

# Town of Portage Lake Special Town Meeting Tuesday January 6, 2009

**ART. 1** To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

It was moved and seconded to elect Lou Sandy Boutot as moderator to preside over said meeting. Motion carried. Lou Sandy Boutot is voted as moderator and sworn in.

Then and there, at 7:27 p.m., the floor was open to the public for the purpose of voting on Article 2.

There were 26 voters present, three Selectmen, the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

**ART. 2** Shall the Town of Portage Lake vote to approve a Community Development Block Grant application for the following program and dollar amount:

Program: Portage Lake Elderly Housing      Amount: \$250,00

and 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 assurances, assume such responsibilities, and 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 made in the affirmative, seconded

Discussion:

**Judy Moreau:** Could you read the last couple of sentences about what is supposed to be paid back?

**Lou Sandy Boutot:** Sure. (She re-reads the last few lines of the Article)

**Judy Moreau:** What is the national objective?

**John Egan:** The primary focus is the CDBG funds go to low to moderate income project. There will be income certifications either by census or others that have to be submitted to the state. There is a number of places in the process where the state economic development process will come and ask for verifications. Because it is federal money there are standards that will be required for purchasing and also for environmental clearance on the site. So the owners will have to go through a certain process that complies with the federal government. Depending on the dollar amount, there may be a requirement for a standardized wage schedule for anyone who is working on the site, but I don't think that will apply here. The land will have to have a federal environmental screening to make sure there is no Indian burial ground or anything like that.

**Judy Moreau:** What about horses?

**John Egan:** As long as there is no contamination of the ground water it will be fine.

**Jean Clark:** As long as these process are done correctly, this is a grant and we won't have to repay it.

**John Egan:** Correct. The program comes with guidelines and instructions about how to meet all of that, so you really have to be trying hard to defraud the government.

**Judy Moreau:** How strict is the environmental process?

**John Egan:** It is very lengthy, so it costs a lot of money to get an environmental engineer. They test the ground itself. They will do a deed check to see what has been on the grounds for the last 100 years. They will check to make sure there isn't cross contamination from abutting properties. If they find anything, they will do a phase two where they will actually dig test pits.

**Judy Moreau:** If this site doesn't pass the environmental tests, then what would happen? Could you have another site?

**John Egan:** Yes. They would allow you to change locations to find another site.

**Danny Higgins:** I lived on that property for 40 some-odd years, and I am in excellent health...well it wasn't the water I drank.

**Ray Cyr:** We have already started the environmental process with the state through 12 state agencies. I am negotiating with them now on various things, and I have about half of them satisfied.

**Judy Moreau:** The thing I am wondering about is if the Town Hall doesn't test well to drink, will that piece of property test well for drinking water.

**Jen Curran:** Even if it doesn't, it can be treated. There are water softeners and filters.

**Danny Higgins:** When the pits were dug for the septic, we had to go to the water level, and there is a lot of water that is spring fed.

**Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine Routhier