

# Special Town Meeting

## April 16, 2009

### 7 p.m.

Art. 1            To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Moved and seconded to elect Greg Cyr as moderator of this meeting. Motion carried.  
Greg Cyr is voted moderator and sworn in.

Then and there the floor was open to the public for the purpose of voting on remaining articles. There were 31 voters present, 2 non-voters, three Selectmen, the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Art. 2            To see if the Town will vote to expend \$15,000 from the surplus account to hire a Grant Writer to pursue various grants.

Board of Selectmen recommends yes.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

#### Discussion:

(portions of the discussion were lost due to poor quality of tape used to record meeting)

Members of the public discuss the pay scale of David Potter, who has applied to be the grant writer for the Town of Portage Lake. He is asking for \$26.00 per hour for wages to write grants for the Town. Rudy Boutot asks why we need \$15,000 to find out if grants are available when a phone call probably could solve that problem. Ray Cyr explains there is more than one grant that needs to be applied for. One is for an emergency generator, another one is to fix the well head on the well to protect that better. He explains where the \$15,000 figure came from

(portions lost due to poor tape quality)

Discussion continues on what to do if there is money left over. Danny Higgins brings up the fact that Judy Moreau's daughter is a grant writer. Ray Cyr had contacted her in the past but has gotten no response. There is discussion on what it takes to become a grant writer. It is determined that the grant writer will get paid whether or not the grants he applies for are successful. Judy Moreau asks where the incentive is for him to really sink his teeth into this to get it for us? Jen Curran says Dave worked with the Portage Housing Board, and he wants everyone to receive grants; he doesn't apply for a grant for it not to go through. He wants to see better for anybody in the County. Discussion on whether the town looked into other contractors; discussion on the grant writer for St. Agatha. There is discussion on getting a grant for an emergency generator for the Town Hall building. There is discussion on what it takes to become a grant writer. Danny Higgins feels we should give the grant writer a chance, if he succeeds then we keep him. More discussion on a generator. Greg Cyr explains that all this article does is raise the money, it doesn't say who

we spend it on. The grant writer can work on more than one grant at a time. Rita Sinclair explains where the money for this article comes from.

Article 2 motion carries.

Art. 3 To see if the Town will vote to approve applying for a loan of \$500,000 for major road improvements on West Road. (Improvements consist of 1 mile of reconstruction and 2.2 miles of paving.)

Board of Selectpersons recommends yes

Motion made in affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Discussion on an infrastructure grant. Ray explains that money for that grant is stimulus money that is coming through the state. Discussion on getting a loan for this article. Discussion on the total debt of the Town currently, not including the snowmobile groomer which the Snowmobile Club pays. Danny Higgins suggests foregoing getting a loan and trying to apply for a grant to fix the roads. Discussion on the specifics for the loan being asked for. Beatrice Cormier feels the Town cannot afford a loan to fix the West Road, which she feels doesn't need that much work. There is negative discussion on using a loan to fix West Road; discussion on the condition of the roads in Town.

Article 3 motion denied.

Art. 4 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$50,000 from the surplus account For initial sub grade work on West Road.

Board of Selectpersons recommends yes

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion.

Discussion about what sub grade work consists of; discussion of financing of this article.

Article 4 motion is denied.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Corinne Routhier