

2020 Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday June 2, 2020
6:30 PM at the Municipal Tennis Courts

AROOSTOOK, s.s.

STATE OF MAINE

The election portion of the Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 3 pm on Thursday March 26, 2020 at the Municipal Building to act on the following two Articles:

- ART. 1 It was moved and seconded to nominate Michelle Eastman as moderator. Two paper ballots were cast to vote in Ms. Eastman. She was duly sworn in as moderator.
- ART. 2 To elect by secret ballot the following Officer(s):
One (1) Select Board member for a term of three (3) years
David Pierce: 14 votes
Write Ins: 5 votes
Blanks: 4
One (1) Portage Lake School Board member for a term of three (3) years
Kimberly K. Holmes: 23 votes

The meeting was recessed at 7 pm on March 26 and reconvened outside on the tennis courts at 6:30 pm on June 2, 2020, after having been postponed two times to accommodate Covid-19 social distancing restrictions set forth by the State of Maine, then and there, to act on the following Articles to wit:

There were 22 resident voters and two non-resident voters present.

Michelle Eastman was unable to continue her duties as moderator for the remainder of the Town Meeting on Tuesday June 2, 2020, and had appointed Joel Hall as deputy moderator to continue in that capacity. Joel Hall was duly sworn. David Pierce was duly sworn as Select Board member at this June 2, 2020 meeting.

- ART. 3 It was moved and seconded to authorize the Selectboard to appoint all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year. Motion carried.
- ART. 4 It was moved and seconded 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, 2021 to the annual March Town Meeting. Motion carried.
- ART. 5 It was moved and seconded to 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. Motion carried.
- ART 6. It was moved and seconded to approve applications for the 2020 Community Development Block Grant project development, and to submit same to the Department of Economic and Community Development and if said program is approved, to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities and to exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such programs. Furthermore, the Town of Portage Lake is cognizant of the requirement that should the intended National Objective of the CDBG program not be met, all CDBG funds must be repaid to the State of Maine CDBG program. Motion carried.
- ART. 7 It was moved and seconded to allow a 2% discount on taxes paid within 30 days of the mailing date and set an interest rate of 9%, per 36 MRSA sec 505.4, on unpaid taxes 60 days after the date of tax commitment. Motion carried.

- ART. 8 It was moved and seconded to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Sec. 506. Motion carried.
- ART. 9 It was moved and seconded to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to allow the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosure *before* the notice of foreclosure has been executed when a request has been made by the owner and it is in the best interest of the Town. Motion carried.
- ART. 10 It was moved and seconded to authorize the Municipal Officers to sell or dispose of tax-acquired property for all taxes, fees and interest owed in any manner which they deem to be in the best interests of the Town, after first offering the property to the previous owners, and to bring writs of entry for recovery of any parcels of land that have been acquired by the Town by reason of non-payment of taxes, the time of redemption having expired, *excepting* that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 MRS § 943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owners. Motion carried.
- ART. 11 It was moved and seconded 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. Motion carried.
- ART. 12 It was moved and seconded to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate \$25,000 from surplus to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year, as they deem advisable. Motion carried.
- ART. 13 It was moved and seconded to accept all monies received from the Maine Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program for the coming year and deposit it into the Public Works Road Reserve account. Motion carried.
- ART. 14 It was moved and seconded to expend 20% of the Ministerial School Lot fund (a total of \$13,626.40) for payment toward the 2020/2021 Portage Lake School Department assessment. Motion carried.
- ART. 15 It was moved and seconded to appropriate \$70,000 from anticipated motor vehicle excise revenue for the Road Reserve account. Motion carried.
- ART. 16 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Revaluation Account on the Town books for the next total town property revaluation. Motion carried.
- ART. 17 It was moved and seconded to appropriate \$50,000 from anticipated revenue sources for the purpose of reducing the 2020 tax commitment. Motion carried.
- ART. 18 It was moved and seconded 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. Motion carried.
- ART. 20 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for Scholarships to be given to students graduating in June of 2020 who apply and qualify. Motion carried.
- ART. 21 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$25,959 in addition to \$9,041 carried forward for a total budget of \$35,000 for the General Administration operating account, and to allow any reimbursements and fees to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 22 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$87,709 in addition to \$1,791 carried forward for a total budget of \$89,500 for the Town Manager, Deputy Town Clerk, Town Clerk/Treasurer and Selectpersons. Motion carried.

- ART. 23 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$4,922 in addition to \$878 carried forward for a total budget of \$5,800 for real & personal property Assessing and registry fees. Motion carried.
- ART. 24 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$23,576 in addition to \$2,424 carried forward for a total budget of \$26,000 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees and any reimbursements to be used for the same, and to carry forward the balance of \$4,214 for Town Hall Improvements and repairs. Motion carried.
- ART. 25 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,300 in addition to \$600 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,900 for the Planning & Appeals Boards. Motion carried.
- ART. 26 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$8,644 in addition to \$2,856 carried forward for a total budget of \$11,500 for Code Enforcement activities, and to allow plumbing & building permit fees, fines, and any other reimbursements to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 27 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$14,694 in addition to \$806 carried forward for a total budget of \$15,500 for discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of tax bills, and to carry forward \$3,170 for tax abatement. Motion carried.
- ART. 28 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for approximate annual membership dues for Maine Municipal Assn., Maine Tourism Assn., Maine Acadian Heritage Council, Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce and Central Aroostook Soil & Water. Motion carried.
- ART. 29 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,278 for dues to Northern Maine Development Commission. *Select Board and Budget Committee recommend No.* Motion denied.
- ART. 30 It was moved and seconded to carry forward \$3,466 for the General Assistance Program and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 31 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$46,425 in addition to \$5,575 carried forward for a total budget of \$52,000 for the Insurance & Social Security accounts, and to allow any reimbursements or dividends to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 32 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$25,263 in addition to \$2,737 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. Motion carried.
- ART. 33 It was moved and seconded to carry forward \$2,068 for specific Police Patrol for the coming year. Motion carried.
- ART. 34 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,382 in addition to \$1,118 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,500 for the Animal Control operating account, and to allow any dog license fees and fines to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 35 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$72,458 in addition to \$11,542 carried forward for a total budget of \$84,000 for the Public Works operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 36 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$40,564 for Aroostook Valley Solid Waste Disposal District (Ashland Transfer Station). Motion carried.

- ART. 37 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$300 in addition to \$720 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,020 for expenses related to the Portage Lake Transfer Station, including the annual licensing fee and maintenance of the old dump site. Motion carried.
- ART. 38 It was moved and seconded to expend up to 20,000 from Stumpage Reserve to purchase a side boom mower for the backhoe for roadside mowing. Motion carried.
- ART. 39 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,525 in addition to \$2,475 carried forward for a total budget of \$4,000 for Contracted Services for road side mowing, grader work and miscellaneous expenses related to this account. Motion carried.
- ART. 40 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$700 in addition \$2,050 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,750 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery, and to allow lot sale revenue to be used for the same. Motion carried.
- ART. 41 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$911 in addition to \$1,089 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,000 for Portage Lake Beautification. Motion carried.
- ART. 42 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$868 in addition to \$1,143 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,600 for the Portage Lake Recreation Department. Motion carried.
- ART. 43 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$16,500 for 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. Motion carried.
- ART. 44 It was moved and seconded to carry forward \$5,000 for continued restorations and improvements to the Seaplane Base. Motion carried.
- ART. 45 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$8,500 for street lights. Motion carried.
- ART. 46 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$22,035 Ashland User Fees: Ambulance Service, \$18,091.98; Library, \$1,860.47; Recreation, \$2,082.42. Motion carried.
- ART. 47 It was moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$3,010 for the following requested financial social services assistance:
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| American Red Cross | \$500 |
| Aroostook Agency on Aging | \$300 |
| Aroostook County Action Program | \$78.20 |
| Ashland Food Pantry | \$350 |
| Catholic Charities of Maine | \$100 |
| Homeless Services of Aroostook | \$586.50 |
| 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 (Ashland) | \$100 |
| Dalhgren/Skidgel Veterans' Farm of Hope | \$100 |
- Motion carried.

- ART. 48 Motion made and seconded to apply for a grant through the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program to pay certified boat inspectors at minimum wage from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend as an incentive to increase boat inspection participation in an effort to protect Portage Lake from invasive milfoil. Motion carried.
- ART. 49 Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lake Historical Society. Motion carried.
- ART. 50 Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lake Snowmobile Club for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance of local snowmobile trails for public use, and to pay to the Portage Lake Snowmobile Club all snowmobile fees reimbursed to the Town from the State of Maine in the coming year. Motion carried.
- ART. 51 Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers ATV Club for aiding in the maintenance of the local ATV trail system for public use. Motion carried.
- ART. 52 Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,500 to help pay for the annual fireworks show during the Summer Round-up Festival in August. Motion carried.
- ART. 53 Motion made and seconded to expend \$20,000 from the Public Works Equipment Reserve Account and \$75,500 from the Stumpage Reserve account to purchase a new backhoe for the Public Works Department. Motion carried.
- ART. 54 Motion made and seconded to expend up to \$17,500 from Stumpage Reserve to install energy efficient windows in the Municipal Building. Motion carried.
- ART. 55 Motion made and seconded to expend up to \$50,000 from Stumpage Reserve to purchase a used 1-Ton for the Public Works Department. Motion carried.
- ART. 56 Motion made and seconded to expend up to \$18,000 from Surplus to purchase a new lawnmower for the Parks Department. Motion carried.
- ART. 57 Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for Northwood Manor, an Ashland healthcare facility. Motion carried.
- ART. 58 Motion made and seconded to expend up to \$60,000 from Stumpage Reserves to rebuild the lower end of Stockford Road and pave the entire road when all ground work is complete. Motion carried.
- ART. 59 Motion made and seconded to expend \$5,000 from Surplus to aid in a new playground at the beach as part of a local young adult's community service project. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine M. Routhier, Town Clerk & Treasurer