

2017 WARRANT

AROOSTOOK, §

STATE OF MAINE

The Voters of the Town of Portage Lake, Aroostook County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, met at the Municipal Building in said town on **Thursday the thirtieth (30th) of March, 2017**, at three o'clock (3:00) in the afternoon until seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening, then and there to act upon Articles 1 and 2 to wit:

ART. 1 To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting
Corrine Routhier was nominated and two written votes were cast to elect her as the moderator of the election portion of the meeting.

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

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

Results of the Vote: David Pierce: 75
Thomas York III: 40
Blank: 1

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

Results of the Vote: Robert Reece: 106
Patrick C. Kelley: 1
Dylan Cyr-Cormier: 1
Blank: 4

Voters reconvened at the Portage Lake Municipal Building on **Friday, the thirty-first (31st) of March, 2017**, at six-thirty (6:30) in the evening, and then and there acted on the following Articles to wit:
Note: Corrine Routhier was unable to fulfill her duties as moderator for the remainder of the Town Meeting and she appointed Joel Hall as Deputy Moderator to complete the meeting as necessary.

There were 53 resident voters in attendance

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 positive. 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, 2018 to the annual March Town Meeting.
SELECTBOARD (SB) RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. 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, and exercise such authority as needed to implement grants.

SB RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 6 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 7 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 8 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; to sell or dispose of any property acquired by tax lien foreclosure for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest, after first offering the property to the previous owners; and if they decline, advertising for sealed bids on the same, stating the lowest bid acceptable; and to allow the Selectboard to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosure when it is in the best interest of the Town.
SB RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 9 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 10 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 positive.

Discussion:

Gerry Cormier: So with the \$25,000 that is appropriated, what would be the emergency that they would deem appropriate that they would use that money for?

Larry Duchette: A major event here at the town office, more than likely. Or maybe fire truck—if it breaks down we need to invest in it. Um, when our road truck breaks down; something that is not in the budget that we did not anticipate.

Gerry Cormier: And \$25,000 would cover it?

Larry Duchette: Possibly, possibly not. We may have to have a special town meeting for the rest of it. It used to be \$75,000.

Gerry Cormier: \$85,000 when I was a selectman. Just questioned that it was a low amount, that's what I was concerned about.

Motion carries.

ART. 11 To see if the Town will vote to deposit into the Public Works Road Reserve account all monies received for the 2017-2018 year from the Maine Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program.
SB & BUDGET COMMITTEE (BC) RECOMMEND YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 12 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$65,000 from anticipated revenue sources for the purpose of reducing the 2017 tax commitment.
SB RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I would like to know what the revenue sources are that they are anticipating \$65,000 from?

Larry Duchette: Well, I can't recite it off the top of my head, but you are welcome to come in to the office to look at it. On the expenses and revenues sheet here...the number of items...Corrine can you speak to that for me?

Corrine Routhier: Page 48, under other revenues.

Barb Pitcairn: So we're talking, like, boat tax...

Corrine Routhier: Tax interest, um...boat excise taxes, BETE reimbursement, Homestead, Tree Growth, Veterans...um interest on checking and the savings account.

Barb Pitcairn: And that should accumulate \$65,000?

Corrine Routhier: Um, last year...give or take, yes. Last year we ended up with \$52,900 because we used some of the BETE for buying a new plow truck.

Barb Pitcairn: Ok. The other part of that is also, we are asking to appropriate to reduce the tax commitment the \$65,000. We also have to remember that we are carrying a heavy surplus.

We could actually, if approved, be reducing our taxes by even more. I mean, we have an excess of 1 million dollars in surplus, when you take a look at tree stumpage and all of the other accounts that actually reside in surplus. So, that being said... That's actually all I have to say. It should be \$100,000, it should be \$95,000. We are doing extremely well, which I compliment you for, Corrine. She's been crucial at organizing everything. So more money could be put toward that.

Judy Moreau: You can't make the Article larger; you can make it smaller but not larger.

Motion carries.

ART. 13 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 14 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 15 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 16 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$24,834 in addition to \$4,166 carried forward for a total budget of \$29,000 for the General Administration operating account, and to allow any reimbursements and fees to be used for the same.

SB & BC RECOMMEND YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Um, I am questioning in addition to the amount carried forward, \$4,166. Usually when salaries and hours worked, or...worked ahead of time like this year, last year's books closed, so on and so forth, there isn't that large of an amount of money carried forward, if any at all. So where did the \$4,166 come from? Who's salary?

Larry Duchette: Nobody's salary. This is for general admin. It has nothing to do with salaries.

Barb Pitcairn: That's the general admin....I have it broken as to salaries. General Admin. Sorry, wrong question on the wrong article.

Motion carries.

ART. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$71,506 in addition to \$6,494 carried forward for a total budget of \$78,000 for Town Selectpersons, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: This is the one, sorry, I jumped ahead of you guys. So in addition to the \$6,494 carried over, where did that come from?

Larry Duchette: That was unspent.

Barb Pitcairn: Unspent by who?

Larry Duchette: By me. I took 5 weeks off for a leave of absence.

Barb Pitcairn: Thank you. I just wanted to know. Sorry. One more thing. I did a breakdown on that compared to last year's salaries, um, given the town clerk and the town treasurer, and I want to say at this time I think they are grossly underpaid. And I'd like the Board to seriously take that into consideration. I'm sorry, but you have two people over there with Associates degrees and a lot of experience, and if we want to keep good on, you've got to be paying them. That's all there is to it. It's a healthy little town here.

Dave Pierce: Recently they've been getting \$1 raise per year, so we're working on it. It's happening.

Barb Pitcairn: You started low.

Motion carries.

ART. 19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for real & personal property assessing and registry fees.

SB & BC RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,787 in addition to \$11,213 carried forward for a total budget of \$24,000 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 positive.

Discussion:

Arthur Routhier: Larry with all of the improvements in the last few years, can you tell me how much you think you saved on average from year to year, as far as heating costs and...?

Larry Duchette: Oh, we're probably looking at 12%, the last time I did an analysis on it. It's made a huge improvement. We only have a little bit left to do on the back end of the building by the garage with siding. And we have some roofing issues coming up this year as well this year. We had a major leak in the kitchen area.

Arthur Routhier: So, a pretty good pay back?

Larry Duchette: A very good payback, yes.

Motion carries.

ART. 21 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balance of \$18,507 for Town Hall Improvements to re-surface the final side of the municipal building with vinyl siding and re-surface 1/2 of the Municipal Building roof.

SB RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$806 in addition to \$194 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,000 for the Planning & Appeals Boards.

SB & BC RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 23 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6322 in addition to \$4,678 carried forward for a total budget of \$11,000 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.

SB & BC RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,039 in addition to \$961 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 to carry forward the balance of \$4,000 for abatements.

SB & BC RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,400 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., the Aroostook Municipal Assn. and Aroostook Municipal Clerks Assn.

SB & BC RECOMMENDS

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: What are we receiving from Northern Maine Development Commission at this point in time? I know they are downsizing quite a bit.

Larry Duchette: They are.

Barb Pitcairn: So we are paying, what \$1200, \$1300 to them?

Larry Duchette: This year it will be \$1,570.

Barb Pitcairn: \$1,570? So, you are still advising that we do? Is any Board member going on the Executive Board? Is anybody serving here?

Larry Duchette: I am. They're not.

Barb Pitcairn: You're serving on the Executive Board? And you are still finding it beneficial?

Larry Duchette: We are, especially when the salt purchasing that goes on. There is significant savings by all of the Towns getting together that are members, we save on salt. Salt has gone through the roof in the last couple of years.

Barb Pitcairn: I know we received money from them before in the past, but to spend \$1,500 for 360... I'm not saying...I served on the Board for many years. I'm not saying it's a good thing or a bad thing, I'm just saying let's weigh one against the other. I believe their funding is going to drop in the next year or two.

Larry: They are struggling, there's no doubt about it. Like everybody else, just looking for free money.

Barb Pitcairn: So you still fee the \$1,500...

Larry Duchette: At this time, I do, yes.

Motion carries.

ART. 26 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$49,697 in addition to \$4,803 carried forward for a total budget of \$54,500 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 positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I need to ask if this is for all the insurances for the town, is it buildings, the equipment and medical?

Larry Duchette: Yes.

Barb Pitcairn: So this covers everything.

Larry Duchette: Everything. Social Security, Workers Comp, unemployment, all our liability. It's all under one. It has actually gone down from \$63,900 to \$54,500.

Barb Pitcairn: That's excellent, but if you could state that in there, because that means a lot. I mean, I took that as medical insurance, and I'm going "wow, I need to give them my carrier". But, if it includes all...It's an umbrella.

Larry Duchette: All of them.

Motion carries.

ART. 28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$22,317 in addition to \$5,683 carried forward 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 29 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$4,254 for specific Police Patrol for the coming year.

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Gerry Cormier: I'm just kind of wondering with this whole thing, you are carrying forward a balance, so how much patrolling took place last year, and how much did we pay out if you've got...

Larry Duchette: You had \$5,000 allocated last year, and you paid out a little more than what's on here but I've had a couple patrols since then. We specifically go after the morning traffic with the trucks.

With the new speed sign that we have it registers every vehicle that passes it, so we are able to tie it to certain times when we have speeding problems. We are able to download that onto a laptop and I pass it on to the Sheriff's Department.

Gerry Cormier: So you appropriated \$5,000 last year and you only spent \$750? So why appropriate so much money when you are only spending \$750, I guess is my question?

Larry Duchette: Well, we didn't spend it all so we are just going to keep carrying it over until we do spend it all. There was a number applied to it...

Gerry Cormier: Is there a problem getting people to actually do it?

Larry Duchette: Not at all.

Gerry Cormier: No. OK. So, I'm guessing, why would you have more?

Larry Duchette: Because we only feel as if we are using it when we need to. It seems to be seasonal, it seems to be Monday mornings especially, Thursday afternoons... When the truckers are going, or, coming into town, starting work, and then going out Thursday night, Thursday afternoon, Fridays. Some of the locals call this the Fort Kent 500.

Gerry Cormier: What?

Larry Duchette: The Fort Kent 500. The truckers come through here at excessive speed over and over again. I'm sure you're aware of that.

Gerry Cormier: I'm just wondering why it was so low when you appropriated it?

Larry Duchette: We are trying to spend it wisely.

Gerry Cormier: Like they say, every dollar counts, but if you are only spending \$750, why appropriate \$5,000?

Larry Duchette: That was last year. We aren't appropriating anything this year.

Gerry Cormier: I know. I'm just...That's my comment.

Barb Pitcairn: Just really quick, could we add the Cottage Road to that? The reason I say is regardless of the speed bumps that have been moved here and there on West Road, there is still an amazing amount of fast traffic, and I wouldn't mind seeing what is going on East Cottage Road.

Larry Duchette: That's true, East has been neglected, I'll agree with you there. We do have plans to put another speed bump or two out there as well.

Jennifer Pitcairn: Who again is choosing the officer and when?

Larry Duchette: I do.

Jennifer Pitcairn: You do. And when did you choose last year.

Larry Duchette: Based on the speed sign, and based on complaints.

Jennifer Pitcairn: And it was ordered how many times?

Larry Duchette: I couldn't say right off the top of my head; I'd have to go look at the records.

Motion carries.

ART. 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$627 in addition to \$498 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$81,009 in addition to \$6,991 carried forward for a total budget of \$88,000 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,400 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.

SB & BC RECOMMEND YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,372 in addition to \$128 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 positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I noticed the income received from tires, metal and shingles was in excess of \$1,500. So basically we are looking at the Transfer Station operating budget being close to \$6,000. Does that include the Wednesdays? Are we going to get the Wednesday's back or are we just open on Saturdays?

Larry Duchette: During the spring we are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Barb Pitcairn: And that's cut back?

Larry Duchette: We cut back in the middle of summer unless we have a high demand, which I expect we will this year with all the downed trees we are going to have a need to stay open a little bit more than we have in the past.

Barb Pitcairn: OK. I just wanted to make sure that included that extra day because I knew it wasn't...

Motion carries.

ART. 34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,614 in addition to \$886 carried forward for a total budget of \$4,500 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,957 in addition \$543 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,430 in addition to \$70 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,500 for Portage Lake Beautification.

SB & BC RECOMMEND YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 37 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$750 for the Portage Lake Recreation Department.

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Is the \$750 just for the maintenance of our playgrounds?

Larry Duchette: It is actually for equipment. Fortunately we have a young lady that has come back to the Rec Department and helping out considerably. Taunja has asked for some money to buy equipment and for some improvements. So I put it in the Warrants, hoping that it would be voted in for her so she has some money to work with.

Barb Pitcairn: Taunja, can you give us an idea... are you allowed to speak as to what the equipment is? I think our playgrounds are great.

Taunja Jandreau: Yea, I mean I don't have anything off the top of my head. As you do know last year I did bring back the Halloween Party, so that would also fall under that Recreation Department. So, if this works out then I want to take a look at what we've got out there, if there is anything that needs to be worked on, needs to be improved, and also the Halloween Party—we'd like to continue doing that for the kids. So it's those kinds of things for the Rec Department.

Barb Pitcairn: Super. Thank you.

Motion carries.

ART. 38 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,037 in addition to \$1,963 carried forward for a total budget of \$16,000 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 positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 39 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$5,000 for continued restorations and improvements to the Seaplane Base.

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: The Seaplane Base has been a thorn...not a thorn, actually---opposite that--in our side. What are we going to do with the Seaplane Base? Are we going to restore it so that we can use it like the Pavilion is used, use it in junction maybe with the Pavilion, because it has lakeside property? Are we going to do anything with the interior? Are we going to target possible fly-ins in the future? That Seaplane Base, we are maintaining the place so it needs a windsock. What are we doing with it? What are we doing with \$5,000? Do we have a plan?

Larry Duchette: We do. We put a new porch and roof on a year ago. We need to paint it, we need to put the coordinates on the roof. And we need to start working on the inside. And if you remember right, we decided to do this slowly, a little bit each year instead of doing it all at once. As far as activities being scheduled there, until we get it done, people can sit on the porch but we really can't let anyone inside it at this time. I was hoping that somebody would take it over and use it for historical...but they didn't feel as if it was big enough. Like I say, three years ago we decided to start working on it.

Barb Pitcairn: It is an historical building for the Town of Portage. I mean you have a propeller on your office wall in there that really should be down there. I just want to know with the amount of funds that we do have in surplus, the work could get done and be done with it. I don't know, like Judy said you can't increase, you can only decrease an Article, but I strongly feel that if it is within our means that we should try to get the work done. I mean, that is an historical building, it needs a wind sock, and I think it would be great to be able to plan a fly-in.

Larry Duchette: We no longer have a license, it's not required by the government anymore.

Barb Pitcairn: What have we paid 14 bucks for all these years?

Larry Duchette: Until just a few years ago. Now you don't have to do it anymore; you don't have to pay for it.

Barb Pitcairn: You just have to have a windsock.

Larry Duchette: You don't have to have that either; we can choose to put one up.

Barb Pitcairn: Just letting you know that I think it should be done sooner rather than later because carrying it on and not allowing the public and the community to use that building that we purchased over 5 years ago.

Danny Higgins: May I address the public? As you know years ago I rebuilt the Seaplane Base at the Forestry, but they never went through a Phase 2, which called for a floating platform to be out there. Alright? So now with all that granite rock, a sea plane cannot land there because it would cut its pontoons. But Dave [Pierce] is getting some more....what do you call them?

David Pierce: Floats. There will be six floats this summer.

Danny Higgins: So that a seaplane can land. Do you follow me?

Barb Pitcairn: Will those floats come in to shore? You'll be able to tie a boat to it; can you tie a plane to it?

David Pierce: What the plan is, which there was a lot of interest a few years ago and it has taken me a while to work on it, but the plan is to take floats like you have at any boat landing, put four out and have a "T" of two. So multiple boats and planes could hook up to it, and I figured that somebody could always get out of the wind. Because a lot of people, we were talking, might want to come to Dean's or Coffin's with their boat from their camp. If it's windy, it will be a way for them to get out of the wind.

It affords deeper water for people to use, where it is so shallow that close to shore. So it will be for both. So it should be ample.

Barb Pitcairn: And once again, all the more reason to finish it.

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 positive. Discussion: none. 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 for the Town's portion of a cost share grant	\$2,500
Portage Lake Historical Society	\$2,000

SB RECOMMENDS YES

BC MAKES NO RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Is the Town aware of the tax status on each of these organizations? Do you have it on file? Tourism, Snowmobile Club, ATV Club, and Historical Society, they have to have a tax status.

Larry Duchette: Not to my knowledge, we do not have them on file.

Barb Pitcairn: No. So you are just taking it as a given that they are OK to make donations to.

Larry Duchette: Snowmobile and ATV, we are required to participate in that municipal grant or they are unable receive their money.

Barb Pitcairn: You still need to have the tax status on file. I'll come in and look. I'll request that at a later date.

Motion carries.

ART. 42 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,973 in addition to \$1,027 carried forward for a total budget of \$8,000 for street lights.

SB & BC RECOMMEND YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Is there any way, Larry or the Board, that we could get on the same as, um...where everybody chips in, all the towns are buying light bulbs?

Larry Duchette: The LED's.

Judy Moreau: Yeah. Can we get in on that?

Larry Duchette: I'm part of that discussion with the AMA. The thing being, the larger cities are going to benefit more than a small town like ours, where I think we have only 34 lights. You have to initially buy everything that is on the pole and you will own it and have to dispose of it. Then you are going to have buy everything else that will go back up on that pole. And you will have to either hire Emera or you are going to have to hire an outside contractor to do all of that work. Right now, as you know, I pick up the phone and Emera comes over and fixes the lights. So in my eyes if you do the math on it, you are not going to benefit from it because we are too small of a town. The larger cities are going to recoup their investment way sooner than we ever would.

Motion carries.

ART. 43 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$17,751 for Ashland User Fees:

Ambulance Service	\$14,211.19
Library	\$1,670.17
Recreation	\$1,869.41

SB & BC RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: On the Library, do you know...do you have to be a member to go? Do you have to buy a membership to go to the library?

Moderator: No. You do in order to remove materials.

Judy Moreau: To take out a book only. And that's free?

Barb Pitcairn: I'm going to fall back on once again a donation coming from the town. I'd like to know what their tax statuses are. Ambulance service, Library, and recreation. Do they come under the Town of Ashland? They are completely donations. You do not have to be a member to go to the library. But they have to have some sort of tax status.

Larry Duchette: It's a fee that they request from us to help maintain and pay for their expenses. And they have been doing this forever.

Barb Pitcairn: I understand. I understand, but you still have to have their tax status. Do they come under the town?

Larry Duchette: Under the Town of Ashland, they do.

Motion carries.

ART. 44 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,394 in addition to \$131 carried forward for a total budget of \$3,525 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	\$300
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 positive.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Once again, I ask...these are donations. Do you have on file at the Town Hall the tax status of all of these organizations?

Larry Duchette: I do not.

Barb Pitcairn: You do not. Did you ever request them?

Larry Duchette: I have not.

Barb Pitcairn: But you still continue to donate? It's a given. You donate. \$743 to the Humane Society, Lifeflight, Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce...

Reuben Caron: Are all appellate members of Portage Lake eligible for all of the services that these organizations provide? So for example, the Homeless Services of Aroostook at no fee?

Larry Duchette: That's correct. At no fee.

Reuben Caron: So if I wanted to adopt a pet, I can go to the animal shelter and adopt a pet for free?

Larry Duchette: No, you would pay a fee for that. But your Social Services, most of those are all free.

Reuben Caron: Most, but not all, right? So when you first said "all", you were incorrect.

Larry Duchette: I was mistaken.

Motion carries.

ART. 45 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Surplus \$9,000 to automate the Municipal Building entry doors for better handicap accessibility.

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 46 To see if the Town will appropriate \$6,000 from Surplus for repairing the canopies over the picnic tables at the beach and putting the tables on concrete slabs.

Motion made and seconded in the positive. Discussion: none. Motion carries.

ART. 47 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$15,000 from Surplus to remove carpeting and install vinyl flooring in the Town Office and Conference Room.

Motion made and seconded in the positive:

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Just a little thing that maybe you should rethink the vinyl flooring. It does need to be replaced without a doubt, but vinyl flooring in the winter time is terrible to take care of. You are constantly mopping up water. So a good indoor/outdoor once again warms up the room, and may be better than vinyl flooring. Just my thought process.

Motion carries.

ART. 48 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$20,000 from the Road Reserve account to double chip seal Hathaway Road.

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Roland Caron: Larry we did a significant amount of road repair last year and we ended up getting it done thanks to Larry's hard work and working with the contractors getting it done. Chip sealant seal is not the best solution to that; neither was it for the Town and Larry was able to get it done, not in the appropriate way. Is there any way we can look at doing it...If you're going to a job you might as well do it right.

Larry Duchette: Yes, you can, but you are looking from \$20,000 to probably \$100,000 to do that one little stretch of road by the time you build that up to the standard to where it could accept the pavement. The chip seal for \$20,000, you are looking at 10 to 15 years out of it.

Roland Caron: I guess the question I would have, then is that we are going to be hauling hot top non-stop here pretty soon for Soucy Hill. I mean, do we wait until when that's happening and get another good price on hot top?

Larry Duchette: You can. Danny can speak to that.

Danny Higgins: Years ago we grade the road and got it all ready for chip seal. But we only did phase one, it was supposed to have two coats but it only got one. And now there is a concern from the residents about the dust control and stuff. And with the amount of traffic that it receives, I feel that chip seal is the wiser way to go than spend \$100,000. Do you follow my reasoning?

Roland Caron: Yes. But I just know that it will be a matter of time before we are looking at doing it again.

Danny Higgins: I think it's going to last about 20 years.

Roland Caron: You think so?

Danny Higgins: I mean, I won't be around...

Roland Caron: I'm counting on both you and I being around. Don't let me down, Danny.

Danny Higgins: In my mental and physical state, I doubt it.

Dave Pierce: Actually they have a new chip seal, it's not what we have always had and peeled right off with the plows. It's a lot more rubberized, and they are using it more in towns like Caribou and Presque Isle and other places. Supposedly it is way better than the chip seal we are all used to, that used to peel off along the edges. They say it's a lot better.

Roland Caron: I just wanted people to consider the alternative that Route 11 is going to be a non-stop asphalt highway.

Gerry Cormier: In terms of chip seal, have you driven through Caribou lately? It's not a real nice travel through there. So, just history that was chip sealed in 2007 when I was a Selectman, and that has only been 10 years. And now you are doing it again. So, 20 years with this new...

Danny Higgins: Because it only received one coat. It didn't receive a second coat like it was supposed to.

Gerry Cormier: I'm just telling you that it will only last 10 years. But you guys know what to do. It was a state of fact.

Adam Soucy: My question is distance, how far you are going on the road.

Larry Duchette: To the tracks, that's all.

Adam Soucy: Just to the tracks? Is that how far it is right now? Or is it shorter than that?

Larry Duchette: It is shorter than that, I believe. We are going to include those people now who are living there year-round.

Barb Pitcairn: Just really quick. We have another road in town that is a town-owned road, the Golf Course Road. Certainly a chip-seal on that would prevent a lot of pot holes and all the dry dust that everybody has to deal with all summer long. So can that be a future consideration?

Larry Duchette: Definitely.

Motion carries.

ART. 49 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Hills Country Club to help expand their services, like a youth program.

Motion made and seconded in the positive.

Discussion:

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: For all of you who might not know me, I'm Dylan Cyr-Cormier. And I grew up in Portage Lake, right behind the Golf Course actually. We have a trail that goes right to my house, Tee number 8. I grew up there, day in and day out I was there every evening. I fell in love with the place and continue to feel a passion through being its President. I was elected last year, third generation; my grandfather was president and so was my father. So it's a place that we believe in. So tonight I know there is an Article in here requesting money for a youth program. Last year we were successful. We had an open house day and several kids participated, we had Jordan Beaulier give lessons. But this year I would like to expand that even further with buying golf clubs and supplies for children in hopes that they keep the supplies and continue to someday be members of the Portage Hills Country Club.

Danny Higgins: May I ask you a question?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Sure.

Danny Higgins: What about your equipment that is so old? Do you plan on replenishing some of that?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Um, not with the money. Nope. Not with the money that I will be receiving from the Town.

Danny Higgins: With the other money that the town gave?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Yes, last year's money, we started off the year with no well pump and minimal funds in our account. Our fairway mower, which is crucial for having a golf course, went down. And start-up costs...we really didn't have enough to open the doors. So, graciously the Town gave us money which helped us in replacing the well pump. Brian Cote used a Farmall tractor, adjusted the blades that we usually use for the rough, to mow the fairways with the rough mow, but we were open for business. People were allowed to come, we made some money and we were able to recoup from that.

Danny Higgins: Thank you.

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: From what I see tonight, there is information provided about a 501c7 corporation. Um, I'm not sure if the question is if I'm a 501c7, or if I provide public benefits. From what I can see, we provide free golf for children under the age of 18, along with golf lessons. When I was in high school...right now Ashland does not have a high school team. When I was in high school, I was part of the team and we invited other teams to our course for meets. We also had the Aroostook Cup Championship there at no cost to those schools. I provide recreation and entertainment to tourists and the townspeople. Most people also eat and sleep in this town, and we support it in other ways because of that. I did receive a very nice letter from Ken and Joyce Nelson today stating that one of the main reasons they are still here is because of the golf course.

Cathie Farnum: **I make a motion that we vote on this Article by paper ballot.**

Judy Moreau: **I second.**

Moderator: This is not a debatable motion. At this point in time we will vote on whether this will be a secret ballot vote on the main motion of the golf course \$2,500.

Roland Caron: Point of order. Have you exhausted the discussion?

Moderator: Just because we vote on the method doesn't mean the discussion on the main motion is over. We are simply voting right now on what method we are going to use, we will come back to the main discussion of the major motion. Once a motion is made on the method of balloting we must deal with that first. Then we will come back and open discussion back up on the original motion. So we are voting on whether to go by paper ballot. All those in favor of a paper ballot?

Roland Caron: Point of order, are we going to vote by secret ballot to determine whether or not we will vote for secret ballot?

Moderator: No, not unless you make another motion. We can mess with this all night long.

Roland Caron: There is obviously a reason why they want to vote by secret ballot. If people would rather have the privacy to vote one way or the other, I think we ought to afford them that.

Moderator: To your point Roland, we are in a procedural problem at this point. Because we agreed to go by hand vote that is the general vote at this point, unless a motion is made to change that. The motion can be made to change that, but we are still under the old rules until it has been changed.

Roland Caron: And if everyone is comfortable with that, so am I.

Moderator: So, any objections to that? We are voting now with the pink ballots to see if we will be voting by secret ballot on the main motion. All those in favor? Please hold them up, if it's going to be closer I'd like to count them. Those opposed? **Motion to vote the main by secret ballot carries.** The eventual vote will be done by secret ballot. We are back to the main motion, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Hills Country Club to help expand their services, like a youth program. There is a motion and second on the floor. Any further discussion on the motion?

Marcelle Gagnon: My question is for Dylan. Is this a one-time request for the \$2,500?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Yes, depending on the success of our youth program. Yup.

Marcelle Gagnon: What is your tax status?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Our tax status is a 501c7 non-profit corporation.

Judy Moreau: I understand from the material that I have researched that you have to be a member or be accompanied by a member to golf on the golf course, and you also have to pay green fees. Is that fact or is that fiction?

Roland Caron: That's fake news.

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: You do have to pay greens fees, but you do not have to be accompanied by a member. You can go there as the general public. We are not discriminating against that whatsoever.

Judy Moreau: Why does it say in your Articles of Association that you must be accompanied by a member if you are not a member? Do you understand the question?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: I do, yes.

Judy Moreau: Why does it say that in your Articles of Association?

Moderator: Make sure everything is addressed to me first. Dylan, you don't have an answer for that?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: I do not.

Moderator: If there is someone who has an answer for that specific question as why it is in the Articles?

Gerry, as a former member and president maybe you could answer that?

Gerry Cormier: Well, several years ago, in fact when I was President of the golf course, we did amend that article. We needed that for a specific status. Apparently when the elders that made the corporation, Portage Hills Development Corporation, they went with a different tax status only to accumulate certain funds. They needed funds, obviously, to build a golf course. Over the years it was advised by our lawyer at the time, Rick Currier, that we needed to change that. And there is documentation that that article was changed by the directors and membership of Portage Hills Country Club. So I'm not sure if everybody has the right information, but once again, because there are so many people involved, things kind of go by the wayside, and everybody says this and says that. But on a different note, I do have to say, as being a long time citizen of the town of Portage, and I'm thinking back years ago when folks like Rayno Cote, Gilbert Cyr, and my father—upstanding citizens of the Town of Portage—had a dream. And it's great to see that dream continue. And if the only way we can get people or kids involved with golfing---because golfing is a life-long sport, and there are people of many different ages that actually do it. Really to keep golf going you need to have young people coming up and actually doing it. So the whole purpose of this is to get more kids involved. Years ago when we were growing up, there were plenty of kids around. But as time goes on, there are other things to do, like sitting in front of an electronics game and spending 8 or 10 hours a day doing that. If you get them on the golf course it is a whole different picture. So, I'd just like support from everybody here to make this happen.

Danny Higgins: Gerry, you know I'm in favor of the golf course. But years ago with Radar and your cousin Bobby Cyr—was he your cousin or nephew?

Gerry Cormier: They're not related to me. They are my wife's cousins.

Danny Higgins: Anyway, they said to go out there and try it. Alright? So they put the tee in the ground, they put the ball, and I took three swipes and I missed all three times. So I took the golf club, and I threw it in the woods. And Bobby said "what are you doing, Dan?" I said I can't hit the ball, I'm leaving. But I've always donated to the Portage Hills Country Club.

Roland Caron: OK, I'll put my serious hat on. I talked with a number of people who have been in town a little bit today, in fact not for this issue but for an issue at the University up there in Fort Kent. But it just saddens me that this small community has these type of issues when we are sitting on a million dollars, we are giving thousands of dollars to other communities, and the golf club....I don't even play golf...but the golf club is trying to do right by the kids in the community, get them back into a program. I look at the golf club as an asset to this whole community. OK? When you talk to people outside of this community, they'll say 'Portage Lake, you have a golf club there don't you?' So it shouldn't be about 'we can't do this, we shouldn't do that'...'we did for this one, we can't do it for that one'...The attitude should be what can we do to make this community better? What can we do to make it more attractive for people to move here? OK? And if we can't come up with \$2,500 to help the Golf Club out, we are really in poor shape. Thank you.

Judy Moreau: Mr. Moderator I don't think we can compare apples and oranges, Humane Societies, soup kitchens, etc., etc., is not like a golf course. And from Dylan's letter in the front of book, the kids get to play free until they are 18. So I don't understand, if the kids can play free, why are they trying to push for a children's activity? And what's the age of these children going to be?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Judy, it's a little expensive for parents to go out....let's say they have two or three kids...to buy a set of golf clubs, let alone three, as well as the balls and tees. So this is why I would like to set up this program, and the money would be used for that. The kids would walk away with the golf clubs.

Judy Moreau: Keep them?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: Correct.

Judy Moreau: No. Rent them instead.

Taunja Jandreau: So since all of this has come up, I have done some research on a 501c7, and some of the things that jumped out at me, because you are a 501c7, and that's how you file your taxes: the club must be supported by membership fees, dues and assessments; the club may not hold itself as providing goods and services to the general public. I get what you are trying to do, I'm not a golfer but I get that you are wanting to turn things around. Great for you guys. I'm not a big fan of some of the things that happen up there, but I told you that personally. So you guys are running it like a business, not as a 501c7, so I think that is where some of the issues are. So, if you are going to run it as a 501c7, then follow the rules and regulations that are set forth by the IRS, or file it as a business and then make all the money you want. It wasn't that long ago that I was in this situation trying to build a playground out front for the kids in this town. I did not have support from the Selectboard. Actually, one of the gentlemen that was a selectman then is here in the audience. So what I had to do was fund raisers, sponsorships, and grants. That's how I made that possible. By myself. The Town put in the small portion, but I had to do the rest. Those grants that I applied for are still available, and that's something that you can do as well. I have to ask how many kids used your program last summer? You implemented it last year, how many kids used your program last year?

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: We did not fully implement it last year. We had an open house where we provided lessons, and I do believe several kids took advantage of that. I do know one individual that was up there quite a few times during the summer.

Taunja Jandreau: There are ways to make this happen without having to come to the Town and ask for the money for it. I think that's where things are getting people a little upset. It is being run like a business. You are for-profit; you guys did really well last summer, and I have heard that several times from the board. So, for me, I don't know why you are here.

Arthur Routhier: My son was one of those who took part in the program, but as a taxpayer, I don't believe...I don't vote for any of these clubs to get any money. I believe that municipal taxes are for the running of the town. Period. I go to all of these clubs, BBQ's, whatever, spend hundreds of dollars every summer. That's where the money should come from. I don't believe it should be the tax payers carrying the brunt of these...any of it. And I don't vote for it.

Reuben Caron: I would like to address a question to the president of the Snowmobile Club. Three questions. First is what is the tax designation on the Portage Lake Snowmobile Club? Second, do they allow non-members to join their activities...do they allow non-members to use their trails? And third, does the president feel like he runs the Snowmobile Club...or is the Snowmobile Club run like a business?

Barry Kenney: As the president of the club we are a 501c7, non-for-profit. And, yes, non-members do get to use the trails. Absolutely like a business, we have a \$200,000 machine there that doesn't run on fairy dust. Every organization here should be run like a business.

Pat Kelley: I only want to build a little bit to what Roland has brought to the table. My wife and I came to Portage and we settled in this community because that golf course is up there on the hill. We came here, started coming to Portage not very long ago—probably in the '60s. [laughter in audience] But, I know this community and I like this community, and I hate to see a community divided over \$2,500. I think it is sad that it has come to that. But I just want to build on the fact that the golf course is something that is

really good for this community. Every golfer that I've ever talked to knows about Portage Lake. It brings folks here; it brings income to this community. The golf course has gone through tough times and there is a group of people working hard to try to bring it back. I guess a little help is all we are looking for, and it would be appreciated.

Josh Spooner: I just had a couple comments. Whether or not the golf course falls under the guidelines of a 501c7, that's not what we are debating here. That is between the golf course and the IRS. Nobody else. Yes, the club did well last year and had a surplus of revenues. That doesn't mean they profited. Nobody is profiting. None of the board members took any of that money and put it in their pockets, none of the members did. That money is in the bank account just like any other organization that has money. And it's there. Who knows? Maybe this year it might not go nearly as well, and they might not make any money. So that money is there to cover it. We are here right now to vote on whether or not to appropriate money. Nothing more. The tax designation really is irrelevant to this discussion.

Gerry Cormier: So in light of the new information, the Town has already voted to appropriate money to the Snowmobile Club and it's the same tax identification, correct? Can I assume that? So I'm assuming...what is the difference? This money is to be used to look at educating kids in golf. Mr. Higgins over here talked about trying to golf. I'm sorry to say that he probably didn't have very good teachers. There are some people here who can teach you how to golf, and you will hit the ball. You just can give a kid a set of golf clubs and expect them to go on the golf course and do well. First of all, they are going to create a lot of divots, and divots are not good for a golf course. The other thing is, in order for them to enjoy the experience of golf, there is a lot of golf course etiquette, and in order to enjoy that it is part of the lesson. You just don't go out and think you hit a soccer ball, you are going to play soccer...you can't just play baseball by throwing a baseball and having a glove. There is a whole process to the thing. I think the idea is to use this money and to get that regeneration for young kids in the Town of Portage.

Taunja Jandreau: So I want to clarify, when I said that it was run like a business, yes, every group should be run like a business. What I mean, and I should have clarified...Friday nights? Pizza, the public can go up there and eat. So, that doesn't fall under the 501c7 guidelines because it is open to the public for that. Saturday night dances, bands, the public can go up there for that. The Snowmobile Club does not have a club house where you can offer those events, social occasions, whatever you want to call it. So that's what I meant when I said that it is being run like a business. You have this location; yes you are using it to your advantage to bring in some money, and you have done well with that. That is what I meant when I said this is being run like a business.

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: In the information that has been provided for us here today, right at the bottom under "activities", it says "dealing with outsiders will not automatically deprive the club of exemption; the club may not hold itself out as providing goods and services to the general public." I believe who published it, it is sourced from IRS.gov.

Taunja Jandreau: And I also have this, from IRS.gov, it says organizations may not receive more than 35% of its gross receipts from outside sources. So, I would dare say that a good portion of what you made last year is from your non-members either from your pizza nights, dances, Thirsty Thursdays, whatever it is that goes on for your events. So, 35% cannot come from non-members.

Dylan Cyr-Cormier: I do believe we are not talking about the status of my tax exemption.

Roland Caron: **Move the question.**

Moderator: We have a move for the question. There has been a motion made to move the question, I can't debate at this point. This will be voted by secret ballot. All those in favor for a move to question, which means we are ready to vote? All those opposed?

Gerry Cormier: I'm confused. I don't think discussion has ended yet.

Moderator: That is what they are moving, to end discussion and go to the vote.

David Farnum: Isn't that in itself a motion, like the original motion doesn't that have to be voted on to actually end the discussion?

Moderator: That's what we just did, we voted yes or no on it so that we could go to the actual ballot vote at this point.

David Farnum: No, I mean the motion made to go to the vote, doesn't that have to be seconded and voted on to end discussion to go to the vote?

Moderator: I just asked to accept or not, yay or nay, and there were more yays than nays. I did ask. I didn't have any nays at that point. At this point we are going to ask in an organized way so the clerks can keep track. One row at a time so the clerks keep track and check you off on the register.

All voters eligible to vote in Town Affairs at this meeting line up to vote by secret ballot. Two Ballot Clerks are on hand to count ballots.

All those in favor: 29

All those opposed: 23

Motion to give the Portage Hills Country Club \$2,500 carries.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine Routhier