

Town of Portage Lake
Special Town Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 26, 2012 7:00 P.M.
Portage Lake Municipal Building

Aroostook County, ss

State of Maine

The meeting was held at the Portage Lake Municipal Building on Tuesday, the twenty-sixth (26th) of June, 2012, at seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening, then and there, to act on the following articles to wit:
There were 17 resident voters, 1 resident non-voter and 2 non-residents present.

ART. 1 To elect a Moderator.

Moved and seconded to nominate Lou Sandy Boutot as Moderator. All in favor. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded to cease nominations. All in favor. Motion carried.

Two written ballots are cast to elect Lou Sandy Boutot as moderator. Lou Sandy Boutot is sworn in as Moderator.

Moderators Comments:

Lou Sandy Boutot: If there is no objection, we will be guided by the Maine Moderators Manual in supervising the conduct of this meeting. And a few housekeeping issues before we start: All questions and comments will be directed to me, and then if I cannot answer I will direct it to someone who can answer. We will have a show of hands for the voting, except for Article 15, which will be a written ballot with a yes or no vote. In all the Articles, the recommendations...The amounts recommended were made by our newly elected School Board officials. And the last thing is, in all fairness to all of our taxpayers, voters and non-voters who are not register...well, actually I shouldn't have said non-voters, but people who are not registered voters of Portage but wish to speak at this meeting, whether to offer opinions or just to ask questions, I would like them to identify themselves at this time. We have no body that is...What's the...He's the accountant, right? Charlie, will you need to speak here?

Charlie Anderson: I don't know, but I'll stand up and identify myself just in case I have to. Charlie Anderson from Stockholm.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Ok. What I want to do to keep the meeting flowing smoothly we are using the rule of order and that is to allow these people, with one vote, we will allow these people to speak so that we don't have to vote every time they wish to speak, for every person that is not a voter who wish to speak, there is only one it probably wouldn't matter anyway. Where this is how it was planned, I need a motion to set this in order.

***Motion made and seconded to allow all non-residents attending the meeting to be able to make comments at the meeting. All in favor. Motion carries.**

ART. 2 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.

Recommend \$303,131

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I'd like to know what the \$303,131 was based on. Was it the State average for tuition for student, or was it the average based on what SAD 32 is expending for students according to the DOE of \$7,865 per student, or was it broken down?

David Farnum: I believe the tuition rates noted on the pink colored sheet for that item, expense item are the rates that came off the state's print out for Portage.

Barb Pitcairn: Was it broken down between high school....

Dave Farnum: Yes, it's broken down. It's a rate for both. It says right here on, I don't know if you have the pink sheet....

Barb Pitcairn: \$7,025.80?

Dave Farnum: Yes, that's for the elementary. And 9-12 are \$8832.93. And those are the figures that came right from the state, recommended tuition.

Barb Pitcairn: So there are 37 students attending Portage...attending SAD...are tuitioning from Portage to SAD 32?

Dave Farnum: That is what it is based on, yes.

Barb Pitcairn: And do we know for a fact that there are 37 students?

Dave Farnum: Do I know that today? No, I don't.

Missy Boutot: That was the most recent pupil count as of April 2012.

Barb Pitcairn: Will we be doing our own...

Dave Farnum: We will be billed actuals, I believe. We are not going to be billed.

Gerald Cormier: The student count can fluctuate, because if you could have a family move in and they have five kids at various ages, so you have to start somewhere. You never really kind of know exactly what your student population is going to be. You could have a bunch of kids move away to a different town, so you always have to kind of go with a base number.

Barb Pitcairn: My question is will we be doing our own registration?

Dave Farnum: The students will be registered with SAD 32.

Missy Boutot: They are not required to register here.

Barb Pitcairn: But we are our own school board, they would have to register here, right? We are our own school.

Dave Farnum: We have been told that they will register with SAD 32. We don't have a school here; the school is in Ashland.

Barb Pitcairn: But how can you track it?

Dave Farnum: They will give us that information. They will provide the information and they do the count in April and October, right?

Lou Sandy Boutot: I believe to register you need qualified personnel to do that, and Portage obviously is contracted services. Is there any more discussion? Then let's vote.

Motion carries. Article 2 passes.

ART. 3 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for Special Education.

Recommend \$35,292

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Dave Farnum: When the motion is made, I'd like the motion refer to approving the recommended amount, since the amount isn't part of the article. If that's OK with you? The amount isn't part of the Article, so if they so move and don't say "so move the recommended amount" or something then you don't know what amount you voted for.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Ok. We are just assuming it is the amount that was read. Unless they specify...

Dave Farnum: That's fine as long as they are going to assume that, just as long as it's stated.

Lou Sandy Boutot: So is everybody understanding that? What I read is the assumed amount, and if you don't agree with that amount then you can state an amount when you so move to accept the Article. Any discussions on that one? On Article 3, I should say? Then I guess we'll vote.

Motion carries. Article 3 passes.

ART. 4 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for career and technical education.

Recommend \$0

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carries. Article 4 passes.

ART. 5 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for other instruction.

Recommend \$0

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carries. Article 5 passes.

ART. 6 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for student and staff support.

Recommend: \$0

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Just out of the blue, what if we needed student and staff support? What if our students needed something? Are we going to be able to offer that? I mean...

Dave Farnum: This particular item doesn't apply to Portage as a municipal school unit. Any services that would fall under that are provided by our tuitioning to Ashland SAD 32.

Barb Pitcairn: So it's not something that would be separate, so it would come under administrative, or it would come under the tuitioning, or it would come under...It's just not something we are going to need, period.

Dave Farnum: Right.

Missy Boutot: Charlie, what's normally in that cost center? What type of expenses?

Charlie Anderson: Let me explain. Student and staff support are normally includes guidance services and library services, and school nurse for example. And the students of Portage Lake have access to those services by being tuition students. They wouldn't be denied services, it's folded in. So those are the normal services that are provided.

Barb Pitcairn: So it wouldn't be a separate program that we would have to have or anything. OK. Thanks.

Motion carries. Article 6 passes.

ART. 7 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for system administration.

Recommend \$27,500

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Other than the contracted amount with SAD 32 for systems administration, so you....with the Town of Portage or the School District encounter any other expenditures?

Dave Farnum: Yes. We have to have our books audited every year, and we have to have our own insurance for the School Board, etc., liability type insurance and whatnot. So that's going to be an expenditure. That is going to be over \$2,000 a year depending on what we get. So, yes, there will be other costs. And legal fees if we have to hire a lawyer. There will definitely be other fees.

Barb Pitcairn: Will the Town of Portage have its own...Let's say there was somebody moving to town and they wanted to speak with someone in the Portage Lake School District. Will there be a number for them to call? Will there be a person for them to speak with?

Dave Farnum: I would think that would be set up. Right now we are in the process of doing budgets and hiring administration and...But yes, I think that will be set up; that there will be a number, a contact for the School Board if they need to go to them with an issue, yes. But as of today, we are taking care of this business. We have been working every day.

Motion carries. Article 7 passes.

ART. 8 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for school administration.

Recommend \$0

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None. **Motion carries. Article 8 passes.**

ART. 9 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for transportation and busses.

Recommend \$65,000

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I am blown away by this amount, I truly am. I took the time, and I told a lot of people. I rode the town, every street, every bus route. Missy, you know what I did...

Missy Boutot: We have more information to give you. Dave also ran that with SAD 32 officials, so we will be altering this number. But when we put this budget information, because of the time line we were under to get it out for referendum, we had to use the information that we had. So we did reduce it ourselves at our own budget committee meeting; took it down to \$15,000. Rob recommended that we add some of the contingency back to this line where we hadn't had a chance to meet with SAD 32 officials to hammer out the mileage. So, I think we've since done that, so we expect the actual expense to be less than this. But this is what we put, worst case scenario, when we put the budget together.

Barb Pitcairn: Well, then, this might be a good time for me to ask why the contingencies on these line items are all around \$15,000?

Missy Boutot: We had to spread our contingency out amongst the cost centers; we weren't allowed to keep it as its own line item as contingency. The law makes us spread it out. Dave can explain a little bit more.

Dave Farnum: We could have put it...Originally it was all dumped into state debt service, but the problem is by the law says that you can only transfer 5% of the monies out of any cost center during that year into another cost center or cost centers. So, if you had all your money in one account for contingency and you needed to transfer some, and 5% of that account didn't let you transfer all of \$60,000, then you have contingency money that you theoretically couldn't use for the year unless you went to a town vote. You can use more than 5% if you go to the Town and have a special meeting and a vote and everything. But to work around that so you don't have to go that route, if you spread the contingency amount over the different accounts, two things happen: one, if you need it in that particular account, you have it; number two if you don't need it there, then 5% of that account is probably going to cover, the way we did it, most of that \$15,000 so you can move it all into another account. So, it is spread out to cover every account, and it is spread out so that you can transfer.

Barb Pitcairn: I understand, but there is a reason that 5% not being able to move from that cost center into another one. It is a system of checks and balances. We are allowing you \$65,000 for transportation. That's what we are going to raise as tax payers, \$65,000, with maybe \$20,000 coming from the state in a

transportation allocation. OK? What amazes me is even the town Selectpeople cannot buffer their accounts and their budgets by that amount. We cannot. And if we have to expend more than 5%, or \$5,000, we go to a Town Meeting. So, you're allotting all of that money in one cost center it is giving you carte blanche.

Dave Farnum: We are not putting the \$60,000 in one cost center. We spread it out.

Gerald Cormier: Let me give you a couple of scenarios. Say, for an example, you have a Kindergarten student, who is the only Kindergarten student that would be from Portage, and there is nothing in Nashville. That bus has to go all the way from Ashland and all the way to Portage 2 times. Now if you have an afternoon student and you have a morning student, that means there are four trips just for one student. Portage has to pay that. So that cost is part of that, it will be looked at. That cost is part of what we looked at. So, when you are looking at some of these mileages, you have to look at worst case scenario. And I think you are putting together a budget with people like us who have very little experience doing those types of things, we looked at all of those different options. So, if that money is not used, obviously it will carry over for next year; we'll have to raise less the following year. But to start off with, it is better to put more into it so that you have it there in case you need it. Because you never know what the options are going to be with students.

Barb Pitcairn: I just find that the contingency on each cost center is pretty high. And I understand that you would like it there.

Missy Boutot: I also want to say that we doubled our contingency based on your Board of Selectmen's recommendation to the School Committee. We only had \$25,000 to \$30,000 in contingency, and you guys emailed me and asked us to consider raising the contingency to \$60,000. So that's what we did.

Barb Pitcairn: I'm just concerned about giving it all to one cost center.

Missy Boutot: We didn't. We put \$15,000 in regular...

Barb Pitcairn: You doubled transportation.

Missy Boutot: No, we didn't. Listen. We put \$15,000 into Article 2, we put \$15,000 into Article 3, we put \$5,000 into Article 7, we put \$15,000 into Article 9, and we put \$10,000 into Article 11. If you look at your pink paper, every center lists how much money we spread the contingency over.

Barb Pitcairn: I understand your pink paper, however, that paper is very inaccurate. It's based on 28 to 29 miles. 29 miles times 3 times 173 times 252 is 37,920...

Missy Boutot: That's correct. But as I said to you before, when we put this budget information that had to be out by June...whatever it was. We had three days. We did not have a time as a school committee to drive those miles with SAD. We knew that we had a discrepancy, but we still went with the worst case scenario because we hadn't heard their side of the story as to where their mileage came from. You can move to change that amount.

Dave Farnum: I would like to just add that, I don't know if you are upset with the \$60,000 total, or you're upset with it all being in transportation. But like we said, we are trying to cover for everything and we had to have...we couldn't use what we thought was right without negotiating with SAD 32 and finding out what the actual mileage was. Because then we wouldn't have enough money. So, that's been explained. As far as the total \$60,000, this is our first year, we have no carry over; if we have one special ed. kid, that could take all of that money or more. If we have a whole bunch of students come in mid-year, then we are going to pay more in tuition because we are going to be billed actual, I assume. So, if you have five kids come in, you've got to have that money somewhere; we've got enough for two. So, you have to have the money somewhere in some of the cost centers, and that's why we spread it, not knowing where we are going to get hit. We don't plan on spending that \$60,000. Hopefully next year we will carry that over and we will set up a special education reserve fund, which the lawyer said we could do next year. And that

way we could put the bulk of that money right into that fund, in case we had that situation knowing that the other cost centers aren't going to over-run by a lot, typically, from year to year, unless you have an influx of a lot of students in one year. So, we put the money where we can use it.

Barb Pitcairn: If you have \$65,000 allotted for transportation and you happen to need it in special education, or special needs, can you move it from one cost center to the other?

Dave Farnum: Yes, 5% of it.

Missy Boutot: Only 5% of it. As long as you haven't used it.

Dave Farnum: With a town vote, you can move it all. You know, if you have an emergency where you have a real serious case that is going to cost a lot of money, you just go back to the Town. But you don't want to have to go back to the Town for a Town vote to approve transfer of funds if it is just minor for ordinary overruns that don't amount to a lot of money. But if you have a major one in special ed., then you might have to go to the Town anyway.

Motion carries. Article 9 passes.

ART. 10 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for facilities maintenance.

Recommend \$0

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None. **Motion carries.**

ART. 11 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for debt service and other commitments.

Recommend \$250,757

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I would like that one explained to me, too. Sorry. \$250,000 to \$220,000; that is a \$30,000 increase over what the debt service would normally be. We have \$179,000 due on the school, and another \$40,000 plus change due on the additional debt service, so that's a...let's round it up, \$220,000, and you are allocating \$250,000.

Dave Farnum: the state debt service for the new school I believe is \$200,659, of which we receive state subsidy of \$179,000 plus. So roughly there is \$20,000 that Portage is responsible for the new school on our own. However, this is a budget, and we have to authorize expenditures, so we are authorizing the expenditures of \$210,659 for the new school, which includes \$10,000 contingency. So, like I said it is \$200,000 to the new school, that's how much we have to pay. And we have to pay \$40,000 for the local debt, the auditorium, etc. So that is \$240,000 total. So, the \$250,000 is \$10,000 contingency above what we actually have to pay. So, the figures you used weren't necessarily accurate. We do have to pay \$200,000 for the new school and \$40,000 for the local debt. So, you have to add those two line items on the pink sheets to come up with the \$250,000. Does that explain that?

Barb Pitcairn: I'm just looking at the computation of unit allocation to funding for public schools. And it says that our debt service is \$179,692.

Missy Boutot: That's our revenue.

Dave Farnum: That's the state allocation. That's how much the state is giving us.

Barb Pitcairn: It doesn't say allocation; it just says debt service on there. So that's allocations that come...I'm sorry. If that's allocation, I'm wrong. I stand corrected.

Dave Farnum: The \$179,000 is the allocation that state is giving us, because...

Missy Boutot: And that number is on the top of the pink section.

Dave Farnum: \$179,692, is that the number you had? That's the state debt service allocation. That's how money they are going to give us, but they are really not going to give it to us, they are going to give it to us

monthly and keep it because we just pay the balance. We pay the \$20,000 on a monthly basis. But, yeah, that's what's coming in; that's not what's going out.

Motion carries. Article 11 passes.

ART. 12 To see what sum the Town will be authorized to expend for all other expenditures.

Recommend \$0

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None. **Motion carries. Article 12 passes.**

ART. 13 To see what sum the Town will *appropriate* for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (recommended \$503,764.41) and to see what sum the Town will *raise* as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Recommend \$324,072.44

Motion made in the positive to appropriate \$504,510.71 and to raise \$312,355.18, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Why?

Dave Farnum: The change from the original article is because these articles were put together and the Warrant was signed by the Selectpeople on June 15. On June 22nd, the State officially separated Portage from SAD 32, and all their record keeping and allocations and determinations of subsidies and whatnot. And on the Internet there is a form called an ED-279, it's an educational expense cost form, and that form came out with us as a separate unit and it changed those numbers slightly. Part of that change had to do with special education reimbursement, and so that's why those numbers had to be changed to reflect what is actually on the ED-279. The figures come right off that report. It is not something we came up with. And the \$504,000 and change, that's actually if you add up our special ed. and state debt funding allocation that we get from the state, and you add the \$312,000 to it....If you add the \$312,000 to the state aid that we get it comes up with the \$504,000. That's how those numbers are tied together. And it comes right from the state report. What you are actually doing in this Article is you are appropriating the \$504,000 to pay for the cost of part of the budget, but you are also allowing the Town to raise the \$312,000. We are raising some money to pay for our \$681,680 budget; that's our total budget. We are raising taxes to pay part of that, and we are not raising the part that we are getting state aid from. Last year it was \$694,010, and we raised \$604,010 because we had zero state aid.

This year we are getting state subsidy for school debt, we are getting state subsidy for special ed. So, when you back those out of the budget, you come up with these figures.

Barb Pitcairn: And transportation.

Motion to change the recommended amount to \$312,355.18 carries. Article 13 passes.

ART. 14 To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Town voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

Recommend \$40,098

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None. **Motion carries.**

ART. 15 (written ballot required) To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (recommend \$137,817.59), which exceeds the State's Essential Program and Services allocation model by (recommend \$130,405.78) as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

The school committee recommends \$137,817.59 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$130,405.78.

This amount is needed to cover the costs that the State's funding model does not recognize, including the following 1) costs of special education programming and 2) transportation costs.

Motion made to approve raise and appropriate the amount of \$137,071.29, which exceeds the EPS allocation by \$129,636.39, seconded.

Discussion:

Dave Farnum: I would just like to explain that these two numbers changed also in regards to the ED-279 and the new numbers that came out with the state. So, to reflect the actual numbers...that's why they were changed. And as far as the explanation, what it really means is you've already approved appropriating \$40,098 and the \$504,510.71 in the other Articles. If you add those figures up, you still have to appropriate enough money in these articles to fund the whole budget of \$681,680. This is simply the difference. And the reference to the EPS overspending is a state requirement. You have to compare what you are spending to what they think you should spend as a normal school unit, and most school units end up spending over, and that's why the state law requires that you have this statement in there. That amount is simply the rest of the money that you have to appropriate...raise and appropriate to pay the bills of the total budget. If you were to do number crunching you would find that the \$137,071.29 added to the \$504,510.71 added to the \$40,098 comes up with \$681,680.

Barb Pitcairn: So, we are actually overspending by one-fourth, \$129,000, from what the state recommends that we spend for education.

Dave Farnum: Yes.

Barb Pitcairn: That's what that means.

Dave Farnum: That's what that second figure means, yes. The first figure raises enough money to finish paying the rest of the budget, and the second figure tells you how much you are over. The EPS.

Barb Pitcairn: In tuitioning our students, I didn't think we were caught up in that. We are tuitioning our students. Where does this come into the equation?

Dave Farnum: It comes into the equation because as you and everybody should know, or needs to know, is that what we are spending to educate our kids isn't any less. What has changed is that the state is going to give us subsidies for school debt and special ed., which we don't get now. So, we won't have to raise as much taxes to fund the school budget. But we are still spending as much money to educate our children. That hasn't changed.

Barb Pitcairn: We received the money for the school debt, but it was just through a different avenue. And we received special education costs, but it was given to SAD 32. It was in there. I don't understand what we are going above and beyond what the state normally requires when we are tuitioning our students by \$129,000.

Dave Farnum: I don't know the ins and outs of the EPS program; I just know that that's something the state uses. Charlie would probably understand it far better than I do. I just know it's a model they have come up with and they use it to determine how much a school unit should spend, apparently. And if you spend more than that, they say you spend more than that.

They don't penalize you or anything; they just require you to make a statement that you are spending more than the state model says that we, based on a number of students and our town valuation, et cetera, should spend by their calculations. I think that is basically what that is all about.

Missy Boutot: And the model doesn't recognize Special Ed. programming and transportation. We are responsible for that.

Barb Pitcairn: Right, those are standards and we are paying for that. And we are paying another \$129,000 over and above the state average to educate our children. That's what this article is about.

Dave Farnum: We are not paying above the state average, we are paying that above what the state says, the EPS model says, that we based on our valuation and number of kids, et cetera, should have for a budget. That is what the state is saying. They are not saying we are spending...what you said. They are saying based on our town valuation, based on the number of students we have, and some other things, that we are spending that much more than what their model says that we should spend. And I believe most, if not all, of the units probably are in the same boat. Because they have a model that says this is how much a unit should spend on education, and it is based on all of these things. Well, that's the perfect world; that's not the world as it really happens in communities and SADs.

Jen Pitcairn: It seems a bit off from the transportation and special education, where is the discrepancy in the cost to educate is, what, \$40,000 more? It just costs more to educate students up here? Is that what they suggest?

Dave Farnum: \$40,000? I don't understand.

Jen Pitcairn: Well, you said that that number doesn't include transportation costs or special ed. costs, right? That \$129,000? So that is why we are over? Why is it so much more expensive to educate students...?

Dave Farnum: The reason that statement that begins with "This amount is needed" and ends in "transportation costs" was a statement that the lawyer asked us to put in there to partially clarify the EPS over expenditure. So, I can't speak or answer directly for that particular statement except that's what the lawyer told us to put in there.

Jen Pitcairn: I can understand that.

Dave Farnum: I can tell you that the \$137,000 is simply the balance of the budget, and you have to raise and appropriate it. And I can tell you that the \$129,000 is the difference between what we are spending versus how much the perfect world says that we should spend. And it's not something that is necessarily bad, it's just a fact and it comes from state figures. Is that right Charlie?

Charlie Anderson: All I want to add is that the number that Dave refers to, the EPS, spending model, You have to recall the state is only funding 45% of what they say are total education costs.

And the law says they are supposed to fund 55%, so in our analysis, in effect you are shortchanged by 55/45, but if you do the ratios and the numbers, you are really short changed by about 17%. So, if you took the total budget, of call it \$600,000 or \$700,000, and took 17% of that, that's how much should be coming off of your tax bill in addition to what is coming off because of the guarantees. But we are not getting it because the state is only funding a total of 45%. So even though the EPS number is what the state uses to calculate these forms, it is an artificially low number. And unfortunately for 7 years, the state hasn't funded its full share. Which explains, in some part, why you folks have been so unhappy over the years because the state hasn't done its part. So, again if we took 17% of \$700,000, you'd come up with a number that's not far off as \$130,000.

Barb Pitcairn: I just figured with paying \$303,000 for tuitioning our students, \$65,000 for transportation,

\$20,000 or \$30,000 for special ed. and administration fees, I fail to understand why the additional \$137,000, or \$129,000. You take \$303,000 and divide that by 37 students, you are coming up with \$9,200 a student.

Dave Farnum: If you are referring to the over-expenditure in Article 15 of the \$129,636.39, it's not extra money we are over spending. Like Charlie said, if you take what they don't...I'm guessing that they are supposed to fund it 55%, they are actually funding it 45%. It actually comes out to about 17%, but like Charlie said, if they base their EPS model on the 55% funding and all that part of the game, then if they were funding 55%, we wouldn't be over spending. But they are funding less than what they are supposed to be by law, and therefore we are over spending the perfect model by the same amount they are under-funding us. So, like Charlie said, if they were funding at 55%, this Article would be basically zero, we wouldn't be over spending. But they are under funding and it's causing us to over spend their model.

Judy Moreau: We are going to vote on a paper ballot that there has been no obstructions, folded, not folded....

Lou Sandy Boutot: I will give you the instructions after the discussion is done. Is there any more discussion?

Barb Pitcairn: OK. So, we are spending \$11,696 per student to tuition our students. That doesn't include transportation, that doesn't include special ed., and that does not include tuition. I just wanted everybody to know that. \$11,696. Thank you.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Any more discussion? Then we will vote. It will be a written ballot. After you have voted you will fold your papers and Kathy and maybe Hollie would help collect the votes.

Kathy Gagnon: Actually, they can go in the ballot box.

Lou Sandy Boutot: Ok. Then everybody can go put them in the ballot box.

Vote on this article is by written secret ballot using the ballot box.

Motion carries with a vote of 14 yes, 3 no. Article 15 passes.

ART. 16 To see what sum the Town will authorized the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funding school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

Recommend \$681,680

Motion made in the positive, seconded.

Discussion: None. **Motion carries. Article 16 passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine Routhier