

**2016 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday March 25, 2016**  
**6:30 PM at Portage Lake Town Hall**

AROOSTOOK, §

STATE OF MAINE

Resident voters of Portage Lake qualified by law to vote in Town affairs were notified and warned in the name of the State of Maine to meet at the Municipal Building on Thursday the twenty-fourth (24<sup>th</sup>) of March, 2016, at three o'clock (3:00) in the afternoon until seven o'clock (7:00) 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

Diane Chouinard was nominated as moderator. **It was moved and seconded to elect Diane Chouinard as moderator. Motion carried.** Shortly thereafter Diane Chouinard appointed Hollie Umphrey as Deputy Moderator to carry out the duties of moderator for the duration of the meeting on March 24, 2016.

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

One (1) Selectperson for a term of three (3) years:  
There were 133 ballots cast.  
Daniel Higgins got 109 votes.  
Gerald Cormier got 24 votes.

One (1) Portage Lake Schoolboard member for a term of three (3) years  
There were 129 ballots cast, 9 of those were blanks:  
David Farnum: 115 votes  
Gerald Cormier: 2 votes  
Melissa Boutot: 1 vote  
Daniel Higgins: 1 vote  
Pat Kelley: 1 vote

Said voters assembled at the Portage Lake Municipal Building on Friday, the twenty-fifth (25<sup>th</sup>) of March, 2016, at six-thirty (6:30) in the evening, then and there, to act on the following Articles to wit:

There were 34 resident voters, 1 resident non-voter, and 1 non-resident present on the March 25, 2016.

Deputy Moderator Hollie Umphrey was unable to fulfil her duties as moderator on March 25, 2016. Lou Sandy Boutot was nominated as a new deputy moderator, so Article 1 is revisited. **Two written ballots were cast to elect Lou Sandy Boutot as deputy moderator. Lou Sandy Boutot is elected moderator for the duration of the March 25, 2016 meeting.**

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 and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

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's annual budget during the period from January 1, 2017 to the annual March Town Meeting.

**SELECTBOARD (SB) RECOMMENDS YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 5 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to accept any gifts, donations, grants and State funding or reimbursements on behalf of the Town.

**SB RECOMMENDS YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: We need all of everything we can get our hands on.

**Motion carries.**

- ART. 6 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to file applications for the 2016-2017 State of Maine Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program; and if said applications are approved, to authorize the municipal officers to exercise such authority as needed to implement such programs.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Do you have any idea of what types of Block grants are out this year?

Larry Duchette: We have one that we are applying for now on behalf of J. Rocheleau at the Cedar Store. We are in the preliminary stages at this point. We have another grant coming to remove the septic from the Seaplane Base that has already been approved.

Judy Moreau: That is under the CDBG?

Larry Duchette: One of them is. The other is under the Clean Water Act.

Judy Moreau: Nothing else for CDBG?

**Motion carries.**

- 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 unpaid taxes 60 days after the date of tax commitment.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion: none. **Motion 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.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: When you pay your taxes, like say I was going to pay my taxes today for when they come out later, do I still get a discount?

Daniel Higgins: Yes.

**Motion carries.**

- 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.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

- ART. 10 To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to sell or dispose of any property acquired by tax lien foreclosure 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.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

- 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.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: The personal property that is over \$500, will that be put out to bid or are we just going to sell it?

Larry Duchette: Yes. Put out to bid.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 12 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate \$25,000 from surplus, as they deem advisable, to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

David Farnum: I would like to know last year if they appropriated money from surplus for any emergencies?

Larry Duchette: They did not.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 13 To see if the Town will vote to deposit into the Public Works Road Reserve account all monies received for the 2016-2017 year from the Maine Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program.

**SB & BUDGET COMMITTEE (BC) RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How much?

Marcelle Gagnon: How much is that? How much money are they depositing into that account?

Larry Duchette: It depends from year to year what funds are available. These are funds that come from the State. It's in your general ledger if you want to look in your book what we got last year.

Judy Moreau: Just a minute. Local Road Assistance Program, that's not state aid any more is it?

Larry Duchette: It's similar to state aid, but it is given to all towns and it varies from year to year on road funding from the state.

Judy Moreau: This is something new.

Larry Duchette: No.

Corrine Routhier: It used to be called U.R.I.P.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 14 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$65,000 from anticipated revenue sources for the purpose of reducing the 2016 tax commitment.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Revaluation Reserve Account on the Town books in anticipation of the next 10 year total town property revaluation.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How close are we to the ten years?

Larry Duchette: We just had it done two or three years ago.

Corrine Routhier: 2013.

Larry Duchette: We have a ways to go.

Marcelle Gagnon: Is this going to be appropriated every year for the next 10 years?

Larry Duchette: Correct. That way you won't have that large bill like we had a few years ago.

Rob Reece: How are we going to select who does the revaluation?

Larry Duchette: We will put it out to bid.

David Farnum: You don't plan on revaluating automatically when the 10 years it up?

Larry Duchette: Correct.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 16 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$70,000 from anticipated motor vehicle excise revenue for the Road Reserve account.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 17 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

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Vital & Municipal record preservation and to allow all fees collected from vital record transactions to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How many books are there left to do? Do you know?

Corrine Routhier: There are probably six.

Judy Moreau: And you one a year?

Corrine Routhier: We try to.

Judy Moreau: That's good. You put them in the safe afterward?

Corrine Routhier: Of course, Judy!

**Motion carries.**

ART. 19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$24,386 in addition to the balance of \$3,614 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.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$77,000 for Town Selectpersons, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,045 in addition to the balance of \$2,955 carried forward for a total budget of \$7,000 real & personal property assessing, property map revisions and registry fees.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Does this have to be done every year?

Larry Duchette: Yes. It is done every year. Randy Tarr updates the property cards on a regular basis every year, changes in property. As well as the personal property is done by Mike MacPherson. And that reflects in your taxes.

Judy Moreau: Are we going to make enough to cover this?

Larry Duchette: Yes.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,273 in addition to the balance of \$11,727 carried forward for a total budget of \$25,000 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees and any reimbursements to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: What is going to get fixed this year?

Larry Duchette: This is more for municipal building operating expenses, not so much for repairs. We actually saved quite a bit of money on oil due to price decrease as well as the improvements we made.

Judy Moreau: That thing up there, the heat pump, is that really working?

Larry Duchette: It works excellent. You can ask the two girls who work up there.

Corrine Routhier: He doesn't let us use it. (joking)

Judy Moreau: Well that's why it's so cheap to use—you don't let them use it!

David Pierce: That's why they saved \$11,000.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 23 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balance of \$10,640 and expend \$15,400 from Surplus for Town Hall Improvements for the completion of the energy-efficient lighting upgrade for the building, to re-surface the final side of the municipal building with vinyl siding and re-surface ½ of the Municipal Building roof.

**SB RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: This is going to do it this time, right?

Larry Duchette: The lighting has not been done due to the state shutting off the energy efficiency program for businesses. We need full upgrade and fixtures replaced.

I call them weekly to find out when they are going to reinstate it. They assure me they will, but they won't give me a date at this time. When we appropriated the money last year, it was directly after that they shut the program off.

Judy Moreau: And now here is Emera Maine who wants \$2.40 more a month on your light bill. That's only if you burn 500 kilowatts.

David Pierce: There will be more next year because it is calling for only half of the roof, so we may to the other half next year.

Larry Duchette: Actually the main roof here is in very good shape, it's the old building over here on the end.

David Pierce: I thought you were talking about doing the whole thing?

Larry Duchette: I had Adam [Soucy] do an inspection of it and it is in good shape; it's over the main building we are having some issues.

David Pierce: Good.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$400 in addition to the balance of \$600 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,000 for the Planning & Appeals Boards.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative. Discussion: none. Motion carries.**

ART. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,142 in addition to the balance of \$8,358 carried forward for a total budget of \$12,500 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.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Didn't you pay Maggie last year? Is this for Maggie's....

Larry Duchette: It is. Our income did well last year on permits, we brought in over \$5,000, so that's why you see such a large carry over.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,210 in addition to the balance of \$1,790 carried forward for a total budget of \$14,000 for discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of tax bills, and carry forward the balance of \$4,000 for abatements.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,300 for approximate annual membership dues for Maine Municipal Assn., NMDC, Maine Tourism Assn., Maine Acadian Heritage Council, Maine Town & City Clerks Assn., Maine Municipal Tax Collectors & Treasurer's Assn., Maine Welfare Directors Assn., and the Aroostook Municipal Assn.

**SB & BC RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: The Maine Acadian Heritage Council, why is it that we still have to belong to that if that's all done and over with now?

Larry Duchette: This isn't the CMA. This is the Acadian Heritage Council that Jim Dumond represents us in. We continue to be a member so that we may stay involved in any of their upcoming events.

Judy Moreau: What do they do?

Larry Duchette: There are many events going on that many of us don't participate in. But it is still a worthwhile organization, in my eyes, because it keeps us exposed to the Canadian side of our friends.

Judy Moreau: How much is the...?

Larry Duchette: \$100.

Judy Moreau: Are all of these the same?

Larry Duchette: No. They are different fees.

Judy Moreau: Right, that would be. It would be nice to know what they do and when they do it.

Corrine Routhier: There is a letter from them in the Town Report.

Judy Moreau: Yeah, I read that. But when they have something coming up, whether it's across the border or wherever, we never get to know what's happening.

Larry Duchette: I believe they advertise it, it's just may not be in touch with...

Judy Moreau: It should be advertised right here.

Larry Duchette: I can ask Jim [Dumond] to see if he can help get flyers available when they have events coming up.

Judy Moreau: Yeah, that would bring people to town. You know? Or we could go to their town and promote our town, and then they could come to ours when we have something.

Anita Theriault: I believe the chamber of commerce in Fort Kent does print up something that is available for the general public.

Judy Moreau: But we should have something posted here.

Taunja Jandreau: We can look into that for you.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 28 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balance of \$3,766 for the General Assistance Program and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Is there still a cut-off line for the income?

Larry Duchette: Oh yes.

Judy Moreau: Do you know what that is per person?

Larry Duchette: No, but I can get you the information, but changes from year to year. The State keeps lowering it. It is very difficult for a lot of people to get assistance. And that decision is made by the director depending on need.

Judy Moreau: But if you don't qualify...

Larry Duchette: I still have the ability to give money to people if I feel there is a need for it.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 29 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$46,229 in addition to the balance of \$7,771 carried forward for a total budget of \$54,000 for the Insurance & Social Security accounts, and to allow any reimbursements or dividends to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

Side Note: Judy Moreau: Lou Sandy, may interrupt for just a moment? On Channel 2 tonight, there was a story about the State of Maine, which has the most elderly population than any other state in the union. For your information, all the town and city managers are going to have a symposium and see what they are going to do to help us senior citizens. I just thought you'd like to know that. So get prepared. I think Portage has a few senior citizens.

ART. 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,990 in addition to the balance carried forward of \$8,010 for a total budget of \$28,000 for the Portage Lake Fire Department operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: I hear that the tanker truck, you are going to sell it?

Brian Cote: Yes.

Judy Moreau: Why?

Brian Cote: It's a hole in the water where we dump money (jokingly). It's unsafe.

Judy Moreau: Really? Is the Fire Dept. thinking about buying another?

David Pierce: No. The baffles were removed from it, and it's not safe to drive it around corners. And we never use it. So we are dumping money into it and it doesn't benefit us.

Judy Moreau: Now the little red pumper Jeep...

David Pierce: We are going to put that in its place, store it where the tanker is now.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$633 in addition to balance of \$492 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,125 for the Animal Control operating account, and to allow any dog license fees to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$83,675 in addition to the balance of \$1,825 carried forward for a total budget of \$85,500 for the Public Works operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Herb McPherson: Did you guys figure the actual savings of plowing the road with the 1-ton truck versus doing it the right way with the big truck and doing it once?

Larry Duchette: We don't necessarily plow the roads completely with the 1-ton. When there are smaller storms we find it easier to keep the center of the road open and pass with the second truck over it.

Herb McPherson: But you do it twice with the little truck when you could do it once with the big truck and you are done.

Larry Duchette: Yup, and it's about 30% less to run that little truck than it is that big truck. Tires, fuel, cutting edges, all associated costs you can run that little truck up and down that highway many times for a lot less than that big truck. Plus the availability of drivers is quite limited, so I have to make do with what I have.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,758 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.  
**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,345 in addition to the balance of \$1,155 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.  
**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: I thought the tire...when you have to pay for the tire I thought that went to the State?

Barry Kenney: It does when you buy a tire. Then you have to pay to get rid of it.

Danny Higgins: It's double taxation.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,323 in addition to the balance of \$677 carried forward for a total budget of \$5,000 for contracted services for road side mowing, grader work, special culvert work and miscellaneous expenses related to this account.  
**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: When you need to have a grader or someone to do some special culvert work, is that put out to bid before?

Larry Duchette: If it's over \$5,000, yes.

Judy Moreau: Well, it only has to go over \$5,000 once and it's all done, so I guess you aren't going to use too many of them.

Larry Duchette: Last year you will notice that it was \$9,000 we had budgeted for that big culvert down by Pat Kelley's, and actually that culvert came in \$1,000 under cost.

Some of those culverts are bigger than we can handle with our backhoe and man power, so I sub some of those out.

Judy Moreau: Did the beaver come back?

Larry Duchette: It did not.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,147 in addition to the balance of \$353 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,500 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery, and to allow lot sale revenue to be used for the same.  
**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:



Judy Moreau: I notice the last couple of years, the town report books the lot sales have been \$9,000 plus. Right? It's not changed.

Corrine Routhier: Oh, that's the Designated. That's not lot sales. You are looking at the Designated account back when they purchased the extra cemetery property. That's not from lot sales; lot sales are revenue and that closes to surplus every year.

Judy Moreau: And what is the amount for a lot now?

Corrine Routhier: A lot is \$200.

Judy Moreau: And does that \$200 cover the opening and closing.

Corrine Routhier: We didn't sell any lots at all last year. I don't know. I'll have to look into that.

Larry Duchette: We really don't have a Cemetery Committee anymore, so if anyone would like to volunteer to be on it, we could use the help.

Judy Moreau: Well I'd like to have the Selectboard look in to a cremation wall and sell the boxes for what you'd pay for a lot.

Corrine Routhier: You are talking about something like the Veteran's Cemetery in Caribou has?

Judy Moreau: Yes, only not as grand. Start out with a half a dozen and then continue on.

Corrine Routhier: We can look into something.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 37 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$238 in addition to the balance of \$1,262 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,500 for Portage Lake Beautification.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 38 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,908 in addition to the balance of \$5,092 carried forward for a total budget of \$15,000 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.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Arthur Routhier: Are there any plans to do anything with the beach down there? That beautification strip they put in six or seven years ago really is not a beautification strip. It's ugly. Is there anything we can do to take care of that?

Larry Duchette: The buffer?

Arthur Routhier: The buffer. I mean, who plants trees in front of a view?

Larry Duchette: I wasn't involved when that was installed, but I tend to agree with you. I think it was also put there to deter the geese as well, but of course it doesn't seem to bother them.

Arthur Routhier: Well, when you put paths up there, they are going to follow them. But it's an eyesore for the Town. I drive by it two or three times a day.

David Pierce: That was a DEP mandated thing.

Arthur Routhier: If it's mandated you can still tend to it. I mean....and put something into it or take some stuff out. Because it's....

David Pierce: I talked to Kathy Hoppe about it; she is the one who oversaw that. Originally the trails were at an angle so that the geese couldn't see through. It supposedly worked for a while but then people straightened the trails out. But anyway, that's what I was told. So we can manipulate that a bit, so if we are interested in doing something...

Arthur Routhier: With some of these funds we ought to consider getting it...A landscape architect or something. You don't plant trees in front of a view.

Anita Theriault: I find that the trees that are planted along-side the road...the deer are eating them.

Larry Duchette: The cedar shrubs? Yes, the deer are destroying them.

Marcelle Gagnon: I have a comment too at the beach, if you have little kids that want to play in the water, if you are sitting at the picnic tables you can't see them. You have to be down past the buffer to watch them.

Larry Duchette: That would take a DEP permit to remove it. We can talk to Kathy Hoppe as to what direction we can go in.

Danny Higgins: It's one thing to plant a tree, but it's another thing to get people to keep them trimmed. At the Veteran's Park I had that big row of cedar trees. And for years there was a gentleman by the name of Walter LeFleur who helped me keep them trimmed, but once he passed away, they more or less...And the railroad complained because they couldn't see and so I had to remove them. That's the reason I planted different species.

Marcelle Gagnon: We are talking about the buffer between the picnic tables and the beach area.

Danny Higgins: If you plant cedar trees, how are you going to see the kids?

Marcelle Gagnon: I'm not talking about planting trees there.

Jan Cyr: I had a suggestion. I have talked to people in the summertime a few years ago about adopting a section of the buffer to take care of; it would be unmanageable for five people, but if a group of people were interested then maybe they could take one of those strips. Maybe the Town can offer that up.

Moderator: That was tried before, I was in one of the groups, and it didn't work.

Judy Moreau: The campground; what have you decided on that. Are you going to keep the electricity there for the campers or are you going to shut them off?

Larry Duchette: No, at the next Selectboard meeting I'm going to ask them to reverse their decision on removing electric. Jeannie Jones has been overseeing it, and she has agreed to issue permits.

We are going to talk to Matt about issuing permits, and you can now issue permits now online. It has become successful for hunters by using their credit cards. They tell us what day they are coming and what day they leave, and we charge their card. I'd like to try it again another year. We have lost our people who take care of it; they are no longer there. We've had no volunteers to step up. We'll give it a try one more year and see what happens.

Judy Moreau: I think it is an asset to the Town.

Larry Duchette: It is. You'll see a new sign down there shortly with the information for people to call and make contact with. We'd like to give it another go.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 39 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$5,000 from Surplus for continued restorations to the Seaplane Base.

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Arthur Routhier: Is that still a registered Seaplane Base? Have we kept that license?

Larry Duchette: It is not. They don't require a license any more from the State. Dave has been working on getting docks from the State, and we should be able to put a few docks out this year. We missed our opportunity last year.

Arthur Routhier: It's a big opportunity lost for the Town to bring people in there.

Larry Duchette: We have to get the building in a condition where we can lease it to somebody or someone actually runs it. Even if we hire someone of our own if we find it has enough business. Right now we need a new chimney, and we'd like to get the bathroom removed, and the septic will be removed this summer as well because it is too close to our well.

Judy Moreau: Rather than removing it completely, couldn't we put in a chemical toilet or something?

Larry Duchette: I don't know. People have to maintain those.

Judy Moreau: If you are going to rent...If there ever comes a day when someone would use it, you are going to have to have some sort of facility there, right?

Larry Duchette: They would have to use a porta-potty. That's what I would recommend to them. I would rather never see a bathroom there that close to the drinking water.

Danny Higgins: There is an old metal tank there.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 40 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 cost share grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

David Pierce: Today I received an email from the invasive plant people and they would like to set up a date with the Portage Lake Association for a program in Town.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 41 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,500 for the following Portage Lake Organizations/Clubs:

Portage Lake Tourism Committee	\$2,500
Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for Town's portion of cost share grant	\$2,500
Portage Lakers ATV Club	\$2,500
Portage Lake Historical Society	\$2,000

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**BC MAKES NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SNOWMOBILE & ATV CLUBS;  
RECOMMENDS YES FOR HISTORICAL SOC. & TOURISM CMTE.**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 42 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,250 and carry forward the balance of \$750 for a total budget of \$5,000 for Scholarships for Portage Lake graduating students.\***Explanation:** Scholarships are \$1,000 each and get paid in February for students who graduate in the *previous* year. In this budget year (2016), there are 3 potential scholarships to be *paid out* for 2015 graduates and 2 graduating students in 2016 who need to be budgeted for. The money for the 2016 graduates should be raised and appropriated in 2016 so the money can roll over and be there to pay their scholarships in February of 2017. This account is also being moved from an expense account that closes to surplus each year to a general ledger account, which retains any remaining balances at year-end.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Arthur Routhier: Larry is there a stipulation on GPA?

Larry Duchette: They have to meet the grade point average to be eligible, and they have to apply. This year there were 3 students who are eligible; one met it, the other two did not. It's an excellent idea that Corrine came up with to keep the money in a general ledger account to prevent the money from going into surplus. So next year you may not need to appropriate as much. In my eyes it's a better way to manage this account.

Marcelle Gagnon: When we started to put money away for the scholarships when I was on the school board, it was only meant for one student per year. Is that still the same?

Larry Duchette: No. We give \$1,000 to each student who applies and is eligible.

Marcelle Gagnon: No matter how many students. What if they all meet the criteria?

Larry Duchette: Then they all get \$1,000.

Marcelle Gagnon: What if it's more than...?

Larry Duchette: We budget for them. We have a head count on the 12<sup>th</sup> graders and know who is going to graduate and budget accordingly.

David Farnum: I just had a question. It said it is being changed from an expense account that closes to surplus every year, but every year we vote on an article to carry the balance forward, so...Can you explain that to me?

Larry Duchette: We just started doing that recently, carrying it forward.

David Farnum: No. You carried it forward this year, you carried it forward last year, you carried forward the year before. You have always carried that amount forward.

Corrine Routhier: You won't need an article to carry the money forward; it automatically does that in the general ledger account.

David Farnum: Ok.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 43 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,005 in addition to the balance of \$495 carried forward for a total budget of \$8,500 for street lights.

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 44 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$17,234 for Ashland User Fees:

Ambulance Service \$13,797.27

Library \$1,621.52

Recreation \$1,814.96

**SB & BC RECOMMEND YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 45 To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$29,849.83 for a one-time payment to Ashland for the purchase of a new ambulance for services to surrounding communities. (This one-time payment avoids the potential of an extra \$5,143.27 in interest expense. See the letter from Ashland included in the Town Report)

**SB RECOMMENDS YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 46 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,325 for the following requested financial social services assistance:

American Red Cross \$200

Aroostook Agency on Aging \$295

Aroostook County Action Program \$78.20

Ashland Food Pantry \$100

Catholic Charities of Maine \$100

Central Aroostook Humane Society \$743

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce \$130

Homeless Services of Aroostook \$587

Life Flight Foundation \$391

Maine Families Aroostook \$200

Martha & Mary's Soup Kitchen \$100

Maine Public Broadcasting Corp. \$100

Northern Maine Veteran's Cemetery \$200

VFW Post #9699 \$100

**SB RECOMMENDS YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 47 To see if the Town will vote to approve evenly splitting the remainder of the CMA Tripling account, an amount of \$462.85, between the Portage Lake Tourism Committee and the Portage Lake Historical Society. (This money was received from the World Acadian Congress 2014 to help with events surrounding the Tripling of Maine, New Brunswick & Quebec communities for which the Historical Society and Tourism Cmte. were heavily involved).

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.** Discussion: none. **Motion carries.**

ART. 48 To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for extra patrol from the County Sherriff Dept. The cost is \$44.53 per hr. for extra patrol.  
**SB RECOMMENDS \$5,000**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: They raised our county tax by \$9,000, that's for the jail. Well if it's costing so much for the jail, give them bologna sandwiches and a bottle of water. So now you are going to spend another \$5,000 for a Sheriff. So, who's to call the Sheriff? There was one the other day in Town. Is it going to be on your dime? Tonight on the way down I met a State Trooper, the other day Brian [Cote] met the new Sheriff. So if the new Sheriff likes it here so much, let him buy a house from Barbara; let him move here. But that's up to you people. I'm just giving you my opinion.

Anita Theriault: Does this guarantee any specific time that they will patrol, or is this haphazard and left up to them?

Larry Duchette: No. We will be requesting the time. As a matter of fact, the State is going to be supplying us with new speed limit signs that register the speed and the time of people coming through town. That information can be downloaded and passed on to the County Sheriff and State Police.

Anita Theriault: On Route 11?

Larry Duchette: On Route 11, and hopefully on West Road and Cottage Road. I'm meeting with the gentleman the first part of next month. We are going to be the "poster child" for this program. We are top of their list because we have complained so much about people going up and down Route 11. This is going to give them the opportunity and us the opportunity as well to determine when we feel we need someone here. They will only be here upon a call from myself to the Sheriff to schedule a specific time. Certain times a year, we don't need them, other times we need them more. It averages out 2 hours a week. We can save up the ten weeks and have them here for 10 hours at a time if need be. It is something that I get complaints continually from people in this audience and many phone calls about speed on West Road, speed going through town. The Sheriffs are doing their best; they are understaffed. This is a way for us to show the community that we do care, and maybe slow some of these boys down.

Danny Higgins: I wish Kenny Fones were here, because he got stopped at 4:00 in the morning by the D.O.T. wagon. So as far as I'm concerned, we got the Sheriff's Dept., we have the State Police, we have the game wardens, we have the Border Patrol...

Moderator: Danny, that doesn't pertain to what the article is.

Danny Higgins: Well, if it all pertains to law enforcement, it pertains to this.

Jen Curran: Do I understand correctly that we are paying \$76,000 a year now to the Sheriff's Department?

Larry Duchette: Those numbers...roughly yes. To the County.

Jen Curran: I think we all need to keep in mind that a lot of our speed factors are Route 11, this is not something that would cover Route 11, that's the State Police and not the Sheriffs. We also need to keep in mind that we are a recreational community, and obviously we all want law-abiding citizens and want everybody to be safe and comfortable. But I don't feel having the Sheriff around 24-7 is something that is necessarily a good thing in our community. I think we are spending enough money. I think they have quite a presence now. I think our major factor, personally, is Route 11 and this extra money doesn't really help that.

Larry Duchette: Sheriffs are able to patrol Route 11 quite effectively, and those are the only ones available to us to give extra coverage for us, other than contracting with Ashland. We have talked to them about it, but their cost is much higher. As the Sheriff said, they aren't charging for the car because we already own it, they are charging us for labor.

Denise Beaulieu: Along with being a recreational community, I think we should think about the people that work in the community and the industry that kind of supports it. Yes they go up and down Route 11, but they are all support the community too. I don't know how many more police officers around will help that. They are up and down all the time.

Anita Theriault: I noticed that the trucks seemed to have slowed down since we had that last meeting with the mill manager. In other words, when you tell them there will be someone around, it does slow them down.

Judy Moreau: Is this for an off duty?

Larry Duchette: Yes. It is overtime.

Judy Moreau: How are we going to distinguish if he's off duty...?

Larry Duchette: He will be in uniform. It is an overtime officer that they issue to us for as many hours as we need.

Judy Moreau: Who is going to say that he is off duty, off the County clock? And he's on our clock?

Larry Duchette: It will be a phone call that will have him here certain times of the day.

Judy Moreau: Yes, but he's not going to be off duty if you call him.

Larry Duchette: He's on overtime, and being contracted by the Town of Portage to be here X-number of hours.

Judy Moreau: That stop sign business, is that going to get your license plate too?

Larry Duchette: No. Just the speed and the time of day that the speed occurred.

Judy Moreau: What good is that?

Larry Duchette: It gives them a record.

Denise Beaulieu: I don't think there is any way you can clarify. We can have Sheriffs that we are already paying come out at the same time we are getting these extra overtime Sheriffs. So we are going to pay double for protection.

Brian Cote: County Sheriff might be here 8 to 5, this Article might bring him here at 4 in the morning. Truck traffic by my house is crazy starting at 3, between pick-ups, chip trucks and log trucks. I have a speed limit sign of 25 right by my driveway and nobody does 25.

David Pierce: Another issue we are concerned about is we just spent a lot of money to re-pave the West Road over to the mill entrance. Typically in mud season when roads are posted, trucks are pounding out of there from 4 to 7 in the morning when there is no presence around. So for an average of 2 hours a week, which would only be certain hot times of the year—it wouldn't be every week—we thought there were certain things we can do to protect our investment so they don't pound that road. That is part of the reason we were thinking of doing this.

Then there are other times we might need someone here, because they aren't here very often.

Barb Pitcairn: I concur with Brian.

Jim Dumond: Would a Sheriff be able to stop a truck on a posted road? He can't weigh him?

Larry Duchette: He doesn't have to weigh him, if that road is posted he is overweight.

Jen Pitcairn: Who is going to choose when this cop is around, if it passes?

Larry Duchette: The new system we are putting in, as well as the posted time of year. The posted road thing is one of the bigger issues, as well as speed. Those new signs coming in will give us a detailed report of when most of the speeding is happening and we can pass that along to the State Police and the Sheriff.

Jen Pitcairn: Or then they will choose when they come, or we say 'can you come at 3 o'clock in the morning'?

Larry Duchette: Correct. We can request them to be here at any given time.

Jen Pitcairn: And is that a call you make after we have the data?

Larry Duchette: Yes.

David Farnum: So the Sheriff's Dept. doesn't work from 5 to 8?

Larry Duchette: They do. But we are on the bottom of their list; we are on the Western part. So if we can ask for specific times, when we find we have the most traffic we can have them here during those times. It isn't going to take many times for them to be here that things will slow down.

David Farnum: It's not going to take very long for a trucker to tell all the other truckers not to go out there for the next two hours because there is a guy out there. But if we can get the Sheriff's Dept. to

come by paying him at 3 in the morning, we can't get them to come at 3 o'clock in the morning if we don't pay them extra? I don't understand that.

Larry Duchette: That's correct. You can call them, but they will be 2 hours getting here when you could have already scheduled them to be here for a specific time.

David Farnum: But you can't schedule him unless you pay him extra. You can't tell them that every morning between 3 and 5 that this is happening.

Larry Duchette: I have told them.

David Farnum: We can't have them come unless we pay them extra. That doesn't make any sense to me. If we can get them to come here, then we can get them to come here. We shouldn't have to pay extra to get them to come here certain hours. I mean they are not here all day, every day.

David Pierce: Dave, we have been trying for years. We have bounced this around since I've been on the Board, and it hasn't worked. They are giving us the speed limit thing because people have been complaining so much and we are right on the edge of their district. It's something that we have been trying for years and it hasn't helped.

David Farnum: It doesn't make it right.

David Pierce: No, but that's the reality. It doesn't make it right, but that's the reality.

Denise Beaulieu: If they don't have enough people to come anyway, they're not going to have enough people to do extra patrols. That's the reality of it.

Anita Theriault: I think it is worth an extra \$5,000 to slow the traffic down.

Danny Higgins: As far as posted roads, that's a D.O.T., a weigh-wagon issue.

Larry Duchette: No. The Sheriff can stop them and ticket them for being on that road.

Danny Higgins: They can't ticket them for being overweight.

Larry Duchette: Yes he can, if that truck is loaded. I checked with the Sheriff.

Danny Higgins: They took Shawn Whalen to court, he was a State Trooper, and he was on the weigh wagon...

Moderator: Danny, we are getting off course.

Rob Reese: Posted roads, you have to meet certain conditions. One is temperature, if the road is frozen like in the morning that truck can be there, even loaded. If it is not frozen, then he has to be unloaded and not beating up the road.

Marcelle Gagnon: How long are these signs supposed to be up, just for the summer?

Larry Duchette: No, they are ours. We will move them every two to four weeks.

Marcelle Gagnon: Move them every two to four weeks for how long. For the summer?

Larry Duchette: Forever. They are ours.

Marcelle Gagnon: Why don't we wait to see how that goes before we hire a Sheriff?

Larry Duchette: We are going to use that data to get specific times when they should be here.

Marcelle Gagnon: So if this works, you won't have to call the Sheriff. But you'll have that in there to cover just in case we do need it.

Larry Duchette: We aren't necessarily going to spend it all. I think those specific times...like at the beach when the trucks fly by there, if we can have an officer there occasionally to slow them down and issue a couple of tickets. As Dave said, they are going to know immediately when they get a ticket, those MERS radios cover most of Northern Maine.

Judy Moreau: I think the solution to the problem of the Sheriffs not coming when we need them to come and when we would like them to come is our County Commissioners. I think the Board and the Town manager ought to write a letter, start with a letter, and if they don't cooperate then I think the people that are complaining about the trucks, speeding, whatever, should go to the County Commissioners—every one of them-- when they have their meeting and complain. I think that would be a little bit cheaper than the \$5,000.

Danny Higgins: It's \$5,000 this year, when you open up the can what's it going to be next year?

David Pierce: It might be less, if they have figured out they can't get away with it.

Brian Cote: The beach road. We just paved it. There are a lot of guys who don't want to go down the long way. As soon as the temperature comes above 32 degrees at 3 o'clock in the morning, they are still going to run the beach road because they know no body is there. It's just a short cut from that mill to Route 11, instead of going down to the mill and back.

David Pierce: That is why we are trying to protect our investment. We just paid a lot of money for that and it doesn't take long to pound that all to heck. \$5,000 for \$200,000 doesn't seem like a lot of money to me.

Steve Jandreau: Most of those trucks seem to be going to Maine Woods. It's pretty obvious it's just two or three different companies that are doing it. I don't know if Arthur knows anybody with any pull over there...(laughter from audience)

David Pierce: A lot of them are hauling pile down out to the Seven Islands yard out back.

Arthur Routhier: Most of those trucks know it's posted, but there is so much a company can do. All of the companies have been advised to go all the way around along Route 11. We aren't a babysitter. I can't just go up to a trucker and say "hey, don't go down that road; go that way". They have all been advised, but until they start getting fined by hopefully the Sheriff that's off-duty or whatever, maybe they will figure out to take that 7 mile trip around.

Jeff Poirier: The same thing as Arthur, we tell them all the time. I've had people call me to complain about the trucks, and I say to call the Sheriff. I think if we give them a couple of tickets, they will stop going that way.

**Motion carries with 16 yes votes and 13 no votes.**

ART. 49 To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate \$1,000 for the Portage Hills Country Club for financial assistance.

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Isn't that a private club.

Pat Kelley: No we are not a private club; there is a misconception that we are a private club. It is open to anybody who wants to go play golf there.

Judy Moreau: You have to join.

Pat Kelley: No. You do not.

David Farnum: What is the reason for this? We have never subsidized the golf club before. Why this year?

Pat Kelley: A couple of things. You have subsidized in the past. We have had some issues since the market went flat in 2008. We are living in a community where we have lost a lot elderly members, who passed away or too old to play golf anymore. This year was tough, we are a little in the hole and we have a building up there that has some electrical issues that have to be fixed before we can open, the insurance company insists. We lost our well pump last fall, some unexpected things. So we've come to the Town to ask for a little help to get this thing up and going. We have a new slate of directors and officers, some young folks, who are going to do a good job. People in the community should understand that it is not a private place, it's for everybody.

Arthur Routhier: Can I know who is on the board as of now?

Pat Kelley: I don't know if I can rattle off all of the members to you...

Jen Pitcaim: All of our Board members? Dylan, myself, Reuben Caron, Mike [Cote] too, Nemer's still on there, Kevin Bushey, Ron Grover, Angie Boutot. We have a new president, Dylan [Cyr-Cormier], and Reuben Caron is our Vice President, and Mike has stayed our Treasurer and I'm secretary.

Danny Higgins: I don't snowmobile, I don't ATV, and I don't play golf. But I think the Portage Hills Country Club is a great asset to this Town. It's like I've said, when you sit up there on that deck I've never come closer to God than up there, where you can overlook the whole lake, see the mountains. That's the reason I wanted to put \$50 on my beer tab. But it's an asset to the Town. And we contribute to the ATV and we contribute to the Snowmobile Club, and they are in more financial trouble than any of the other organizations.



Judy Moreau: Has anyone on the board found out why it was stopped in 1972?

Barb Pitcairn: What was stopped?

Judy Moreau: The appropriating \$1,000 a year. Because it was stopped for a reason, and that reason being, I believe, it was from the Bureau of Taxation. A town can't appropriate money to a golf club.

Larry Duchette: To a private business, yes.

Jen Pitcairn: We are a not-for-profit.

Judy Moreau: It doesn't make a difference. It never was for profit, ever. I'm just saying...Did anybody look it up?

Larry Duchette: Corrine is working on a timeline, and when she gets it finished, it's very interesting reading.

Judy Moreau: I know, I've got the same timeline.

Larry Duchette: She's been putting that together. The Town has given donations to the Club in the past, but they have refused it in the past as well. This is something that right now the Townspeople have to make a decision.

Judy Moreau: Right, but it would be good to have the information disseminated amongst the general population before we vote. Because I do know that it was stopped in 1971.

Danny Higgins: Years ago, we had doctors that contributed a lot of money, we had J. Paul Levesque, Gilbert Cyr....they have lost all of their donors. Do you follow me?

Judy Moreau: I know, but the funding—the appropriation by the Town—was stopped for a reason in 1971.

Danny Higgins: That farm was sold when I was in the Army for \$5,000.

Judy Moreau: That farm was bought and sold in 1965.

Danny Higgins: I was in the Army then...

Steve Jandreau: I don't think what they decided to do 45 years ago is an issue at this point.

Judy Moreau: It is if it is still on the books. It is a state statute.

Connie Duchette: Is this a one-time allotment or is this going to be an annual thing?

Pat Kelley: We have asked for a little help this year. I'm not going to say we may never have to again, but we need some help this year.

**Motion carries.**

ART. 50 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$3,500 from Surplus to purchase a right-of-way on West Road just past Overlook Drive, Town tax map 11 lot 17, currently recorded in the registry of deeds in book 2993 page 266, for the purpose of additional drainage for West Road. See Exhibit A.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Rob Reece: That seems to be quite pricey for a strip of land. What are the dimensions on it?

Larry Duchette: It is 16 by 300-something. Right now it is valued on the books for \$7,500, what it is assessed for.

Rob Reece: I still think that's pretty pricey for a strip of land that is that narrow.

Larry Duchette: The purpose of buying is to protect our road. There is literally a pond just past that that we are unable to drain in any direction. If we are going to invest in our road, we need to get the water off of them, as many people who work in the woods will tell you. You cannot let that water sit because all it is doing is deteriorating the road.

Rob Reece: I understand that. What I'm saying is the price seems to be awfully high for a piece of land that...

Barb Pitcairn: Coming from a market standpoint we are getting quite a bargain. The land on the market today would probably value at over \$10,000 if someone wanted a right of way. We are only paying \$3,500 for it. That section of road, the drain from the ridge, is undermining that whole road. So why try

to pave that road, put some money into it, when we don't have the proper drainage? We need that drainage on that road.

Judy Moreau: That is not a buildable lot; there is nothing you can do with it. I doubt you could even put a right-of-way down it, because you can't use the first 150 feet. So that knocks out that, so you have 200 feet, approximately, left. So I do think the price is a little steep; very steep. So I would like to make and motion to decrease the \$3,500 to \$1,500.

Moderator: What you want to do is make an amendment.

Judy Moreau: Make an amendment.

Moderator: In order to have an amendment, we need to vote on the article, then we need to have the amendment.

David Farnum: I may be wrong, you can't vote on the Article and then amend it. You have to vote on the amendment first and then vote on the Article as amended. If you vote on the Article, it's done.

Moderator: Thank you. I haven't done this in a long while. So what we need to do is you Judy need to say that article...

Judy Moreau: I make **a motion to amend the Article to say: To see if the Town will vote to spend \$1,500 from Surplus to purchase a right-of-way on West Road just past Overlook Drive.**

Moderator reads the entire Article again with the proposed amendment.

**Motion to approve amendment is seconded.** Discussion on Amendment held anyway:

David Farnum: I understand Judy's intent, but my question to the Town is, Did that just defeat the Article, because he is probably not going to sell it for \$1,500

Larry Duchette: No. He will not sell it.

David Farnum: I just wanted everybody to know that before they vote on the amendment.

David Pierce: We need to drain that before we can pave it, before we can fix it. Whatever that amounts to...

Anita Theriault: And if we try to buy it from him another year he will raise the price above \$3,500.

Danny Higgins: That piece of road where the right-of-way is, that is where West Mountain drains all that water, down on that section of the road. And for years we have been trying to get additional waterways, because there is a problem on West Road for right-of-ways for water. So this is....

David Farnum: One more thing, it's probably a fact that if you change it to \$1,500 and go to the land owner and tell him that, then he probably will not sell it or he probably will raise the price.

**Amended motion for \$1,500 fails.**

Moderator calls for the original Article to be taken up.

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative for the original article as written.**

Anita Theriault: It isn't past Overlook Drive, it is before Overlook Drive.

Jim Dumond: Has this been engineered, that somebody told us that we need that right-of-way?

Larry Duchette: Any standing water next to any road needs to be dealt with and drained. What is happening is that water is continually eroding underneath there. These boys who work in the woods every day will tell you the exact same thing. You cannot have that much water sitting next to a road year round, and in the spring time since I've been here I've seen that flooding across the road and we have to fight with the ice to keep it clear.

Barry Kenney: Water doesn't stay there; the water is going to the lake, whether it goes over it or under the road.

Marcelle Gagnon: Why don't you put a culvert in?

Barry Kenney: That's why we need the right-of-way. We can't drain it on somebody's front lawn, we need the right-of-way and let it drain through our piece of ground.

Judy Moreau: At 16 1/2 feet wide, how are you going to get equipment down there to do anything?

Larry Duchette: A mini-excavator is going to make his way down there slowly, building sediment ponds all the way through so that doesn't just wash out that hill. This is a long-term project, you won't see this

happen this summer. We will invest in this a little bit over time until we get the lower part done, and then we can put the culvert in across the main road.

Judy Moreau: Well, that mud puddle has been there, I dare say, 50 years.

**Motion on original article to expend \$3,500 carries.**

ART. 51 To see if the Town will vote to sell to Maine Woods Company, LLC a parcel of land approximately 3 acres in size on West Road behind the hardwood mill, currently recorded in the registry of deeds in book 3244 page 117, part of Town tax Map 1 lot 5, for a price of \$2,500 paid to the Town. See Exhibit B.

**SB RECOMMENDS**

**YES**

**Motion made and seconded in the affirmative.**

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Ok. We are going to buy a rod 350 feet long by 16 ½ feet wide. Right?

But we are going to sell 3 acres for \$2,500, and we are only going to get half of that because we have to give the other half of the \$2,500 to the other land owners. This don't make sense.

David Pierce: What about all of the tax money we get from Maine Woods Company?

Judy Moreau: Fine! I don't mind if they have the land, let's lease it to them, give it to them, or get a fair price.

Barb Pitcairn: A few years ago this 3 acres was the argument of Rich Hoppe and a bunch of people because it was a deer yard. I would like to know if it is still a deer yard, and why we are selling it. We cut it back then, but we didn't want it cut.

David Farnum: It was and it still is, however Rich Hoppe has been contacted on it. The only question is if they extended it further toward Marcel's lot than they originally planned.

Danny Higgins: Years ago, when I was working on Senior Housing, the Town agreed to sell that piece of land for senior housing. I had all the money through FHA, the last thing they asked for was an environmental impact study. Rich Hoppe went back there in the spring of the year, where we have deer walking to the Post Office, and he saw where deer laid down and he claimed it was deer yard. That killed that senior housing project. My only concern is, are you people aware of the septic system that I put in there? Do you know where that land is? I just don't want them going over the septic system.

Jeff Poirier: I am the current manager at Maine Woods Company. First off, just a correction, the land would be purchased by Seven Islands Land Company. They own the land that underneath where Maine Woods is located. So that parcel would not be sold to Maine Woods, but to Seven Islands. The reason we asked for the land is for safety reasons, more than anything. In the last year we put in a new building, we added a dry line and hired 8 more employees. Because of the new building, it has changed the traffic pattern for trucks being loaded in our yard. So now trucks have to snake between two buildings where employees walk and park, and then around another corner where there is forklift traffic and more employees working. What we wanted to do is buy the piece of land to move the truck loading area to another area. The only thing we wanted was to be able to swing trucks around the building. When we came to Town originally about this, it was suggested that we clean up the boundary and make it the strip that it is now. That's where we came up with the acreage. And that is an approximation. We are going to have it surveyed at our cost.

Judy Moreau: Who designated the price for the 3 acres?

Larry Duchette: That is what they offered, and that is roughly \$700 an acre. That is a fair market value for that type of wood lot. Irving was involved, Dave [Pierce] with his experience in the woods, Mr. Hoppe has been brought in and he signed off on it.

Judy Moreau: What do you mean he signed off on it?

Larry Duchette: He signed off on what the use is going to be.

Judy Moreau: So those three acres will no longer be a deer yard.

Larry Duchette: The deer will still use it as they do now, they cross their property. The deer aren't going to stop using it.

David Pierce: It just put an edge out a little further, is what it does. It's just a strip that is right beside the mill yard. It's not like it's a big part of where the deer live in the winter. It's just an extension of the side of the mill yard.

Judy Moreau: What I'm trying to get across is the 3 acres will no longer be part of the deer yard, whether the deer use it or not. That's up to the deer. Do you see what I'm saying? So we are going to be minus the 3 acres off of the...

Anita Theriault: How close does it come to the West Road?

David Pierce: A long ways away.

David Farnum: You know where Marcel Theriault's lot is? It comes right to the back edge of his lot. Correct?

Barry Kenney: They came to the Town looking for a small piece. It is joint owned property and it was in everybody's interest to box it off rather than have it zig-zag the way it is showing in there (indicates the town tax map).

Judy Moreau: I just find it astonishing that for 3 whole acres, we are just going to get a fraction of 50% of \$2,500, whatever that figures out to be.

David Pierce: Judy you are talking apples to oranges.

Judy Moreau: No, I'm talking dollar bills.

David Farnum: Just one more thing, the gentleman mentioned that it is actually being sold to Seven Islands, so is it OK that it is like this or do you need that amended so that...If you pass Article 51 you can sell it to Maine Woods, but does that mean you can sell it to anybody or do you have to change it before you pass it?

David Pierce: It needs to be amended, you are right.

Barbara Pitcairn: I make a **motion to amend the article to read: To see if the Town will vote to sell to Seven Islands Land Company a parcel of land approximately 3 acres in size on West Road behind the hardwood mill, currently recorded in the registry of deeds in book 3244 page 117, part of Town tax Map 1 lot 5, for a price of \$2,500 paid to the Town. See Exhibit B. Motion seconded.**

Discussion on amended motion.

Judy Moreau: Ok. Now isn't the \$2,500 going to have to be...shouldn't it be added in there that it has to be divided?

Larry Duchette: We are the largest owner, and we will disperse the money to the other landowners.

Moderator re-reads the Article as amended.

**Motion to amend the Article carries.**

**Motion on Article 51 carries as amended.**

Side Note: Manager Request: Larry Duchette asks those present what their feelings are for purchasing a new plow truck. It will cost about \$150,000 for a new truck, most of the money will come out of Surplus and Equipment Reserve, along with the trade-in value of the current truck. Comments include a larger truck might not make the turn-arounds in town, look at contracting the plowing versus purchasing a new truck.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Corrine Routhier