Dave Pierce: There are only about 4 or 5 of us who show up most of the time.

Judy Moreau: How many of the firemen on the roster are in Town permanently, well, all day say? Until you get home from work at night.

Dave Pierce: Two. We need help. We had something recently that happened that they had to wait to do it until myself and Dave got home from work so we could help Brian with something. So we are in pretty dire need.

Judy Moreau: Do you take women?

Dave Pierce: Absolutely. Maggie just joined, to do traffic control and things like that.

Judy Moreau: I see some young ladies over there [indicates toward a section of the residents present] who look strong and healthy. [laughter from crowd] It's a shame that our young men and women will not join our fire department, because if anyone has ever gone through a house fire they will know exactly what is needed. And I think, it's my opinion, I haven't researched it, that because we are in such a demand for fire protection that our homeowners insurance could go up because of it. So think about it ladies and gentlemen. Thank you.

Hollie Umphrey: I just had a question, and maybe Corrine could answer this, I just wanted to clarify where we have a Community Fire Protection Grant, that everything for bookkeeping purposes and adding to [the budget], that it is OK.

Corrine Routhier: Yes. We got approval from the entity that gave us the grant in 2004 to put in the dry hydrant, so it has been sitting there since then.

Motion carries.

ART. 28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$430.64 in addition to the balance carried forward of \$419.36 for a total budget of \$850 for the Animal Control operating account, and to allow any dog license fees to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 29 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Vital & Municipal record preservation, and to allow all the fees collected from vital record transactions to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How many books have been done, Kathy?

Kathy Gagnon: I haven't done any since I did the last one, but I think there are 3 or 4.

Judy Moreau: What's the oldest book that you have preserved so far?

Kathy Gagnon: The very first one, back from 1875, I think.

Judy Moreau: Are you doing them like 1875, 1876, etc.? Or are you skipping here and there?

Kathy Gagnon: We are skipping here and there. Like the books that we can't close, we are doing those first to give them a good cover.

Judy Moreau: How many more have you got left?

Kathy Gagnon: Nine. It is very expensive to do them; that's why I haven't done another one. And that's why I want to do our people who are retiring now and requesting birth certificates, because we will be using that book a lot.

Judy Moreau: And what year is that?

Kathy Gagnon: 1936 to 1950's, probably.

Judy Moreau: What about the Selectboard minutes and old town meetings?

Kathy Gagnon: A couple of those have been done. They will be done.

Motion carries.

ART. 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the following reserve accounts:

Portage Lake Fire Department Reserve Account \$10,000
Public Works Equipment Reserve Account \$10,000

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$78,715.76 in addition to the balance of \$2,784.24 carried forward for a total budget of \$81,500 for the Public Works operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 32 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from anticipated motor vehicle excise revenue for the Road Reserve account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,608 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: This is the dump right, Eagle Lake dump?

Larry Duchette: Eagle Lake, yes. He held the same value as last year, no increase.

Judy Moreau: How is the recycling going out here?

Larry Duchette: We are still working on getting things set up; it's a work in progress. There is a compost pile we have developed this year; we will be putting all leaves in one pile, Vaughn will go up once a week to turn them. There will be compost for people in time.

Motion carries.

ART. 34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,275.11 in addition to the balance of \$2,224.89 carried forward for a total budget \$4,500 for the operation of the Transfer Station, and to allow any revenue from tire & shingle disposal fees and the sale of scrap metal to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Hollie Umphrey: Are we still going to have two days a week operation?

Larry Duchette: Yes. Well based on... well early in the season, yes, and as the season progresses we may drop back to one.

Judy Moreau: Wednesdays and Saturdays?

Larry Duchette: Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Motion carries.

ART. 35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$446.53 in addition to the balance of \$3,553.47 carried forward for a total budget of \$4,000 for contracted services for Road Side Mowing, Grader Work, and miscellaneous expenses related to this account

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

[At this point, Selectperson Barbara Pitcairn interrupts the meeting and hands a letter of resignation to Town Manager Larry Duchette, and hands copies of the resignation letter to the remaining Board members and to members of the public in attendance. She gives her apologies to the public and leaves the meeting]

ART. 36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,107.02 in addition to the balance of \$192.98 carried forward for a total budget of \$7,300 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery, and to allow lot sale revenue to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: I don't know who you ask, but how much is a lot now?

Kathy Gagnon: \$200. You are also charged...

Judy Moreau: Opening and closing fees?

Kathy Gagnon: You are charged that through the funeral home; that will be on the bill from the funeral home. Cremation is only \$75.

David Pierce: So the only charge for a plot is \$200, the rest is covered by the funeral homes.

Judy Moreau: What if you already own a plot?

Kathy Gagnon: You pay us \$200 for the plot, but in your bill from the undertaker, in the itemized list he charges you \$175, then that money comes to us.

Judy Moreau: Right, but if you own your plot already, what is the charge? OK, say a fellow has already been cremated, and he owns his own plot. Now, who do you see about opening and closing?

Kathy Gagnon: The funeral home usually notifies us.

Judy Moreau: Yes, but I don't need a funeral home.

Kathy Gagnon: Then you notify us if you want to bury the remains.

Corrine Routhier: But there is no charge if they own their own plot? Right?

Kathy Gagnon: But there is an opening and closing fee...

Corrine Routhier: Come in to the office on Monday, Judy.

Anita Theriault: Isn't there a booklet or pamphlet from the Cemetery Committee that someone could pick up that should explain that?

Kathy Gagnon: Most people don't ask about opening and closing, because it is handled through the funeral home.

Judy Moreau: If the cremation is already done, and you have the urn and someday you want to bury the urn...

Anita Theriault: There was a question about that: someone who had a family plot and no one lives here anymore and they wanted to bury the ashes, there was a question that I know Mary Ann [Gagnon] had dealt with...Maybe Hollie can have fill us in?

Hollie Umphrey: Just to clarify on that, what we have found from years before was that because cremation is becoming more the trend today, and we had people going up there and just spreading ashes, that we recommended through the Cemetery Committee that Mary Ann is in charge of that they would notify the town. We do have an area that Vaughn would dig up and open an area up to put the urn in. Because we have had cased where people have spread ashes, and others have gone to the cemetery and you don't know.

Judy Moreau: Well, you can't do that anyway, it's against the law.

Hollie Umphrey: Yes, but it has been done. So, if they've already purchased the plot and they have come back and the family just wants to bury the urn, Vaughn would go up and open up a plot and that's where it is a different fee.

Judy Moreau: What's the charge for that?

Hollie Umphrey: I don't know that.

Larry Duchette: They will have to look at the brochure we have that is available.

Motion carries.

ART. 37 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$519.48 in addition to the balance of \$1,980.52 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,500 for Portage Lake Beautification
SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 38 To see if Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,082.45 in addition to the balance of \$5,917.55 carried forward for a total budget of \$12,000 for upkeep and maintenance of the Campground, Public Beach, Boat Landing, Seaplane Base, Pavilion and Parks, and allow revenues from camping permits, donations and other reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 39 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Scholarships for Portage Lake students graduating in June of 2014, and to carry over the balance of \$1,500 for Portage Lake students who graduated in June of 2013 for a total budget of \$3,000.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Gerry Cormier: I have a question. I'm confused why you would carry over another \$1,500 when you haven't spent the original \$1,500.

Larry Duchette: Because they have to wait until the first semester is over and they submit for payment, so we carry it over and wait for it to come over our desk. And we have found that's what needs to be done. We aren't building a fund; we are just getting ready for the following year of 2015. We don't get our requests in time.

Gerry Cormier: Isn't the first semester already over?

Larry Duchette: We still don't have our requests yet.

Gerry Cormier: But didn't they have to request before?

Corrine Routhier: We don't get the requests until February from the first semester.

Gerry Cormier: But this is the end of March.

Corrine Routhier: Yes. The ones that we were supposed to pay for the kids who graduated last year in June of 2013 didn't get paid until February of this year.

Gerry Cormier: How many applicants do we have?

Larry Duchette: 2

Gerry Cormier: Two?

Larry Duchette: And they split the amount. If there were four, they would split the amount.

Gerry Cormier: Of \$3,000?

Larry Duchette: Of \$1,500.

Gerry Cormier: I don't quite understand, but okay.

Motion carries.

ART. 40 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,255.40 in addition to the balance of \$2,244.60 carried forward for a total budget of \$8,500 for street lights.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 41 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,245 for Ashland User Fees:

Ambulance Service	\$13,005.25
Library	\$1,528.44
Recreation	\$1,710.78

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND **YES**

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

ART. 42 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$500 from anticipated boat excise revenue for the Town's share of matching funds for the Portage Lake Association's application for a cost share grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND **YES**

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

ART. 43 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the Portage Lake Tourism Committee.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND **YES**

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: My favorite pet peeve. Can we please get a sign in the Patten Woods that says "Portage Lake Ahead" with some of that? Surely there is enough to go around.

Larry Duchette: That would have to be a DOT decision, no ours. We can request it. Anything on that State highway would have to come from DOT.

Judy Moreau: Not even a sign like Crooked Tree?

Larry Duchette: Not even a sign like Crooked Tree.

Judy Moreau: DOT puts the sign like Crooked Tree there. Gosh, we need something. Portage comes before Eagle Lake.

Dave Pierce: Call DOT Judy.

Judy Moreau: OK, I'll get right on that tomorrow. Oh, I can't tomorrow; it's Saturday.

Motion carries.

ART. 44 To see if the Town will vote to expend all money reimbursed by the State 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**
NO BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMENDATION

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How is the Snowmobile Club doing with their new groomer? Is that working good?

Jen Curran: Very well. It is a great machine, more economical for fuel. It is brand new, so there were no breakdowns this year. Everybody is happy with the trails.

Judy Moreau: Does the Snowmobile Club do any advertising of any sort below Aroostook County?

Jen Curran: We are part of the Maine Snowmobile Association. They have a big show every year, but they also go out to different shows throughout New England. It is more the Aroostook County Tourism Committee that helps promote all of the towns, so they help promote Portage. Anyone that joins our Snowmobile Club and MSA gets a monthly newsletter, which has articles about what is going on here and advertisements for local businesses.

Judy Moreau: Ok. Let me ask you this, Jen. If somebody comes, like from Vermont, Massachusetts, or New Hampshire with a snowmobile, but that snowmobile isn't registered within the state, is it reciprocal with....

Jen Curran: They have to register in Maine.

Missy Boutot: But they don't have to join a Snowmobile Club.

Judy Moreau: But they do have to register their sled in Maine.

Jen Curran: We have been nominated for Club of the Year from the Maine Snowmobile Association, and we will be going to the annual meeting on April 12. Fingers crossed that we get it. I think everybody has worked really hard and deserves this. Hopefully we will come home with a nice reward.

Motion carries.

ART. 45 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 & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 46 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club as matching funds for the Town's share of a cost-share grant for the purpose of aiding to maintain local snowmobile trails for public use.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES
NO BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

ART. 47 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers ATV Club to help with costs of maintaining the ATV trail system in Portage Lake.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES
NO BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

ART. 48 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 as a donation to the Town of Ashland to be part of the 6-community new construction of the Recreation/Community Center where the old Ashland Elementary School now stands.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Dave Pierce: I just want to give a little background. I have been representing Portage Lake on the 6-town committee for 3 years for the new recreation center in Ashland. On the second try we received a grant for \$300,000 to tear down part of the old school and add a rec center to the gymnasium. Ashland put in almost \$50,000 and I believe they just approved \$40,000 for a new roof. Rotary gave \$4,000, the last funds that they had; Softball Trust \$10,000; Beaulier Heirs, \$12,000; Jack Gibson, \$10,000; Garfield, \$10,000; and Masardis, \$5,000. Some of our elderly and children use the rec center, so we are asking for \$5,000 to support the community project. Donor plaques will be hung up for those who contribute.

Marcelle Gagnon: This is just a one-time thing?

Dave: Yes. It is just to help support the community project They are hoping to complete it by July, but may be August or September.

Motion carries.

ART. 49 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,153.20 for the following requested financial assistance:

American Red Cross	\$150
Aroostook Agency on Aging	\$295
Aroostook County Action Program	\$78.20

Central Aroostook Humane Society	\$743
Catholic Charities of Maine	\$100
Central Aroostook Soil and Water	\$500
Homeless Services of Aroostook	\$587
Martha & Mary's Soup Kitchen	\$100
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.	\$100
Northern Maine Veteran's Cemetery	\$100
VFW Post #9699	\$100
Lifeflight Foundation	\$100
Maine Families Aroostook	\$200

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Hollie Umphrey: I have a question regarding Central Aroostook Soil & Water, that is the conservation district, \$500. We don't have any agriculture land, which is where that money goes to out of Presque Isle. And now that we are part of the Acadian Congress, technically we are part of the St. John Valley Water & Conservation District. I don't know why we are paying Presque Isle with no services. I know we don't claim any ag land, and that is what they do is deal with agricultural soil and water. So there is \$500 that we are offering to send to Presque Isle. I move for an amendment to move that \$500 into another account.

Ray Cyr: **I move to delete the Central Aroostook Soil & Water amount of \$500.**

Motion made to accept Article 49 as printed with the exception of Central Aroostook Soil & Water, seconded.

Discussion: None. **Motion carries.**

ART. 50 To see if the Town will vote to spend \$9,500 out of current TIF Reserve account funds for the purchase of a sweeper attachment for the Town's backhoe.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Hollie Umphrey: Would the sweeper then mean we wouldn't be contracting out for road sweeping?

Larry: That is correct. Last year Lane did the work for us, and everyone, including myself, was very unhappy with it. Chip and I had talked about holding the line on the price from the previous year. He sent us a bill for \$6,200 which I refused to pay. We rode around and agreed on \$3,500. I checked with him again this year. He is charging \$130 an hour for his sweeper, with an estimated bill of \$5,200. By purchasing the sweeper we will have less than a two year payback. And Vaughn can do this on rainy days when he can't get out and do ditching, he's not plowing snow. We can do it at our own leisure; we don't have to wait for a contractor to tell us when *they* are going to be here. I believe it is a good investment.

Judy Moreau: There is no payback on this. It is taken out of the TIF account.

Larry Duchette: Ok. I agree with you. But a few years down the road, we won't be paying that money out to anyone else through contracted services.

Judy Moreau: Oh, OK. I see what you are saying now.

Motion carries.

ART. 51 To see what amount, if any, if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to help with expenses incurred during the World Acadian Congress in August of 2014.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: We need a figure.

Larry Duchette: Yup. It is up to the community to decide what they want to put into it.

Judy Moreau: I make a motion that we start off with a figure of \$390, like we have been giving.

Larry Duchette: We are expecting quite an influx of people, so trash issue is something we are going to have to put labor and man-hours to, and equipment, extra outhouses during those few weeks. I feel we are looking at probably around \$2,500 worth of expenses before those few weeks of celebrations are done. We aren't going to run to Eagle Lake every other day when these trash barrels get filled. We are going to rent a dumpster to have out back of the building because that trash is going to have to be managed and we don't have a facility to take regular household trash on a daily basis to Eagle Lake.

Judy Moreau: Isn't that up to the responsibility of the person that is having the to-do to take care of their own garbage?

Larry Duchette: They are going to put it into the barrels, just like they do at the beach when it overflows on the holidays. I expect this to be 10 times as bad as what we have to deal with on the beach during the holidays.

Ray Cyr: I recommend that we increase that amount up to \$5,000.

Larry Duchette: Remember, whatever we don't spend will roll back into the general fund, and if you know me by now, I won't spend anything I don't have to.

Hollie Umphrey: There was discussion in the last year about camping, because there could be a lot of people coming into the area with campers. Is there any plan for the campground as far as more dumping stations or parking facilities? We will be having quite a bit during that one week.

Larry: That is only set up for so many campers, and they will have to control it. Remember Fern and Richard do a good job, and they have volunteered to come back again this year. That is an asset. We have to figure out what to do with the campground when they don't. We cannot leave it unattended.

Motion to appropriate \$5000 made and seconded.

Discussion:

Wilza Robertson: The Tourism Cmte. has been discussing getting together with all groups in town and do things on a volunteer basis, that would cut down a lot on expenses. That would be more money coming back into the Town.

Larry Duchette: We are looking for volunteers.

Wilza Robertson: We will put the word out, and see if we can get a meeting to get together to see what needs to be done and if we can get some volunteers.

Larry Duchette: We talked about painting the barrels the three colors and doing what we can to decorate the Town for the events. We have to put up all of the banners on the poles, but we have to buy the brackets to put them up. There is a lot of labor involved with getting ready to this event. The Pavilion needs to be spruced up, the poles are weeping creosote. There has to be time spent getting ready for this event.

Ray Cyr: The paint on the Pavilion poles is pretty expensive.

Motion in favor of appropriating \$5000 carries.

ART. 52 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,850 to re-surface the front of the municipal building with vinyl siding to be more energy efficient.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Gary Hafford: Do you have an estimate on that?

Larry Duchette: I have two estimates. One came in at around \$9,500 and the other came in at \$17,000.

Gary Hafford: How close do you think those estimates are?

Larry Duchette: That number right there is what the gentleman agreed to do it for, that includes insulation and trimming out all of the windows. I will probably award it to him.

Judy Moreau: That is just the front?

Larry Duchette: That is siding from the corner of the Public Works garage going to the corner of the Town Office this first year.

Judy Moreau: Have the doors been fixed? The big ones?

Larry Duchette: Yes, all the seals have been re-done. We have put quite a bit of money the last few years into the overhead doors. As you all know, we face that Lake. And as Corrine can tell you, she watches the curtains blow beside her. As of the end of February it costs us \$72 a day to heat this building. Anything we can do to cut that cost will be in our pocket for next year.

Missy Boutot: Have you guys done an energy audit with Efficiency Maine?

Larry Duchette: Yup, they did one 3 years ago, and we are following some of that, but that was more lighting than heating. The heating system was updated not that many years ago. This past winter we lost one boiler, fortunately it was under warranty. There are a couple more Warrants in here that pertain to energy. We need to start saving money on this building; this is a White Elephant and we just keep throwing money at it year after year.

Motion carries.

ART. 53 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,200 for a new heating/air conditioning pump system for the Town Office.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Larry, will the Town be able to get the energy...

Larry Duchette: We will get a credit on it, and I actually have a quote for \$2,945, electrical and everything, to install. That is going to go into the main office, and it will heat that space. Electrical cost will go up a little bit, but not as much as it is costing to heat that room right now. It will be a significant savings over time.

Judy Moreau: It isn't going to heat your office?

Larry Duchette: Nope. I don't like heat, as you have noticed.

Motion carries.

ART. 54 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to lower the ceilings in the conference room, CEO office, Town Manager office and Town Office to help these rooms be more energy efficient.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Wilza Robertson: What about this ceiling (indicates the Big Room)? Is there anything in the future planned for this room?

Larry Duchette: That's next year's project. We will ask next year to lower this ceiling as well and put more energy efficient lights in here. And put more energy efficient lights in here. These things are terrible. I figured we could start with the areas where we function first. This room is underutilized, and it would be nice to find some way to rent it more often or develop other activities in here so we could benefit from it. It has been mentioned in the past and we are trying to figure out how to increase that. If we do lower it, we will bring it down to right where it makes the turn at a 45 [degree angle]. I've been here over five years and I've yet to see a basketball game or much else that warrants the ceiling being as high as it is now. And I've been in this attic. The insulation is as old as this building and very inadequate.

Motion carries.

ART. 55 To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to restore the old Seaplane Base.

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Larry Duchette: Just a little bit of information, with the new windmills going in in Oakfield, I got a call from the County that said money will be available from monies generated from that that, and Judy [Moreau] has been doing a lot of work on it for us. We got a nice call that within in the next year or so,

we will see some funds dedicated to that. But as stated it would be nice to see Portage making an effort to put a little money into it for seed to influence them to give some of that money up.

Judy Moreau: To quote Paul Bernier from the County Commissioners Office, "Portage has got to lift a leg". We need a...

Larry Duchette: I don't have a figure, this is up to the community what they would like to do with that building.

Judy Moreau: It is going to be at least a 90% grant, so I figure at least \$5000 to get it started, and if there is any money left over it can be used to keep up the good works.

Larry Duchette: I've been trying to get a quote out of three different contractors on that building for 4 months, and I'm still waiting.

Judy Moreau: I've tried too, but you can't get there from here.

Larry Duchette: Whatever number is going to be seed money, and probably not going to get a lot done for \$5,000 but it is a start. We need to get the place water tight and protected from the elements before we worry about anything else. Every year it deteriorates that much more. Two years ago they put a significant amount of money into it to sure it up, put the deck on the front, but still no one should be standing on the deck without a railing. We are asking for trouble.

Motion made and seconded to appropriate \$5,000 for the Seaplane Base.

Hollie Umphrey: I would like to add that with that, if we appropriate \$5,000 that it goes toward continuing to restore that building, the railing on the front and the new roof. The landmark is when you come down around the front and you see "Portage" on the roof; that's what people give directions to. It would be a significant sign that we are investing into that building.

Judy Moreau: and on the other side it is supposed to be the coordinates.

Larry Duchette: One contractor wants to do it, but he's having a tough time figuring out how he's going to do it. I'd like to figure out how they put that on, if it's just paint...

Hollie Umphrey: It's just paint. Ask Brian [Cote]. It was a marine paint that they used on the shingles.

Laurel Theriault: Has that land been surveyed? Would that be a good idea to survey that land?

Judy Moreau: I have the survey of the land.

Larry Duchette: Any chance we can borrow it?

Judy Moreau: Yes, you can have it.

Hollie: has anything changed since the Soucy's and Gagnon's have property on either side?

Judy Moreau: The Gagnon side, that used to be owned by Milt Hall and I don't think there was ever any pins there. On the other side was Thanny Coffin where Soucy lives, but I don't think there are any pins there either. But I do have a survey and it is done by DOT.

Anita Theriault: How long ago?

Judy Moreau: Done in 1982. Even though there were no pins there, it depicts each lot on both sides.

Missy Boutot: There must be reference points or something.

Judy Moreau: It's on that survey, but I can't.... I do believe I have a deed to that Seaplane Base, and that is all up here in the...

Larry Duchette: I have a stack of things on the Seaplane Base about that tall that I've been reading.

Judy Moreau: And I'll tell you what else is here, Larry, which will be beneficial for when we want to put it back together, is the original lay-out of the building. It's here in a tube...

Motion carries.

- ART. 56 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to transfer from the general checking the total amount received in 2013 for liens against 2010, 2011 and 2012 property taxes and for 2009, 2010, 2010SY, 2011 and 2012 personal property taxes (equaling a total of \$56,728.77) into the Silviculture bank account, and to allow all 2011 liens collected in 2014 to be used for the same until the bank account equals the 2013 designated Silviculture account balance of \$120,310 (see General Ledger report).

Motion made in the positive; seconded.

Discussion:

Wilza Robertson: Can somebody say that in English? I have no idea what that just said.

Larry Duchette: Instead of it being just a General Ledger number, we are putting the money into a physical bank account so that it draws interest. And we are basically correcting those two accounts, Silviculture and Stumpage, to make them physical accounts so it is not as easy for them to be appropriated in a poor manner as it was in the past. Basically what you did with TIF a couple years ago: putting money where it belongs, and putting the correct amount where it belongs.

Wilza Robertson: So I hear you saying it is safer and it will gain interest?

Larry Duchette: Much safer, and it is going to earn money.

Hollie Umphrey: We already have those two accounts in place, correct?

Larry Duchette: Yes, but the reason you are being asked this, according to MMA lawyers, we cannot move these undesignated funds on our own, we have to have the legislative body agree to it. That is why it is in an Article.

Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Corrine Routhier

Corrine Routhier