

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
BOARD of SELECTPERSONS  
AGENDA  
JANUARY 9, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting To Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of December 12, 2001

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. School Board Update by Joanne Nelson
2. Signature Page for Seaplane Base Lease
3. Land Management Plan
4. Hanging of Wreaths and Flags

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request for Office Space
  - a. Eagle Lake Health Center
  - b. Fort Kent Credit Union
2. Budget Committee
3. Planning Board Vacancy
4. Fire Dept. Request For Consideration

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis, at 7 P.M.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Arthur Routhier and Christy Dicker, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Joanne Nelson, School Board Representative for Portage Lake.

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Christy Dicker and seconded by Arthur Routhier. Motion carries.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

Gloria Curtis dispensed with **BUSINESS FROM FLOOR** as there was none.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. School Board Update – Joanne Nelson, School Board representative for Portage Lake, asked the Board what their concerns were. Gloria Curtis asked if the rumor was true that the superintendent would be getting done. Joanne stated that the contract would not be renewed, but that is 18 months away. Moral is not good for students or faculty. There is a verse in circulation referring to the superintendent and all that is going on at school.

Gloria Curtis asked about the doors on the stalls in the bathrooms. Joanne answered that there are no doors in the boy's bathroom. "They were removed to prevent them from smoking in there." Gloria asked if they are going to be replaced. Joanne said, "They keep giving them the runaround. Students are not shown any respect. Detentions and suspensions are rampant. Time spent sitting in office is not right. Students are not being taught the three R's. Calculators are allowed from the beginning." Joanne also stated that faculty and students feel as though they are being spied upon. The administration is very lacking. Joanne Nelson stated the lawyers are looking into the contracts and what the buy out would be. There are discrepancies on purchases made. The superintendent thought he was allowed to spend \$5,000 without getting prior approval. The contract says \$500 for emergency repairs, not \$5,000. There needs to be board meeting to set priorities. People need to see the conditions of the schools. There were no faucets in the bathrooms for months. Finally, they had faucets put on.

Arthur Routhier asked about the scholarship issues. Joanne Nelson replied, "That's another sensitive area. The money is still in the lawyer's hands. The money is dwindling because of the attorney's fees." Rita Sinclair asked how many scholarships have been issued? Joanne replied only one that she knows of. A committee for scholarships included Linda Caron. The lawyers advised that was nepotism. A faculty member got done. Reuben Caron is taking that position. Gloria Curtis wondered if it

would be beneficial to get some selectpersons from surrounding towns to attend the school board meetings. Christy Dicker said they (the board) would go into executive session. If they don't want anyone to know what is happening, they won't talk about it.

Joanne Nelson said that class size is dwindling. The superintendent is not doing his job. Expenses are skyrocketing.

The Board of Selectpersons thanked Joanne Nelson for coming in to respond to concerns. The board discussed the lack of control by the school board. The money left to the district for scholarships is dwindling instead of being invested. Gloria Curtis will attend the next school board meeting.

2. Signature Page for Seaplane Base Lease – The town manager presented the signature page for the board to review and sign.

3. Land Management Plan – Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, expressed concern over the recent change in who will handle the management plan for the town's forest. She stated she had intended to call Laura Audibert, but happened to meet her over the weekend. Laura stated she didn't know what was up with Irving. They wouldn't give her a definite answer, but she felt as though they were trying to ease her out. This verified the concern of the town manager, who went on to say the reason the Board decided to go with Irving was because of Laura Audibert and the confidence gained from her previous management of the town's forests. The selectpersons would like a letter sent to Irving stating that there is no problem with Dan Pelletier handling Irving's interest, but the Board stands by their original decision to have Laura Audibert handle Portage Lake's management plan.

4. Hanging of Wreaths and Flags – The town manager reminded the board that the day after Thanksgiving is a Holiday for employees. This would make it difficult to get the wreaths up that weekend. The Board agreed that the week of Thanksgiving, or the week after would be suitable.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Office Space
  - a. Eagle Lake Health Center
  - b. Fort Kent Credit Union

Two requests have been made for the rental of the old credit union room. Norm Fournier of Eagle Lake will be meeting with the town manager in the near future with details for the needs of the health center. Also, Allen Chamberlain of the Fort Kent Credit Union is waiting to hear if the selectpersons' are interested in renting that space. The selectpersons express interest and would like a proposal from both businesses.

2. Budget Committee – The town manager would like the Board of Selectperson's input for persons to serve on the budget committee for this year. The board suggests asking the same people who were on the committee last year. (Bud Clark, Cherry Danker, Gerry Cormier, Mike Bartlett, Anita Theriault)

3. Planning Board Vacancy – Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that Planning Board Chairperson, Ken Hodsdon, has requested the board to appoint someone to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board. Suggestions are Dave or Maggie Pierce.

4. Fire Department Request for Consideration – Gloria Curtis reported that Dave Bolstridge, Fire Chief, has asked the board to consider utilizing part of the hall for parking the tanker truck that the fire department will be receiving. Part of the sidewall would have to be removed to make room for the tanker truck. The Board of Selectpersons unanimously decided not to remodel the hall to expand the fire department.

Christy Dicker stated while on the subject of the fire department, she had received a phone call from a fireman in regards to the dissention in the fire department. The department wants new members, but doesn't do anything to recruit younger members. Gloria Curtis stated some of the dissention comes from some older members because of new mandates. Volunteer is basically terminology, there are still state requirements that must be met. The department is losing experienced men because they don't see the need for this. Christy Dicker stated part of the problem was that a check was issued for a 0 dollar amount which caused the younger fireman to be insulted. Rita Sinclair stated she saw no need to issue the check, but the fireman knew that he had to repay the department for the training he did not attend after signing up for it. It really is an issue that needs to be taken up within the department.

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Arthur Routhier – CES for surveying the municipal lot. Rita Sinclair reported that CES is willing to do the surveying but a plot number (from original map) along with a letter to CES needs to be drawn up.

Christy Dicker – Gateway Grant is almost finished. If this is accepted, the work in the Town Square and Senior Park will be underway.

Gloria Curtis- None

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M. (Time 2hrs. 10 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christy Dicker

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Routhier

Town of Portage Lake  
Monthly Public Works Report  
January 23, 2002

Although we haven't had any significant snowfall to date, Two or three inches every couple of days keeps me busy. I have been plowing the roads almost daily to keep the build up of brine and ice from accumulating. As of today, roughly 50% or better of our roads are down to pavement and free of ice and snow. Some credit to Mother Nature for providing temps. of mid 30<sup>s</sup>.

Many repairs to the 89 Int. plow truck have been completed over the past couple of weeks. At this time the truck is in better shape than when I was first employed. (Dump body excluded)

A wing light was installed to provide better viewing at night. Some rewiring was done to centralize several toggle switches to one location. Front + rear brakes were adjusted as well as the clutch. New plow shoes and cutting edges were installed. At this time there are no major problems or breakdowns to report.

Summer may seem a long time from now, but this is the time to plan ahead for road repairs and improvements as well as other projects you may want to consider.

Rita and I have discussed completing some ongoing projects and possibly taking on some new ones. I plan to finish ditching Sutherland St. this spring and to use that project as a model for future ditching projects. With your approval I look forward to working with Dave Cyr (CES) on the planning of the West Cottage ditching project.

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
BOARD of SELECTPERSONS  
AGENDA  
JANUARY 23, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting To Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of January 9, 2001

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Land Management Plan for Portage Lake

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Trail Groomer Liability
2. Summer Employment
3. Automatic Foreclosure/Orcutt Property
4. Public Works Update

**TOWN OF PORTAGE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M. by Gloria Curtis.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Christy Dicker, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

Christy Dicker made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with corrections. Seconded by Gloria Curtis. Motion carries.

No Treasurer's Warrants to be reviewed.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Land Management Plan For Portage Lake – Town Manager, Rita Sinclair reported that she had a discussion with Laura Audibert regarding her position with Irving. She has been informed that Irving wants to try to handle the plan without her. When she asked what her duties would be, she was told she would be left with overseeing hiking trails. Gloria Curtis and Christy Dicker remain firm in their decision to send a letter to Ked Coffin reminding Irving that Laura Audibert is the reason Irving has the Management Plan with the Town of Portage Lake. The stumpage agreement will remain unsigned until this is settled. Christy Dicker would like to have someone look at the agreement, possibly Laura Audibert or Pat Raymond.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Trail Groomer Liability – Rita Sinclair reported to the Board of Selectpersons that she had received a call from Ryan Pelletier, Town Manager of St. Agatha, requesting information on Portage's arrangement with the snowmobile club and the groomer. He didn't understand the insurance coverage as far as the Town was concerned. He wasn't aware that the Town and the snowmobile club were co owners of the groomer, and that the club carried the insurance with the Town of Portage Lake named as co-owner.

2. Summer Employment – Rita Sinclair asked the Board if they wanted to place an ad in the newspaper for summer help for the Public Works Department, or if they wanted to post the position locally. The Boards' decision is to place an ad for the position in the Star Herald sometime in March. Also, check into Job Service to find out what they would do for an ad.

3. Automatic Foreclosure/Orcutt Property - The Town Manager asked the Board what they would like to do with the Orcutt property. The property was automatically

foreclosed on November 15, 2001. Prior to that all notices were sent to interested parties. John Orcutt, Rosalvo's son, had called when he received the 45 day Foreclosure notice to say he did not want the property. Previously, Vivian Morris and her husband had paid the taxes on the property in exchange for use of the land. After Mr. Morris passed away, Mrs. Morris came to the office and said she did not want to pay the taxes on the lot. She didn't have any legal agreement on the lot and didn't feel a need to try to get one. Gloria Curtis said she would talk with Sharon Everett, Vivian's daughter, and see if she would talk to her. Christy Dicker agreed that abutting property owners should have the opportunity to purchase the lot, but Vivian Morris should have the first chance to acquire the lot.

4. Public Works Update –The Board of Selectpersons were given copies of a report by Vaughn Devoe stating repairs and services on equipment as well as daily activities for the month of January. The Board stated they appreciate the information and wish to continue the updates on a monthly basis.


**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

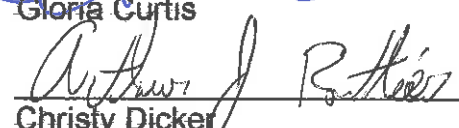
Christy Dicker –May not be present for the next meeting. She would like to be present for any budget meetings.


Gloria Curtis - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. (Time 1 hr. 15 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christy Dicker

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christy C. Dicker

Arthur Routhier



**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
BOARD of SELECTPERSONS  
AGENDA  
FEBRUARY 6, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting To Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of January 23, 2001

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Letter to Irving/Response to Letter
2. Orcutt Lot

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Budget Overview

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2002  
(Rescheduled Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup>)**

The meeting was called to order at 7 P. M. by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Christy Dicker and Arthur Routhier, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Ked Coffin and Dan Pelletier of Irving Timberlands.

Gloria Curtis proceeded with the meeting by opening discussion with Irving Reps., Ked Coffin and Dan Pelletier. Ked Coffin apologized to the board of Selectpersons for misunderstanding the outcome of the meeting with Dan Pelletier, Laura Audibert and the Board of Selectpersons. He stated he had made an assumption on Dan's position with the Town. Ked had talked with Laura today and he wished to clarify what has transpired. Originally, Laura worked for us (Irving) and then the Town expressed interest in having Laura work on the project. He stated he had assumed she was going to be involved with this. They did have their difference of opinions on some things. Laura Audibert expressed feelings of not being wanted. After the meeting with the Town, Dan thought the Town was comfortable with him handling the plan. Gloria Curtis inserted that the Town thought that Laura would still be involved. Ked Coffin stated that Irving would rather do things themselves. He stated he assumed that everything was set for them to go ahead, which was wrong. Gloria Curtis stated that had spoken with Laura Audibert today as well. Ked stated that if the Town wants to contract Laura to police the project, that's fine; or if they want her to follow through, that's fine too. Gloria feels that Laura has been here some time and we know her practices. We know that she is conservative, that's why we thought she would be carrying through with the plan. When we discussed this initially we decided that we would go with Laura Audibert, no matter who she worked for. Dan Pelletier initially thought that Laura was not interested. Dan said Laura didn't seem to be sure what she wanted to do.

Ked interjected that they (Irving) understood that the Town doesn't know them. Dan stated that they are here in the Town's best interest. They are from small towns, too. "Nobody wants you to put your name on anything you aren't comfortable with. Ked stated they have worked in Madawaska and Caribou and had problems because their meetings were terrible.

Gloria Curtis said she had told Laura Audibert that the Town really wanted her to be involved whether it was through Irving or the Town.

Ked stated, "The Town needs to decide if they wanted to go through with this."

Gloria asked, "How do you foresee that Laura would fit into this?"

Ked asked if the Board had any ideas. He saw "from day one that Laura would get the plan up and going. There would be a District Forester for her to contact for consultation. There would be authorization of stumpage. Crews would be ready to cut when area is pointed out with what is to be done.

Gloria Curtis said she assumed that is where Laura would be at this point in time.

Ked stated that was his assumption from the beginning or the Town hires directly for Laura to "police". Gloria Curtis doesn't feel that would work. Dan Pelletier agrees.

Ked knows that Laura will make sure things are done to the letter. Gloria states she is agreeable to that. Christy Dicker agrees.

Ked believes that part of the problem is that Laura won't say what she is thinking. Rita Sinclair said Laura is not aggressive in that way. Ked said he will call Laura tomorrow and suggests that the Board do the same. Gloria stated that she would do so.

Ked wishes he could get to know people better but doesn't have the time. Someone needs to, perhaps Dan will. Christy Dicker stated, "Someone is going to have to."

Gloria Curtis remarked that Portage is a hard Town because of what has happened in the past. Christy Dicker said in the first meeting this room was full and it was a horrible meeting. Ked said he believed he was at that meeting. He also asked if there were any questions? Arthur Routhier said, "I'm just getting into this, and what townspeople have related to me is that they want Laura Audibert in the loop."

Gloria Curtis said, "They need to be able to build confidence in the company."

Ked Coffin and Dan Pelletier thanked the board for meeting with them and then left the meeting.

The Board of Selectpersons reviewed the minutes of January 23, 2002 meeting. A motion was made by Christy Dicker to accept the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Arthur Routhier. Motion carries.

The Board of Selectpersons reviewed and signed the Treasurers Warrants.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Letter to Irving/Response to Letter – Above discussion with Irving representatives applies to this. Rita Sinclair asked if Portage Lake had a policy for Town owned land for ATV riding. It was suggested to ask how Garfield handles their woodlands. Also find out if P.L.S.C. has a policy for ATV's on their trails.
2. Orcutt Lot – Vivian Morris has paid all taxes due on that parcel. The Board will sign a Quit Claim deed as soon as it is prepared.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Budget Review – Rita Sinclair went over the proposed budget for 2002 with the Board of Selectpersons. Questions were raised about the Fire Department budget, raises for employees, recreation budget for Portage Lake, CEO budget, and the figures for the school assessment. A joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the board of Selectpersons will be scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>.


Arthur Routhier asked the office to check with him when we are ready to purchase a monitor and printer.

Christy Dicker asked for the balance of the Beautification Account. Rita Sinclair apologized for the oversight and will make sure it is included for the next meeting.

Other requests were presented to the Board. There were three chosen for consideration. The new Veterans Cemetery is asking for help with unfunded items. Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce and Maine Public Broadcasting are requesting donations.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 PM (time 2 hrs. 45 min.)

APPROVED:   
Gloria Curtis

  
Arthur Routhier

  
Christy Dicker

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECT PERSONS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of February 6, 2002 Meeting

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Bids for ADA Remodeling Project
2. Letter From Irving

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Appropriation - Recreational Facilities
2. Appointments for Fire Department
3. Public Works Update

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECT PERSONS MEETING  
March 6, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of February 6th and 20th, 2002 Meetings

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on ADA remodeling Project
2. Land Management Plan

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Donations
  - a. Project Graduation
  - b. Ashland Fire Dept.
2. Cemetery Expansion Plan
3. Municipal Well
4. Health Center Expansion

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M. by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Arthur Routhier and Christy Dicker, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

A motion was made by Christy Dicker and seconded by Arthur Routhier to accept the minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting as written.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on ADA Remodeling Project - Rita Sinclair reported that she had received proof of insurance from Pangburn Construction. Mr. Pangburn stated he would be starting the job on the 18<sup>th</sup>. She also presented an invoice from Laurel Theriault, owner of Bo's Repair Service, for \$50.00 for services rendered when an estimate for the remodeling project was needed for appropriations at Town Meeting. The Board agrees that Bo's Repair Service should be paid.

2. Land Management Plan - Rita Sinclair reported that she had spoken with Jim May of Prentiss & Carlisle about the stumpage prices. Jim had stated that some of those prices were lower than they should be. He suggested the Town question those prices. Arthur Routhier suggested calling the State Department of Forestry to get an updated price list.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Donations:

a. Project Graduation - A letter had been received from the president of Project Graduation requesting a donation. The Board does not wish to add any considerations to the already lengthy list of Social Service Donations. Request denied.

b. Thermal Imaging Camera - A letter of request for a donation to the Ashland Fire Department towards the purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera was made by Perry Charette. Gloria Curtis feels that if a donation is made it should be from the Portage Lakes Fire Department budget. Christy Dicker feels that it is unnecessary at this time. Request denied.

2. Cemetery Expansion Plan - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, had found a proposal drawn up by Bridgham Surveying for maps for the cemetery and presented it to the

board for their consideration. Apparently this plan was requested and never acted on. The Board sees no need for this type of mapping at present. Rita Sinclair also brought up the lot reservations and the fees charged. The charges for the lots need to be updated. Christy Dicker made a motion to leave money in a Designated Fund. Seconded by Arthur Routhier. Motion carries.

3. Municipal Well – Rita Sinclair reported that there had been some problems with the pump. The pump ran most, if not all weekend, and didn't shut off until Sunday evening when Kathy Gagnon, Town Clerk, noticed it at the potluck supper. She had shut it off until it could be attended to on Monday morning. Christy Dicker asked what was wrong with the old pump. Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, wasn't sure since she was out of work both Monday and Tuesday. She will gather what information she can for the next meeting.

4. Health Center Expansion – Rita Sinclair had met with Norman Fournier of the Fish River Health Association. Mr. Fournier said they are looking to expand and wanted to know if Portage Lake would be interested in their services. Rita suggested that a survey be done prior to any planning.

**SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**


Arthur Routhier: Suggested a letter to Ked Coffin to ask if Irving would consider setting 1/10 or ¼ of 1% of gross profits for a scholarship for a Portage student to further their education in the field of forestry.

Christy Dicker – None

Gloria Curtis- None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 P.M. (Time 1hr. 30 min.)

APPROVED:

  
Gloria Curtis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Routhier

  
Christy Dicker



**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
MONTHLY PUBLIC WORKS REPORT  
MARCH 20, 2002**

Once again I'm happy to report that our town roads are in fairly good shape at this time. Pot holes, blocked culverts, and flooding have all been minimal. Frost heaves are much more apparent on West Cottage Road especially between Amy Collins residence and just beyond Crooked Tree Lodge, more than anywhere else in town.

The Hathaway Road has somewhat of a different story. The part of the road from Rt. 11 to the end of Condon's field became very soft and muddy early this year. The lower end of the road that was rebuilt two years ago is holding up very well. I would recommend that we look into repairing the beginning of the road the way we did from the end of Condon's field to the turnout just beyond the railroad tracks. There has been some discussion about repairing the road from the turnout to the lake. There was significant flooding in the area of Gary Chance's driveway and 150 feet towards the lake. If repairing the road from the turnout to the lake materializes, then we could include the beginning of the road as well. This would complete all necessary repairs to the Hathaway Road from Rt. 11 to the lake.

I had only one problem with breakdowns this month but it was a significant one. As I was plowing up School Street, my wing caught the corner of the pavement in front of the town office window. This stopped the plow truck in its tracks, broke the bolts holding the bottom of the wing tower to the frame, and twisted the wing tower to the point of no repair. Because it was snowing quite heavily at the time I couldn't take the time to do any repairs. I parked the plow truck in the garage and continued to plow the town roads with the Ford. The next morning I called Brad St. Peter to repair the truck while I continued plowing. Once we removed the wing and tower assembly from the truck, I was able to continue plowing with just the front plow and no wing. Brad took the damaged parts to his shop and began fabricating a new wing tower. All repairs were completed in three or four days and the plow truck is fully operationally at this time. I did find a fuel leak this past Monday morning. The fuel tank will have to be removed and welded, if possible, to repair the leak. There is a rust hole at the bottom of the tank where the tank sits on the mounting brackets.

The water at the municipal building is giving us some problems. Two weeks ago the pump started running continuously. In order to get it to shut off it had to be disconnected. I cleaned the points to make sure they weren't sticking. The pump would run even after the tank was up to pressure. Rodney Woods was called to see if he could solve the problem. He tried a new switch but that made no difference. The pump was not building pressure and since it had been running most of the weekend, he suggested a new pump. Quigleys was called and came

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECT PERSONS MEETING  
March 20, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of March 6, 2002 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on ADA remodeling Project
2. Municipal Well

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Bankruptcy Hearing
2. Cemetery Committee
3. Cash Management to CD
4. Aspire "Volunteer"
5. DOG WARRANT

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson, at 7 P.M.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Christy Dicker, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager. Arthur Routhier was absent.

Christy Dicker made a motion to accept the minutes of March 6 meeting as written. Motion seconded by Gloria Curtis. Motion carries.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on ADA Remodeling Project – Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that the work in the bathroom is near completion. There is some painting to do and the light fixture needs to be replaced.
2. Municipal Well – Rita Sinclair reported that the pump had been replaced without it being tested. Ron Woods had suggested Quigley's to check out the pump. There has been one day since then that there was no water, but that hasn't happened since. Christy Dicker suggested contacting Bo Theriault to check out the pump.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Bankruptcy Hearing – Claim forms for Bangor and Aroostook Railroad have been received. Pepsi Cola has also filed for bankruptcy but no claim forms have been received. Gloria Curtis suggests that a call be made to request the forms.
2. Cemetery Committee – Rita Sinclair requests someone to take charge of the cemetery committee. There must be someone that is willing to make contacts and set up meetings in order to establish guidelines and fees. Christy Dicker recommended Bud Clark. She believes he knows the cemetery well and could give us information on those areas of uncertainty.  
Christy also volunteered to send "thank you" cards if the office would keep a list.
3. Cash Management to CD – The Board agrees that some of the money in the cash management account could be transferred into a CD in order to earn a higher rate of interest. Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, will gather more information to present to the Board.

4. Aspire "Volunteer" – Rita Sinclair reported that we have a "volunteer" through the Aspire Program who has to contribute 35 hours a week. He will be doing some painting in the building until the weather permits spring clean up. Forms will be filled out every week for hours and progress and sent to the Aspire specialist in charge of this volunteer.

5. Dog Warrant – A warrant for unlicensed dogs was signed by the Selectpersons.



**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gloria Curtis – Street sweeper. Do we have one and if not what will we do? Our brushes need to be replaced, reported Rita Sinclair. The front mount is hard on the truck motor. Vaughn is trying to get a figure to have Portage Lake's streets done. If this isn't possible, we will have to order the brushes and use that.

Christy Dicker – Money from sale of equipment. Rita Sinclair stated it was lapsed to surplus, but we can ask the voters to place it in a defined account for the purchase of a new riding mower.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. (Time 1hr. 30 min.)

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Routher  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
ASSESSORS MEETING  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**ASSESSORS MEETING**

Call Meeting to Order

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING**

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Welcome New Selectperson

Election of Board Chairperson

Approve Minutes of March 20, 2002 Meeting

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Review Town Meeting Results
2. Update on Potential For Health Care Facility
3. Equipment Sales to Surplus

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Appointments of Administrative Personnel  
(Attached List)
2. Appointments to Boards
3. CES Proposal For Beach
4. Summer Employment

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
ASSESSORS MEETING  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2002**

**ASSESSORS MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Board of Assessors was called to order at 7 PM by Arthur Routhier, acting Chairperson.

Present: Arthur Routhier and Gary Chance, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager. Gloria Curtis was absent.

As there was no public present, a motion was made by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries. Adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

**SELECTPERSONS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:27 P.M. by acting Chair, Arthur Routhier.

Present: Arthur Routhier and Gary Chance, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, welcomed Gary Chance to the Board of Selectpersons.

Election of Board Chairperson – Tabled until Gloria Curtis is present.

Arthur Routhier made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2002 meeting as written. Seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries. Gary Chance asked to be brought up to date on the previous minutes regarding traffic control.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Board of Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR: None**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Review Town Meeting Results – Town Manager asked if there were any items that the Board wished to review from Town Meeting. The Land Use Ordinance and Holding Tank Ordinance were items of interest. Arthur Routhier spoke with Planning Board members to have the Ordinance broken down before it goes back to town vote. Gary chance agreed that the Planning Board needs to clarify the Ordinances before they come before the town again.

*to speak with*

2. Update on Potential For Health Care Facility – Rita Sinclair gave the Selectpersons a copy of the survey to be mailed to residents of the Town if the Board approves the wording. A motion was made by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance to send out the surveys. Motion carries.

3. Equipment Sales to Surplus – Town Manager reported to the Board the money from the sale of the tractor and bush hog had gone to surplus. This can only be changed by a vote of the people at Town Meeting. We can do this at a Special Town Meeting or wait until next years meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Appointments of Administrative Personnel – Brian Cote has volunteered to be on the Board of Appeals. A motion is made by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance to appoint Brian Cote to the Board of Appeals. Motion carries.

Arthur Routhier made a motion to appoint all municipal officials (see attached list) to their designated position. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

2. Completed in # 1 above, except for the Planning Board. Their appointments are after their annual meeting in May.

3. CES Proposal for Beach – After reading through the proposal, the Board tabled this item until the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

4. Summer Employment – Town Manager reported that the ad for the 20-week summer position was in newspaper. She stated she had looked at the budget and made calculations for an increase in the wage for that position. At \$7 or \$8 per hour, for the work that needs to be done, is not drawing a long line of applicants. If the individual has a CDL, would the board have any objections to raising the hourly wage? Arthur Routhier stated that having the license would warrant a higher rate of pay. Gary Chance agreed. Gary asked what the person who was working now would be doing. The Town Manager replied that he would assist with mowing and work at the transfer station.

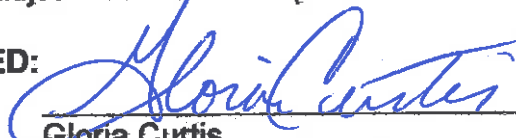
#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gary Chance: Traffic control. The situation is dangerous. What can be done?  
Sign by Casey's is broken off. It appears to have been hit by the plow.  
Arthur said he thinks it's one of the business signs.


Arthur Routhier: None.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 P.M. (Time 2hrs. 30 min.)

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Arthur Routhier

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gary Chance



**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Election of Board Chairperson**

**Approve Minutes of April 10, 2002 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on E 911
2. Cemetery Fees
3. Road Right Of Ways
4. Street Sweeping
4. April 29th Closing

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. CEO - Lewis Cousins
2. Hathaway Road Hazard
3. CES Proposal For Beach (Tabled on 4/10/02)
4. Appoint Election Clerks
5. Board Meeting Dates

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**ADJOURN:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Acting Chairperson; Arthur Routhier and Gary Chance, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Lewis Cousins, CEO.

Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reminded the Board that their first order of business is to elect a Chairperson for the year. Arthur Routhier nominated Gloria Curtis. A motion was made to that effect by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries. Gloria Curtis is Chairperson.

The minutes of the April 10, 2002 were read and approved by the Board of Selectpersons.

Gloria Curtis moved to go to item #1 under NEW BUSINESS.

1. CEO - Lewis Cousins - Lewis updated the Board on the Parker Sutherland camp. Mr. Sutherland applied for a permit, was denied by the Planning Board. He requested an appeal to the Board of Appeals. After reading the recommendations from the State Planning Office to the Board of Appeals, Mr. Sutherland withdrew his appeal and resubmitted an application to the Planning Board. He was approved to build but built to the dimensions of his original application. Lewis Cousins issued a Stop Work Order. Mr. Sutherland appealed to the Board of Appeals. They held the Public Hearing and deliberations rendered their decision. Mr. Sutherland has verbally agreed to move the wall back to comply with his permit. The Board of Selectpersons are required to sign the consent agreement. They are also the ones to set the fines in accordance with MRSA Title 30A P 406. At Lewis Cousins recommendation, the Board would impose a \$100 fine.

Gary Chance remarked that was a minimal fine at that. Lewis stated that he would rather work with the residents than impose fines.

Arthur Routhier requested a statement for fines for informational purposes. He would also like to see the building permit applications clarify setbacks. Lewis stated that we should have two separate permits. Arthur Routhier agreed.

The Board of Selectpersons is in full agreement to sign the Consent Agreement and Compliance Order.

At this point the Town Manager brought up the alternate position and explained that since the Town had a written resignation from Ralph Stolze that Lewis Cousins had been hired legally.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** Motion by Arthur Routhier to dispense with Business From Floor as there was no public present. Motion seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on E911 - Gloria Curtis reported on numbering changes. Arthur Routhier asked who is responsible for the numbers? Gloria stated that the residents are responsible for the numbers and the Town is responsible for the street signs.
2. Cemetery Fees - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that there have been some calls from funeral directors asking about fees for cremations. Fees range from \$50 to \$75 in other towns. Normally we charge \$150 to open and close a grave, but we do not use our equipment for a cremation. A motion was made by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance to set a fee of \$75 for a cremation. Motion carries.
3. Road Right of Ways - Rita Sinclair, Town Manager, stated that the Town is establishing and will be maintaining right of ways on all of the Town roads. She would like to inform the townspeople of such to eliminate telephone calls when road work is being done. She thought a newsletter might be a good way to inform the taxpayers. Arthur Routhier feels that keeping them informed is best.
4. Street Sweeping - The Town Manager presented figures to the Board for Sweeping the Streets. B.J.'s Pressure Cleaning of Houlton and Morin Construction of Ft. Kent both charge \$65 per hour. They also charge a transportation charge to bring the equipment to Portage Lake. From Houlton the charge is \$140 and from Ft. Kent it is \$90.
5. April 29th Closing - The Town Manager reported that due to conflicting schedules the office would be closed on Monday, April 29th. The CEO will be in his office and a poster will be made to reflect his availability. Public works will also be working that day.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. CEO - Lewis Cousins - Already addressed at beginning of meeting.
2. Hathaway Road Hazard - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, explained to the Board the work that Dan Higgins took upon himself to do on the Hathaway Road. Gary Chance stated that Dan already had his equipment there and the work was going to be done anyway. Rita Sinclair said that he could have taken the time to contact the Town *first*, not after the fact. Gary Chance stated on Danny Higgins behalf, that he was under the assumption that the Town was going to repair the road in the spring and wanted to try to save the road base. Gloria Curtis remarked that was not the point. Danny wouldn't have done what he did if he didn't have a road to get to. Rita Sinclair said, "The point is that the procedure for getting things done is being ignored." The next question is where is the dirt going? Gary Chance said he had room for fill and he will speak to Danny Higgins to see when he can do this. Gloria Curtis said DEP is coming to view the Hathaway Road and

the Seaplane Base for projects that the Town is going to do. Gary Chance stated that if the Town had maintained the ditch for the last ten years there wouldn't be a problem with the water flooding the road. Gloria Curtis remarked that if the railroad hadn't ruined the brook there wouldn't be a water problem on the Hathaway Road. Gary Chance proceeded to explain how the railroad's ditching has created problems.

3. CES Proposal For Beach - The Board was given copies of a proposal submitted by CES for correcting the erosion and washout problems at the beach. Gloria Curtis said there is grant money available for the project at the beach. A design by a DEP engineer is available to the Town. Arthur Routhier suggested the Town Manager write to CES thanking them for their proposal and that we would keep them on file for future reference.

4. Appoint Election Clerks - The Town Manager produced a list of election clerks submitted by Town Clerk, Katherine Gagnon, for their approval. The Board appointed the election clerks as presented.

5. Board Meeting Dates - At the Boards request the dates for Selectpersons Meetings has been changed to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month instead of the first and third. The May 8th and 22nd meetings will be rescheduled for May 15th and 29th.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Arthur Routhier - Has had some questions regarding taxpayers paying training for fire department members from Ashland. What is the liability involved when they are on their way to a fire in Portage Lake and is there a cap on the number of volunteers? Rita Sinclair stated she believed the liability started when they reached the fire station, otherwise they were acting as volunteers. She said she would check with the fire chief on this.

Francis Vaillancourt has complained about the run-off from the culvert on the hill in front of Adam Soucy's washing out his garden spot.

Transfer Station - Usage during the month of May will decide if it is worth staying open 2 days a week. Hours set are 2 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and the regular 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. This is a trial basis only.

Docks at the Seaplane Base - May need a Permit by Rule to clean up the debris. once that is done the docks can be set. Gary Chance asked what the lessee's have for responsibility? Gloria stated they are responsible for the docks and the maintenance of the building and grounds.

Gary Chance - Status of ditch by Danny Higgins on station Road. There is water standing in the ditch. Rita Sinclair said DOT needs to do something to their culvert on West Road by the railroad tracks. the culvert is too high to allow the water to drain properly. Also, the water is much more noticeable since the cattails have been cut. They hid the fact that there has been water in that ditch for a long time.

Boat Landing on other (East) side of the lake. Gary has the understanding that Ken Bartlett had deeded or granted an easement to the Town. (next to Mike Sheehe, beyond Freeman)


Gloria Curtis - None


Rita Sinclair - A Special Town Meeting is in order. The state has issued a letter stating there is an increase in the interest rate on property taxes. A change to the employee health insurance has occurred and there are three street names to be added for E911. These items all have to be voted on by the voters.

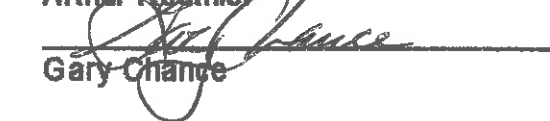
Gary Chance also asked about the building at the Transfer Station. Rita Sinclair said she would put something in writing to the effect of giving to him one building slated for demolition.

Meeting adjourned at 10 P.M. (Time 3 hrs.)

APPROVED:

  
Gloria Curtis

  
Arthur Routhier

  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
MAY 15, 2002  
7:00 P.M.  
(Immediately after Town Meeting)**

**Call Meeting to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of April 24, 2002 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Hathaway Road (Possible Executive Session)
2. Health Services Survey
3. Summer Employment
4. Sutherland Permit (Possible Executive Session)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. MSAD #32 Warrant
2. DEP Septic Grant
3. North/South Highway

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
MAY 15, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M., by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Arthur Routhier and Gary Chance, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; and residents Carrie Gagne and Alan Hitchcock.

A motion was made by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance to accept the minutes of the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carries.

Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

Carrie Gagne asked is if the tennis court nets would be put up. The ramps will have to be moved so people can play tennis. Some people have questioned if the courts were still being used for tennis. Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, stated that the nets would be put up tomorrow or Friday at the latest. Arthur Routhier stated that there are people wanting to use the tennis courts. Who do we contact about the ramps. Gloria Curtis responded, Pam Cusack. Rita will call her tomorrow regarding the ramps on the courts.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Hathaway Road (Possible Executive Session) - Danny Higgins had asked to be on the agenda to discuss the Hathaway Road and the work he has done there. Danny was not in attendance.

2. Health Services Survey - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair reported there were 32 who were not in favor of this service and 25 who were in favor. Some responses were obvious in that the person who responded to the survey was reading more into it than necessary. The board suggested contacting Norman Fournier to ask if he would be willing to hold an informational meeting.

3. Summer Employment - Rita Sinclair reported that there were only three applicants for the position. She will be calling the applicants with a CDL license fro an interview. The Board of Selectpersons suggest contacting Bill Good first.

4 Sutherland Permit - Rita Sinclair, in the CEO's absence, reported that the Town had papers served on it on behalf of Parker Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland has brought charges on the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, and the CEO. The Board agrees

that Lewis should contact the Town's Attorney, Richard Solman for his input on this matter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. MSAD #32 Warrant – The Town Manager reported that although the school budget had not been raised, Portage Lake's assessment has, since our valuation has not decreased.

2. DEP Septic Grant – The Town Manager reported that Lewis Cousins had submitted several names for septic grants through DEP. As a result of the inspections a \$30,000 grant is in place for those residents who qualified.

3. North/ South Highway – Town Manager, Rita Sinclair reported that a meeting was to be held in Ashland regarding the North/South Highway. She asked the Board if they would make a recommendation of the highway they believed would be the most beneficial to Portage Lake. She suggested that if at all possible, the Board should attend this meeting.

**OTHER :** The Board of Selectpersons, acting on a motion made by Arthur Routhier and seconded by Gary Chance, appointed Barb Pitcarin to the Planning Board and Dan Higgins to the Board of Appeals.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Arthur Routhier – Nets on the Tennis Courts and having the ramps moved so that those who chose to play tennis may do so. Road dust on the Fish Lake Road is getting bad. Irving needs to be contacted to do something about it.

Gloria Curtis – Transfer Station, is it getting used on Tuesdays and did we get a metal bin? Docks should be put out and also buoys to mark the debris. What is to be done at the retention pond. Rita Sinclair responded that Mark Russell of DEP had inspected the site and said the retention pond is working as it is supposed to. The end of the dock can have large washed stone out in to bring it up to the top of the cement.

Picnic Tables – will they be out for Memorial Day? Are we getting portable toilets again this year? Rita Sinclair replied yes to both questions. The toilets should be here by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. A grant may be possible to have new toilets and update the well. Hopefully that can be looked into before this year ends.

Gary Chance – When will the streets be cleaned? Rita Sinclair said she would call Mike's Street Sweeping and see what the time frame is.

Daily Time Sheet for Public Works is a good tool for time management and a response to citizens who ask what public works is doing. Gary made a motion to enact a daily time sheet. Arthur Routhier seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Culverts are partially plugged on East and West. Water is standing in the ditches.

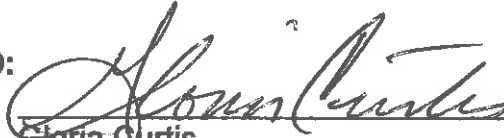


Arthur Routhier asked if Irving had responded to the letter on the Stumpage. Rita Sinclair said she has received nothing on that or the scholarship suggestion. Arthur suggested that Laura Audibert be contacted.

Rita Sinclair brought up the surveying proposal from CES. Arthur Routhier made a motion to accept the proposal for \$1,800 to reaffirm the Bridgham survey. Motion seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 PM (Time 2 hrs. for Board Meeting 30 min. for Town Meeting)

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Routhier

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
MAY 29, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting to Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of May 15, 2002 Meeting

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. North/South Highway
2. Public Works Daily Log/Time Sheet
3. Summer Employee
4. Legal Issues (Executive Session)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Personnel Matter (Executive Session)
2. Workshop Update

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
MAY 29, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Arthur Routhier and Gary Chance, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Pam Cusack, Rec. Director.

A motion was made by Arthur Routhier to accept the minutes of the May 15th meeting. Motion seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

Pam Cusack reported to the Board that interest had been expressed in activities for the 4th of July. A proposed schedule was given to the Board to review and comment on.

Rita Sinclair asked about liability for the fireworks display. Pam stated that the company carries their own liability insurance. Gloria Curtis asked about the street dance on the tennis courts and what they were looking at for entertainment. Pam responded that Lonnie would DJ and that he also has Karaoke. Bands of two different colors would be issued according to the age. One color for anyone 21 and over and a different color for anyone under 21. The other stipulation would be that each organization would have to be responsible for clean up after their event.

A constable or sheriff will be hired to keep things under control. Rita Sinclair stated that a sheriff would be the better choice. Gloria Curtis said that assuming that everything goes the way it should, she sees no problem with the schedule of events. Portage needs to do something for the Town.

Pam asked how to set up an account for the money that will be donated. Rita Sinclair said that an account will be set up through the computer.

Gloria Curtis made a motion to accept the schedule of events. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

At this time it was asked if there were two nets for the tennis courts. Rita Sinclair stated that there are two nets but the caps to attach the nets on the second court are missing. Also the skaters need to be made aware that their ramps have to move the ramps when they are finished skating.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. North/South Highway - Rita Sinclair attended the meeting in Ashland. The consensus was approval of the HM corridor that runs from Patten to the Westery side of Presque Isle. Safety issues and time were the two main reasons for the

new highway. This will be a time consuming project as it is still in the planning stage.

2. Public Works Daily Log/Time Sheet - Rita Sinclair, Town Manager explained the Time sheet to the Board and said it could be modified to show what was being worked on, or when repairs were being done. It already shows the hours worked in the different areas. Between the monthly report and the daily log, paperwork is getting to be quite lengthy. When asked for comments, Gary Chance drew a log on the board to show the date, what was done, and the time spent doing it.

Arthur Routhier said he can see where it would be time consuming, 15 minutes a day, 60 hours a year. I had forgotten about the monthly report which is pretty in depth. I'd rather see him use that 15 minutes to clean out the truck than spend more time on paperwork.

Gary Chance stated it was a waste of money the way he was going about it. He went on to explain how he would do it. If too much time and money is spent then we can look at someone else to do it, or hire contract labor. I like to have answers when people ask me, "What is he doing?" 15 minutes a day is nothing; it's the length of a coffee break.

Gloria Curtis suggests doing the daily reports for one month to compare with the monthly report. Gary Chance wants to relieve him of the monthly report. Gloria stated she wants a comparison.

3. Summer Employee - Rita Sinclair reported that Bill Good had been hired. He would like to work the 4 days per week, but has no problem working 5 if need be. Arthur Routhier asked what the pay rate was. Rita Sinclair said \$9.00 per hour because he does have a CDL.

4. Legal Issues(Executive Session) - Executive session entered to discuss legal issues. 8:05 P.M. the Board came out of executive session. It was decided that MMA be contacted to ask about a contract for a legal advisor and ask if they have a recommendation list for small towns.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Personnel Matter (Executive Session) - Entered into Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. Exited at 8:40 P.M. Employee will be asked to attend meeting to clarify issues.

2. Workshop Update - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair reported that she and Vaughn Devoe of the Public Works Department had attended a workshop on Drains and the Environmental Protection Agency's requirements. Our concerns are with the drains in the shop and the Fire Department. If the area is not used for vehicle maintenance, then all it would take are some barriers along the ditch towards Rt. 11. If it is used for maintenance, then the drain needs to be separated from the maintenance area. This can be done by creating a berm that could be driven over to move the vehicles through the shop.

**SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**

Rita Sinclair reported that only one person had applied for the scholarship. There are others graduating but as yet no one else had applied. A scholarship policy or requirements need to be developed. Gloria suggested Mr. McHafften may have some suggestions.

Arthur Routhier - feels Vaughn's time should be considered when work in other areas needs to be done. Instead of expecting him stop what he is doing, he should be asked when he will be available to work on the beach. (Example) He should be given at least a weeks notice.


Also, the School Board representative should be asked to come in to explain the ratio.

Gloria Curtis - Picnic tables and bleachers need to be fixed and painted.

Gary Chance - A written contract for work on the Hathaway Road needs to be written up. Also, the old dock could be used at the Hathaway Road for those who use that area to access the lake. 12 to 15 feet of dock should be enough.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M. (Time 2 hrs. 15 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
Gloria Curtis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arthur Routhier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of May 29, 2002 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. School Budget Warrant**
- 2. Scholarship Request and Awards**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Interlocal Agreement**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M. by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Arthur Routhier and Gary Chance, Selectpersons; Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

Approve Minutes of May 29, 2002 Meeting - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair asked that the minutes be tabled until the June 26 th meeting. Motion made by Arthur Routhier, seconded by Gloria Curtis to table the minutes until the June 26th meeting. Motion carries.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** Dispensed with as there was no public present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. School Budget Warrant - A new budget for MSAD #32 was presented to the Board of Selectpersons to sign before posting. This budget is for an increase of \$150,000. At this point in time it is unclear what the additional funds will be used for.

2. Scholarship Request and Awards - Scholarships were presented to Alan Hitchcock and Ashley Sutherland in the amount of \$500 each. Also a thank-you letter was received from Alan Hitchcock. Alan had written a letter to the board notifying them that he would be unable to attend school board meetings from June 16th - September 1st, due to Army National Guard Training. Gloria Curtis asked if he would be able to vote absentee on matters affecting the Town. Rita Sinclair said she would find that out.

At this point Daniel Higgins arrived and requested to be heard under Business From Floor. Gloria Curtis said the board would allow it.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

Daniel Higgins wanted the Board of Selectpersons to know that what he did on the Hathaway Road was with the knowledge that the Town would know about it. Gary Chance had said he would tell Rita tonight. The road hadn't been ditched in 27 to 30 years. He ditched the road and someone complained. He took the payloader to move the debris in the road and someone still complained. So he took the payloader up 2 more times to try to clean it up. Danny stated that public works was going to do it anyway.

When the job on the West Cottage Road went out for bid, the Town hired someone to be in charge. Gloria stated that it was Mitzi Lyons. Dan said he was in charge of me, not the other way around. The Selectpersons hired him. He came to me and asked, "What are we going to do here?" Dan said he told him to go back to the Town Manager and see what to do.

Next, when I offered to buy fill for \$1.00 per yard the Town won't sell. Gloria stated that the Board decided not to dig it up since it was grassed over. Arthur Routhier said, "There wasn't a problem with you buying it; we didn't want excess traffic trying to go through there."

Dan asked if contracts would be going out on jobs. Gloria replied that if the Town wasn't going to do the job, then the project would go out to bid. There will be specs for the contract. Dan questioned private services with town equipment. Rita Sinclair asked what he was referring to. He said the clean up at Ted Holmes when someone used the Town backhoe to clean up. Rita Sinclair said there wasn't time to ponder who to call. Arthur Routhier said he was there and time was important to keep the oil from getting into the lake.

Dan thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Interlocal Agreement - the Town Manager presented an agreement for the Boards signatures stating the Town of Portage Lake authorizes the Town of St. Agatha to act as lead grantee in the Maine Community Development Block Grant from DECD to undertake the Northern Aroostook Well and Septic Program, Phase II project. The Board signed the Interlocal Agreement.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gloria Curtis - Trees at beach are dying, do we try mire acid to bring them back or do we let Amy Collins take them to try to save them? Gary Chance said Mire acid is low in phosphate and high in nitrogen. He would suggest trying it. Gloria said she would call DEP and ask. Gary Chance said he didn't think that needs to be done. Arthur Routhier believes it best to cover bases and call DEP. Gloria said, "If we don't call, someone will call to report that we are fertilizing. Let's table this until we find out what DEP says."

Fire Dept. tank on Alan Robertson's property. Rita Sinclair said Alan had been in and discussed the matter with her and Vaughn. There wasn't a problem at that time. Initially Alan thought there were going to be holes left where the digging was done. He had since decided that if there was a tank there it would be an asset to the Fire Dept.

Have the old docks at the seaplane base been removed? Rita replied that they had not. Gloria asked Gary Chance if he had looked at them.

Arthur Routhier asked to have Joanne Nelson come to the next meeting to give the Board an update on School Board meetings.



Gary Chance - There are a number of people that are quite upset with fill being hauled to Arthur's property. In the future, posters need to be put up to let Townspeople know that fill is available. Gary said, "Let's talk about me. I just paid \$1,500 to have fill hauled to my property when I could have had town fill. The taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for the Town to haul fill. The person who receives it should be paying the Town for the delivery."

Gloria said, "If we had known you wanted fill, we could have had some delivered to you. Most people are aware that they come to the office and ask for fill."

Gary stated he was trying to avoid a problem in the future. Gloria said we have never posted anything available to the Townspeople. Arthur stated he had asked for the material prior to coming on the Board. Gary said he just wanted to avoid the appearance of wrongdoing. Rita stated that people have the chance to come to a Board meeting to voice their complaints to the Board collectively, not just to individual Selectpersons. Gloria agreed. People need to stand behind their complaints and these meetings are where that gets done.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M. (Time 50 min.)

APPROVED:



Gloria Curtis

---

Arthur Routhier

---

Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECT PERSONS MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of May 29, 2002 and June 12 Meetings**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Personnel Issue(Executive Session)**
- 2. Hathaway Road**
- 3. Transfer Station Hours**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. School Board Update - Joanne Nelson**
- 2. School Assessment**
- 3. Policy for Municipal Liability**
- 4. Quotes for Water Services**
- 5. OSHA Citations**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis, at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance, Selectperson; Vaughn Devoe, Public Works employee; Patrick Raymond, resident; Joanne Nelson, School Board representative; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

A motion was made by Gary Chance and seconded by Gloria Curtis to accept the minutes of the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carries.

A motion was made by Gary Chance and seconded by Gloria Curtis to accept the minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carries.

Gary Chance made a motion to record the minutes of future meetings to prevent confusion. Motion seconded by Gloria Curtis. Motion carries.

At this time Rita Sinclair presented a letter of resignation from Arthur Routhier to the Board of Selectpersons. Rita Sinclair reminded the Board that they did not have to accept the resignation at this meeting. It could be tabled until the next meeting. Gary Chance wanted to accept the resignation and Gloria Curtis requested to table it until she has had a chance to talk to Arthur.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

Pat Raymond, resident, asked what is planned for the Hathaway Road. He expressed his opinion on what has been done. He is dissatisfied with what has been done over the past few years. He stated the brook feeds into the road and then there is B & A to contend with. "You can't go in and steal peoples land. What I see now the road is dry," stated Pat Raymond; "it is time to do something. It's not going to fix itself. Everybody is complaining." Gary Chance stated, "More people would use it if it were in better shape." Pat Raymond said in the past the road was maintained privately. The town has the equipment to maintain the road.

Vaughn Devoe asked the Chairperson if he could speak. Gloria Curtis gave consent. Vaughn, addressing Pat Raymond, said the squeaky wheel in town gets the problem taken care of. Pat Raymond said, "I realize that. If the Town wants to abandon it, then do so and the private owners will maintain it."

Vaughn stated that the Town was within the right of way for the ditching that was done. "Before we do anything, we have to know where the lines are. They are in the right of way. Politics are too heavy to do otherwise." Pat Raymond stated that his point again is that there is no focus on what needs to be done. "The little things are getting all

the attention. If it's a difference of opinion then put those aside and do what needs to be done."

The Board thanked Pat Raymond for coming in and then he left the meeting.

Gloria Curtis moved on to NEW BUSINESS in order to hear Joanne Nelson's report on the school board activities.

1. School Board Update – Gloria Curtis stated she had received a flyer stating the school was backing this budget. Joanne reported that the Superintendent had already terminated teacher for Jobs For Maine Grads. I can't believe that \$150,000 is going to be used for vocational education. It will be used to pad the fund. It's not right that the students don't have the opportunity for the classes they need.

Gary Chance asked how many students there are in the grade school. Joanne believes about 300. The high school has about the same.

Joanne stated that the money is supposedly spent on medical benefits and other "stuff." If you take the salary, add benefits, plus the medical, you've got quite a wage.

The school board has told the staff that if a classroom gets below a certain number of students then it should be combined with another class. Student suspension is the highest it has ever been. It is more than the last 8 years combined. Eighty-three (83) students from September to December were suspended. Gary Chance asked who suspended them. Joanne replied, the principal. Police have been called to the school several times. Gloria Curtis asked if this was for students and Joanne said yes. Gloria said the superintendent dictates to the school board and the parents. The parents fear retaliation against their children. Gary asked who the school board chair is and Joanne replied Heidi Campbell.

Joanne stated the problems are 99% attitude. Most of the teachers and the librarian are there for the money. Gary, "Doesn't the school board decide who gets hired?" Joanne answered, "No." It's the same with the money that was left to the district. He (the superintendent) wanted control over the whole thing. We have already lost \$250,000 in lawyer fees. Gloria Curtis stated that was only because the superintendent had hired the schools lawyers to redo everything the banks lawyers had already done.

The Selectpersons thanked Joanne for her update and she left the meeting.

Gloria Curtis returned the meeting to the agenda at Old Business.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Personnel Issue (Executive Session) – Gloria Curtis made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Session entered at 7:50 P.M.

Motion made by Gloria Curtis and seconded by Gary Chance to come out of executive session at 8:10 P.M.

Vaughn Devoe asked that the Board try to recommend that all town roads are 66 or 50 feet width. This allows for work to be done in the future. Excess time is spent to review maps to prepare for roadwork.

3. Hathaway Road - Gary questions what was being done on the Hathaway Road. Vaughn stated that the road was supposed to be graveled after it had set through the winter, but the Board decided that it was fine the way it is. He said he had just completed a class for roads. If the Town would adopt a system for roads and maintenance it would help clear things up. All problems have a cost. We could use contractors to say what they would do to fix it and they will all do something different and swear that they are right. The roads program will eliminate this. He went on to explain that the cost of road maintenance rises every year. The old roads are getting the repairs while the good roads are failing. Soon the good roads will be in the shape that the old ones are in. The town needs to make a commitment on the road repairs. If they are complaining about taxes and fear an increase, then we won't be able to do it.

Gary Chance asked about the Garrity lines. Rita Sinclair told him that a 350 foot easement had been granted to the Town several years ago for the septic and a drain field. We will be receiving a written report from CES on their findings.

3. Transfer Station - The Town Manager reported that there are very few people that are using the transfer station on Tuesday's now. It really isn't worth the time taken to keep it open. The Board agreed to close the Transfer Station on Tuesday's. The Board also discussed the Solid Waste contract.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

2. School Assessment - The vote on the new budget was being counted as we proceed with this meeting, stated Town Manager, Rita Sinclair. In a comparison of the 0/0 and the new budget, the differences were in salaries, benefits, a music assistant, and a school bus.

3. Policy for Municipal Liability - Rita Sinclair, after consultation with MMA legal advisors, has typed up a "Release" to be signed by the PLSC for the dance on the tennis courts. This releases the Town from any liability that may be incurred on municipal property since the event is being held outside.

4. Quotes For Water Services - The Town Manager presented quotes from 2 companies on water softener services for the municipal building.

5. OSHA Citations - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair reported to the Board that OSHA had inspected the building and other municipal property on June 4<sup>th</sup>. A report has been received and several citations were made with a total of \$2,800 in fines. She has prepared a letter of appeal and hopes to be able to reduce the fines and correct the citations.

#### **SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**


Gloria Curtis – Power to Town Square. The Town Manager stated the electricity has been on since Christmas due to other functions. Gloria said there is a large extension cord by the signpost, which she will bring to the Town Office.

Gary Chance –Hallie Baker has a hole in front of her driveway. Picnic tables need painting. Fertilize trees at beach. Gloria said it can be done. They will need to be wrapped in the winter.

Rita Sinclair asked if Gloria and Amy were going to go to Augusta to see that the mps are done. Gloria suggested telephoning first and go from there.

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 P.M. (Time 2hrs 30 min.)

APPROVED:

  
Gloria Curtis

Arthur Routhier

  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECT PERSONS MEETING  
July 17, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of June 26 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Resignation
2. Personnel Issue (Executive Session)
3. Board Priorities

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. School Assessment
2. Signatures For Liquor License

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JULY 17, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M. by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Don and Bev Raymond, Residents.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the June 26th meeting. Motion carries.

The Treasurer's warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Resignation - The Town Manager presented Arthur Routhier's resignation which had been tabled at the previous meeting. A motion was made by Gary Chance to accept Arthur Routhier's resignation. Motion seconded by Gloria Curtis. Motion carries.

Gloria asked that the time frame for papers for Selectpersons be looked at and the necessary paperwork be initiated.

2. Personnel Issue (Executive Session) - Board will hold this item until the end of the meeting.

3. Board Priorities - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, asked the Board to decide what their priorities are for projects to be initiated and completed in the near future. The Board requests time to think about this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. School Assessment - Rita Sinclair presented the new assessment of \$317,952.53 for Portage Lake to the Board of Selectpersons for their review. This figure represents a \$38,425.76 increase over last years budget. A little more than a monthly increase of \$3,000.

2. Signatures For Liquor License - Deans application for a liquor license was presented to the Board for signatures. Since the information had not been filled out on the application, the Board tabled this item until the July 31st meeting.



**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gary Chance - Seaplane Base Dock has spikes sticking out of submerged log. Public works can use a hack saw to cut them off, or a pipe to bend the spikes to break them off. It isn't necessary to wait until we hire equipment to do other work there.

The water in the ditch on Station Road has to have something done. Either fill the ditch in or lower the culvert to drain the water off. Get the Fire Department to flush out the culvert and go back and remove the sod from the ditch to create flow. Gloria Curtis said it may be an expense for the rock to fill in the ditch. Gary Chance said to use fill from out back.

Culverts on the Hathaway Road - replacing them is not necessary.

At this time Gloria Curtis made a motion to go into executive session to discuss item #2 under OLD BUSINESS.

Executive Session entered into at 7:45 P.M. and ended at 8:30 P.M.

Gary Chance - use chipper at the transfer station and recycle chips instead of burning wood as it would be better for the environment. Cost for chipper rental is \$145 per day. Compare that with wages for 1 man to burn and the backhoe to move the pile. Can stumps be left at Town (School) Lot? Rita Sinclair said she would rather that this did not become a routine practice. Too many people would misuse the lot. She will check with Eagle Lake for disposal of stumps. Gary requested that pricing for a used chipper be looked at.

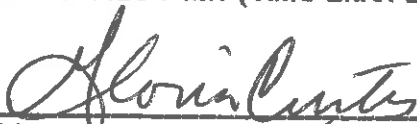
Priority List -- Bathrooms at beach

Parking Lot at beach - contact B. Pelletier for quote on gravel. It would be more appropriate than ledge.

DOT for tow behind sweeper. Rita Sinclair said she would check with government surplus to see if they had listed anything.

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 P.M. (Time 2hrs. 20 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
July 24, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Special Procedure For Shortening the Process To Fill Municipal Officer  
Vacancy**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SPECIAL SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JULY 24, 2002  
7 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M. by Gloria Curtis, Chairperson.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Leo Cormier, Resident.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Special Procedure For Shortening the Process to Fill Municipal Officer Vacancy**

A motion was made by Gary Chance to set the date of a Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, August 28, 2002 for the purpose of filling a vacancy in the office of Selectperson and, under Title 30-A M.R.S.A. 2528, using the Special Shortening Provision for nomination papers, to be available at the Town Office beginning Thursday, August 1, 2002 and shall be filed no later than Wednesday, August 14, 2002 at 4:30 P.M. Motion seconded by Gloria Curtis. Motion carries.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 7:05 P.M. (Time 5 min.)

Leo Cormier had questions regarding the meeting. He asked who called the meeting and if this order was a one time thing. The response was that the Board called the meeting in order to get the vacancy filled as soon as possible, and that this was only for this election.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
July 31, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of July 17 & 24, 2002 Meetings**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Station Road Ditch
2. Sutherland Street
3. Aspire Worker

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Maine Forest Service's Working Group on Timber Harvesting Regulations in the Shoreland Zone
2. Coperative Effort With Maine Public Service on West Road
3. Signatures For Liquor License
4. Can Am Preliminary Plan

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
JULY 31, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Gloria Curtis, Chairperson, called the Selectperson's Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Glenn Cusack, Resident.

Minutes of the July 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Meetings were read and those of the 17<sup>th</sup> were approved as read. The minutes of the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with a correction to the heading.

The Treasurer's Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

1. Glenn Cusack approached the Board of Selectpersons with a request from the Portage Lakers ATV Club to use the Town owned land to make ATV trails. Glenn produced a map of the proposed trails in and out of Town. He also produced a copy of the clubs by-laws and officers. Glenn said that the biggest trail is on land that is owned by Portage, Irving and Prentiss and Carlisle.

Gary Chance asked if the club had contacted other landowners? Glenn said no they hadn't as they were just getting to that point. Rita Sinclair stated that most of the trails appeared to be on joint owned land and that of Irving. Gary Chance asked if it were the School Lot that they were talking about. Rita Sinclair said it wasn't so much that as it was the joint owned land and that of Irving. Glenn said that some of the areas that they were looking to get permission to ride the snowmobile trails that are already laid out now. Gloria Curtis asked how that would work out with ITS. Glenn said they would be able to use them only in the summertime. Gary said they would probably have to determine a start /stop date, to which Glenn responded that there was legislation going on now. There are problems down state that we would like to avoid that involved a lot of small landowners and a lot of salesmen. This is going to be a bigger sport than snowmobiling in the state. We don't want to lose the snowmobile trails and yet the owners need to know that ATV's run on the ground and snowmobiles have a cushion of snow, so there is less chance of tearing up the ground. Television advertising shows people riding through the muck and mud and sales people tell new owners they can ride anywhere.

Gary Chance asked if there were provisions in Maine law that allowed them to travel certain distances on a paved way? Glenn said yes there are and in some towns such as Ashland because they couldn't get permission from landowners they are given permission to ride down a certain way until they reach the trail. Gary asked if the Portage Club is in co-operation with other clubs to which Glenn answered, "Yes."

Gray stated he is as enthused as anyone to bring business to town, whether it's snowmobiling or ATV's, but a lot of things have already been mentioned that you are struggling with that bring questions that will have to be answered. Where we can go with it is unknown. These things have been banned from the woods for good reason.

Glenn said some of these issues won't be solved overnight. Gloria Curtis said the club would have to put a lot of effort into it and make peace with these landowners.

Gary Chance asked if there was liability connected with the Town if permission is granted for these trails? Glenn said not as long as they are allowed to maintain the trails. Maine Liability Law covers that and I can get a copy of that for you. Gary gave a for instance of a person riding down a trail and a tree comes down in front of him and he bangs his head, is the Town liable? Glenn stated that the liability law covers landowners and municipalities. It's a pretty simple law. Gary stated he was unfamiliar with it and that was why he asked. Gary asked who maintains the trails to which Glenn responded the ATV Club. We are looking to get 7 miles of trail to belong to ATV of Maine and possibly get some grant money and markers. They will be crossing private land as well as Town land.

Rita Sinclair asked how many members the club has now. Glenn responded, "10 at this point but expect that number to swell."

Both Gloria and Gary need more time before they can make a decision. There are several questions that have to be answered first.

The Board thanked Glenn for coming in.

2. Jim and Kathy Holmes would like to change the name of the street they live on from Hilltop Drive to Patriot Drive. They weren't aware that this was voted on or they would have made the request sooner. The Board agrees that this should be put in an Article for the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

3. At this point Glenn Cusack and James Dumond came in to discuss the Can Am Dog Sled Race. Rita Sinclair said they were on the agenda, but since it was the last item they should present their request.

James Dumond asked if the Board would allow them to use the Municipal Building for the resting point. Crooked Tree Lodge may not be operating next spring and they need a place to stop over. This would also bring the trail for the race to the eastern side of Rt. 11. It would keep the teams off the lake and the more we can stay away from the snowmobiles the better.

The Club would have to rent the building. Rita Sinclair said the town has allowed non-profit or not for profit organizations use the building without charge. They would have to make sure it was cleaned afterwards. Gloria Curtis said that was where she was going. Knowing what kind of an outfit they are they will clean up after themselves. It would give plenty of room for spectators. Jim Dumond said he figured it wouldn't interfere with Town business. The dogs would be walked across Rt. 11 for safety reasons. The Board agrees that it is an excellent idea and that Jim needs to get back to the Town Manager with specific dates. Jim said it would be the first weekend in March, and Glenn said they were trying to co-ordinate it with Spring Fling.

The Board thanked Jim and Glenn for coming in.

1. Station Road Ditch – Rita Sinclair said the ditch had been completed with stone, MDOT had cleaned their culvert on West Road and the water was moving. It did take more stone than expected, but the positive comments made well worthwhile.

2. Sutherland Street – Rita Sinclair reported that the work on Sutherland Street was completed. We had hired two people at different times to get these projects done, only to have to let one go and the other quit. Adelphia and Verizon have held us up since last October as neither one seemed to know what the other was doing. They finally moved their lines and poles and Public Works finished the job.

3. Aspire Worker – Rita Sinclair stated that since he had not called in and had not appeared for work that he was terminated. She has contacted the caseworker to inform him of this decision and to state the reasons. Don Raymond and possibly Bill Good will be our attendants for the rest of the summer.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Maine Forest Service's Working Group on Timber Harvesting Regulations in the Shoreland Zone – Informational Only. This is a legislative effort within the State to place these regulations in the Maine Forest Service's hands. It would no longer be DEP that enforces these regulations. A meeting will be held at MMA to hear how this would work. As soon as a meeting date is set, we will be notified.

2. Cooperative Effort with Maine Public Service on West Road – Rita Sinclair stated that Maine Public Service has contracted some work on West Road. This has opened the road up for better visibility, and more sunlight to help dry the area out. Maine Public is on a budget just as we are. Since we need to do the same type of work to expose our road shoulders and the areas to be ditched, I took the liberty of calling Glenn Nadeau to ask if they would be coming back to complete the job. Glenn said they had used the funding available to them at this time. MPS had Ashplund trim down to the wires on the rest of the road, but that's as far as they can go unless more funding comes up. Glenn asked if we (the Town) would consider a joint venture. I told him I would bring it to the Board for discussion. It cost MPS \$10,000 to get 33 poles done and there are another 33, maybe a little more, to complete the project. The Town would have to contract someone to do this, as it is very time consuming to do it by hand with only two employees. It would be to our best interest to cost share to get the rest of the trees cut and open the road up for better visibility, less hazards, and better drainage.

Gary Chance asked if we are looking at the Town paying a share and Maine Public paying a share rather than the town paying the whole thing. Rita Sinclair said yes, and they will contact the homeowners and do the necessary paperwork. We are looking at the areas where the lines cross the road and they have trimmed the trees down to the wires. We still need to get the trees cut in the right of way so that ditching can be done. Gloria asked if we don't agree then will they still proceed with the actual work. Rita said that they consider what has been done to last five years before they

have to come back and trim again. If it would be approved, how long before they can come back and finish. Rita said that Glenn Nadeau is supposed to get back to her with a time frame. Gary Chance asked if this were approved, when would the work be done? Glenn is supposed to get back to me with a time frame. Gloria asked if this would come out of monies that we already have for road improvements. Rita Sinclair said that the money is there. Gary said he thinks what has been done has really helped the road. It would eliminate headaches for Maine Public and help open the road to better visibility. It's a good idea. Rita Sinclair stated that it is work that we will have to do anyway and by cost sharing it will get the job done much faster. Gloria said that Maine Public will be making the contacts and having the responsibility of contracting Ashlund to do the work. The Board feels that the joint effort is a good idea.

A motion was made by Gary Chance that the Town works in co-operation with Maine Public to continue the tree trimming along the West Cottage Road and share the cost of the work. Gloria Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Gloria asked for a figure before the work begins. Gary agreed that we need to know the number. Rita said she counted 42 poles and believed that the charges were by the pole. Gary said perhaps we should say, as a stipulation, that the Town would spend or co-operate up to a certain dollar amount. Gloria said if they give us a figure of \$10,000.00 then we would spend up to \$5,000.00.

3. Signatures for Liquor License – The Town Manager presented Deans' Liquor License for the Board's signatures. Routine application, no discussion, license signed by the Board.

4. CanAM Preliminary Plan – Discussed under BUSINESS FROM FLOOR.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gary Chance – Parking lot at the beach really getting rough. Get a cost for grading to get through the season and look into adding gravel next year.

Gloria Curtis – The marks on the West Cottage Road in front of people's driveways, is that something the Town is doing? The Town Manager responded that they were for Dig Safe to come and inspect the areas we will be digging. Those are the culverts that need to be replaced.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M. (Time 1 hr, 55 min)



**APPROVED:**

*Gloria Curtis*

---

Gloria Curtis

---

Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
August 14, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of July 31, 2002 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Seaplane Base Debris Removal Estimates
2. Hathaway Road Project
3. Culvert Replacement

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Set Mil Rate/Tax Commitment
2. Signatures For Warrant of Special Town Meeting
3. Signatures for Special Entertainment Permit

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 2002  
7:00 PM**

Gloria Curtis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Abh Khambaty, property owner; Angie Burton, resident and business owner.

Approve Minutes of July 31, 2002 Meeting - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair apologized to the Board for not having the minutes completed due to computer problems and the poor quality of the tape recorder.

Approve Treasurer's Warrants - The Board of Selectpersons reviewed and signed the Treasurer's Warrants.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

No Public present for comments on Special Entertainment License. License To be approved by Board of Selectpersons. As there was no questions or opposition to the License, Angie Burton left the meeting.

Gloria asked Mr. Khambaty if he had something for the Board. He responded that he came to the meeting as a concerned and interested taxpayer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Seaplane Base Debris Removal Estimates - The Town Manager presented two estimates for the removal of the debris at the seaplane base. The estimate from Portage Construction of \$250.00 was chosen over the \$299.90 estimate from Shamrock Construction. Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, will notify Portage Construction of the Boards' decision.

2. Hathaway Road Project - Rita Sinclair, Town Manager, reported that she had notified the companies that were sent letters of request for bid that the deadline had been extended to September 21, as there had been some questions regarding the project. Gary Chance asked how soon the new Board member would be on. He would like to wait for the third Board member for a decision so that he could abstain from voting, as he is a property owner on that road. Rita Sinclair stated that if Mr. Raymond was elected he also is a property owner on that road and that the improvements would be even more beneficial to him. Mr. Khambaty asked if the road was being improved to raise the value of the property. Gloria replied that it was because the road is in need of repairs.

3. Culvert Replacement - Mr. Khambaty stated that he had not received a right of easement from MDOT for a cross culvert by his property on West Road. Rita Sinclair said MDOT files should show this. They were the ones maintaining West Road in that area back then. She will look at the survey done by CES to see what recommendations were made regarding cross culverts. Mr. Khambaty said it was about 4 years ago when that culvert was replaced.

Rita Sinclair wanted to bring the Board up to date on the culverts that have been replaced, or reset, on West Road. They are the driveway culverts of Laurel Theriault, Gary Thibault, and Steve Jandreau. There are several on East Cottage Road that will be replaced and some new ones to be installed. The ditch and the culvert are not aligned by Darla Benson's property and the cellar drain and the spring between the Benson and Chapman properties create a hazard in the winter with the runoff freezing in the roadway. This will be an ongoing project for Public Works.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Set Mil Rate/Tax Commitment - The Town Manager presented four mil rates for the Board of Selectpersons to choose from. After discussion on an overlay and abatements, Gary Chance made a motion to set the municipal tax rate at 17.30 for 2002. Seconded by Gloria Curtis. Motion carries. Mr. Khambaty asked how long Portage keeps the abatement account? His city figures 5 years for abatement. If there is a court case the money sits in that account until the case is over. He also asked why allow people to owe two years of taxes? "You should go after people who owe. Send out two to four mailings rather than a yearly bill." Rita Sinclair stated that people could pay on their taxes on a weekly, monthly, or quarterly basis rather than paying it all at once. The choice is theirs. Mr. Khambaty asked where we got our money for the budget before we start collecting tax money. Rita replied that it comes from Revenue Sharing, excise tax, URIP, Town fees, Agent fees and taxpayers who choose to pay their taxes in advance of receiving a bill. Mr. Khambaty believes it would be to the Town's benefit to send out two tax bills, with one being an estimate based on last year's calculations and then the final bill based on the current calculations.

Mr. Khambaty addressed Gloria Curtis, Chairperson, stating that exposure to these matters are worth the expense. Decision making sharpens up.

2. Signatures For special Town Meeting - Gary Chance and Gloria Curtis signed the Warrant for the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

3. Signatures For Special Entertainment Permit - Gloria Curtis and Gary Chance signed the Special Entertainment License for Dean's Motel.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**


Gloria Curtis - Gloria stated she had spoken with Lewis Cousins, CEO, on the Parker Sutherland issue. Lewis said he expected that the Judge on this case


would send the appeal back to the Board of Appeals to have the hearing held in a timely manner. Gloria wonders if DEP should be present at that hearing.

Gary Chance - The brush pile at the transfer station is a concern due to the dry weather. Rita Sinclair stated that no more brush, stumps, or tree lengths logs would be accepted at the transfer station if we are at the maximum level of the burn pile, unless the Board chooses to have the wood chipped. Gary suggested that the individuals may be willing to pay to chip. Gloria said the Town is not in the business for chipping, but it might be worth finding out the cost to have it chipped.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. (Time 2 hrs. 50 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SPECIAL SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2002  
7:00 PM**

**Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.**

**Due to the absence of Selectperson, Gary Chance, the meeting to select a contractor for the Hathaway Road Project was cancelled.**

**Time 20 minutes.**

**Respectfully submitted:**



**Rita M. Sinclair**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
August 28, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting To Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of July 31, 2002 Meeting

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Hathaway Road Project Bids
2. Seaplane Base
3. Artesian Well
4. Transfer Station Chipper

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Land Purchase
2. Abatement for Tax Bill
3. Campground License

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2002  
7:00 PM**

Gloria Curtis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Patrick Raymond, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager. Gary Chance was absent.

The minutes from the July 31, 2002 meeting were approved as printed. Gloria Curtis answered questions that Pat Raymond had regarding the previous meetings. She also referred to the minutes relating to the CanAM Races and that the mushers are the only ones that are fed; it is not open to the public.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

Glenn Cusack stated he returned to ask the Board if they had made a decision on the ATV trails on Town and joint owned land. Since no one has gotten back to him with any questions or concerns, he was hoping for a response. Pat Raymond asked Glenn what exactly he was looking for. Glenn responded he was seeking permission for the ATV Club to ride on municipal lands. Some of the proposed trails will be on the existing snowmobile trail and some will have to be cut new. It will depend on the co-operation of the landowners. Pat Raymond asked if there were designated areas now and where are you headed with this? Glenn stated that there are potential access points, none are with the permission of anyone as yet. We are trying to get 6 -7 miles of trail in order to be eligible for grant money for trails. I've given Gary a flyer with some of this information on it. Pat asked if this were similar to the snowmobile trails and Gloria answered it's the same thing. Gloria's only question was that since it wasn't during the winter, they wouldn't be able to run the snowmobile trails. She said she was thinking of the ITS trails and where they would come into play if the Town says you can run four wheelers? Glenn responded that there is no reason it can't be done unless it's winter time and then you can't. Pat Raymond said that was his concern. Gloria said that was what she was getting at. They can't be running at the same time. The difference is that snowmobiles run on snow and four wheelers run on ground. Once snowmobiling is over, the four wheelers can run. It makes sense to use the snowmobile trails but now the funding is for each trail. Gloria's point was that ITS is already funding or helping with trails, so how are they about turning them into summertime trails? Glenn responded that to his knowledge there hasn't been any talk with MSA about not using the snowmobile trails. We are trying to get an ATV club formed and keep it separate from the snowmobile club. Rita Sinclair asked if Glenn was looking for Portage's approval on joint owned land in hopes to encourage the other two landowners to be agreeable to this as well? Glenn answered yes. Pat Raymond thinks that Irving will be Glenn's biggest goal and then P & C will follow through. Glenn stated that P&C is a small percentage holder and the Town of Portage is the largest. Gloria Curtis asked Pat Raymond



how he felt about it, and Pat stated that he didn't have a problem with it as long as it is maintained. Pat stated he was sure the riders will be told to stay on marked trails, and if there are harvest operations the trails will be closed. If they build a new road they won't want you on those roads. There will be those problems. Gloria agreed, saying the same thing happened to the Nason's. Someone came in with a four wheeler without asking permission. Those are the things you will be dealing with.

Gloria said she would accept a motion to give them the Towns permission. Pat asked if she would rather wait for Gary to be present. Gloria said this had been brought up before and Gary didn't have any objections at that time. If you want to wait until the next meeting, we can do that.

Pat Raymond stated he doesn't have a problem with giving permission for them to go on town land. He then made a motion to allow the ATV Club to go on Town or joint owned land, providing they adhere to the rules. Gloria Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Pat asked Glenn where the proposed trails are. Glenn said he did have a map but not with him. Rita Sinclair said the only negative comment she had heard was from Sarah Brooks. She feels that if a trail is made out that way then she will have to close her riding stables. Glenn said there is a way around that and he has already spoken to another landowner in that area. There may be a problem with a landowner off West Cottage Road. Glenn thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Hathaway Road Project Bids - Rita Sinclair presented three bids for the Hathaway Road. Gloria said the bids had been opened as posted but no decision was made as there wasn't a majority of the Board present. The job was to be bid as a total project but that isn't how the bids came in. Morin Construction gave an hourly rate on their equipment. Shamrock Construction gave a bid on ditching only as he does not have material for the road bed. Rita Sinclair stated that all three bidders have been to the Hathaway Road to discuss the project and what has to be done. Pat Raymond asked what the whole proposal is for the Hathaway Road. Rita said on the lower end (blow the tracks) it is to build the road bed up as was done to the upper part of the road, straighten out the ditch that Danny made this spring, including rock dams or berms to slow down the water. We are going to put a cross culvert in before Dan Higgins road to carry the water from that side over so it doesn't create a problem on that side for the landowners. It will also keep the water flowing in a natural direction. There appears to be a natural berm. Did you make that? Pat responded that he had not, but the Town did some work there years ago and dumped two loads of dirt and roots in the ditch on the opposite side of the road. That is what holds the water in the road. I have asked several times to have that removed and it has never been done. It's about 400 - 450 feet back from the lake. Rita Sinclair said that on the upper end of the road we proposed to raise the road bed as was done to the middle of the road the year before last. That wasn't graded this spring because we wanted to

raise the road bed. As it is right now there isn't much there for material to grade. Ditching in that area will be minimal because by raising the road bed it will create a natural ditch. The other side will need to be cleaned out but no major ditching needs to be done. They have marked the 25 foot right of way and trimmed back some of the trees. I told Vaughn to wait and see what happens with the bids before we cut any more trees. Pat Raymond asked about the comments on the bid sheet submitted by Dan Higgins. Rita Sinclair said they were in reference only to some questions Danny had about the ditching on the left side of the road. He thought a water easement would have to be gotten before we could direct water down his road, but that wasn't part of the proposal. We don't want to add to the problems we already have. The last bid is that of Portage Construction. Pat said he was looking at the bottom figure and stated that they can have a road built in the woods, from scratch, for \$12,000 and gravel. That's a mile of road. This bid doesn't make sense. Gloria asked why can't we get it done for that. This is closer to \$20,000 when you add the two together. Pat wasn't aware that the last figure wasn't the total bid. He said there is no way he would accept that. It's just too much for the value that's there. You're talking \$21,000. Gloria said it's too bad because we sent out more requests for bids. She also stated the Board has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Pat Raymond said the ditching needs to be done to save the road. We have to divert that water. Rita Sinclair asked the Board if they wanted to consider any of the bids for the ditching or have the town to do it? Pat said now we are changing the bid. Rita said we would have to go out to bid again just for ditching. Gloria said if the town did just the ditching it may not be too bad. Pat asked if the Town could do the ditching themselves. The Town Manager asked the Board to look at Sutherland Street and East Cottage to can see what Public Works can do. Pat Raymond feels that if the Town has equipment they should use it. It is costing money. If we are not going to use it, get rid of it. We can't just have it setting or parading up and down the road. If you can work it, the more power to it, providing you can get the job done and make sure it's done right. A ditching stretch like that, to me, you should get that done in a week. Rita asked if he was referring to the ditch from the tracks down. Gloria said that's the biggest part right now. Pat stated that you shouldn't have to go deeper, it just a matter of shaping the ditch, follow the natural contour as long as it's straight. You would have to buy a couple loads of rock to build the dams. Gloria said she was at the point where she trusted our own to do the job because we have some control over it than when others do it.

Gloria stated that she needed a motion to refuse the bids and go with whatever Vaughn can do.

Pat Raymond made a motion to not accept any of the three bids. Gloria Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Pat asked if these people (bidders) would be contacted. Rita Sinclair said she would send letters informing them of the Boards decision. Pat stated that right now I would recommend that we shape that ditch enough that if it does rain it would get the grass growing in there. Whether it's hay mat or all spreading hay. It should be all done by us, it's not that big of a project. In my experience in a

week you should be able to do the worst part of that. Gloria wants to include moving the dirt piles. Pat wants to get it done right off. He asks whatever became of our Road Committee we had? Gloria and Pat named Al Murphy, Ted Condon, and Dick Bessie as committee members. Pat stated that Al Murphy and Dick Bessie have moved. Gloria said we have never got back on any of it. Pat thinks that got some people interested in the Town of Portage. It gave the Board an insight on other views and some of these people had experience and it helped us in the past. I make a suggestion that we look at forming another one. Road maintenance and upkeep never goes away. Gloria said they could be aware of it all the time. There are some people, stated Pat, like Eldon Gardiner who lives right in Town. As I get older I like to have someone come ask me for something like this. Gloria said it helps to make people feel as though they are a part of the whole thing. We'll get some names together. Pat stated that the committee knew it was all volunteer and we got a lot from them. They mapped out the ditching system, numbered all the culverts, we never had to run after that. They identified all the problems, or highlighted them, more or less. I think we should be able to do that again. We could involve anyone in that. Gloria added, "that has any road experience." Pat suggested Danny Higgins, Darrell Soucy, or anyone that is in construction. Gloria's question to Pat was, "Why is it that we can't get a road built from scratch for that kind of money? That doesn't even make sense. What is the reasoning here? We went through this once before." Pat responded that all of these prices are established by the landowners themselves. They should say, "Look guys, if you want to work this is what it's going to cost." If it's left up to them, you know what I mean. It's like an employee, this is what I'm paying you, now go contract it out. The guy is going to try to get a little more money out of it. They have gotten away with it in the past and they're going to get you every time. I think they should have a little loyalty to your Town." Gloria stated that she thought that, too. Pat related that, "you don't have to work for nothing; no one can afford to work for nothing. When you have equipment, you are there to make money and survive, and I don't blame them, but there are things there that is way to much money. When it comes right down to it, there is a Town pit there. We can hire a bulldozer and have some ledge pushed up. Seven Islands is right up the road, maybe we can contact them and get something decent." Gloria agreed. Rita Sinclair asked where their pit is. Pat Raymond said it's not ledge; it's coarse gravel. Gloria asked where the pit was and Pat said it is on Little Machias. Pat said we should use our neighbors; that's good public relation. Gloria stated that we have always had a good relationship with them. Rita Sinclair said that it would be closer than the ledge pit. Pat thinks the material would be better. He stated that special material isn't needed because you won't have the water. In the springtime with snow on that there won't be anyone traveling on it. If it drains off quick when the snow goes off, then we're all set. Gloria said that it has held so much water. Pat remarked that what's bad is when the water is running down the road and traffic is going over it. What really ruined that road is putting that muck in the middle of the road while the road was frozen and the top of that is sitting there. Then turning it back over and putting it back in the ditch. Gloria said that didn't make a lot of sense. Pat said, "Yes it was low, but the base was still good."

We can't find a better time of year to do this because it's bone dry. You won't be making a mess in the lake. Leave the last couple hundred feet just the way it is. The water is going there anyway, you won't need extra filters. Maybe a couple bales of hay. Once that's done, every year or two you have to go back and clean those. You can't let the trees grow, that's part of that maintenance program. Gloria said, "get with Vaughn and go for it. Get as much done as you can." Rita stated that Vaughn has a project to finish on East Cottage before this can be started.

Pat said before we get to that next time around when we all get together, if there are going to be changes, then we can address the issues, but the ditching should be taken care of. Disposal of that, I guess, there should be enough places close enough to take care of it.

Rita Sinclair mentioned that Dave Bolstridge wants fill by his garage. Barb Pitcarin had asked for some, but that's too far to travel. Pat mentioned Mitzi Lyons might want some fill. He lives right across from the Hathaway Road.

2. Seaplane Base - Rita Sinclair gave a brief update to the Board on the work at the Seaplane Base. The logs, debris and cement abutment have been removed. The dock was put back in place and two loads of rock was hauled in to make the path to the dock more accessible. Pat Raymond asked if that cement abutment was what the Town paid \$28,000 to put in years ago? Gloria Curtis updated Pat on the removal of the debris and the condition of the access to the dock. Everything was gone except for that abutment that you had to climb on to get to the dock and the timbers that had the spikes in them. We had DEP permission to remove the debris. We had several complaints about it so now it's all set to go.

3. Artesian Well - Gloria reported that we were having trouble there. She asked the Town Manager if the pipe was plugged. Rita Sinclair said the drain system was plugged. The pipe had filled with dirt preventing the water from escaping through the drainpipe and the ground had absorbed all the water it would hold. Years ago when that drain was put in a small pond was also put in. That pond was full of debris, so we cleaned that up as well. Once that was opened up, and a new drain put in, the water no longer runs out of the artesian well and across the road. We had to get a Permit By Rule from DEP. The drain has a T at the end to help divert the water. There is rock under the pipe for drainage, fabric over the pipe with more rock over that, with loam, seed and mulch to finish it off. As soon as the pipe was hooked up it took care of the excess water, even inside the well house. Gloria said she had stopped and looked at it and it was dry inside. She also stated that someone had made a comment that the building itself was hooked to the artesian well. She asked Pat Raymond if he knew anything about that. She said it is claimed that at one time the building had water from the well and someone from the Town had unhooked it. That wasn't recently. You may want to talk to Sharon about it. Pat Raymond asked what the deal was on the lease agreement. Gloria stated that they still have the same as when Ray was here. Pat was not a Board member at that time and said the last he knew Jim Strang had the lease with the Town. Heb Umphrey was sub leasing it. Gloria

said it was even worse now in the sense that they have a lease that every three years has an automatic renewal, as long as the Town doesn't have any problems with what they have done, or that they don't have any reason to get out of the lease. Meanwhile, in essence it's like a lifetime lease, which we really hadn't planned on going quite that way. Now we can't sell it and we have had an offer on it because we don't have a reason to take it away from them. Rita Sinclair reminded Gloria that there may be a reason if they don't put up a new windsock. That's part of the maintenance. It was mentioned that they were going to do that but it hasn't been done yet. Pat asked if they are the ones that maintain the grounds to which Gloria responded, "Yes." She said that they couldn't work with the docks that were down there anymore. After Jim Strang tore them apart there wasn't much. Pat agreed saying that it was a waste. We turned around and was able to get money from the Town approved for a new dock. He is responsible for bringing it in and putting it out. Pat stated he keeps asking himself what it ever accomplished. Gloria said that it's because it is the Seaplane Base, that's the only reason that we have to have it. Pat asked if Gloria was saying that now we could sell the Seaplane Base? Gloria said, "No." I don't know. Pat stated if you can sell the property is there a clause in there that you have to keep the Seaplane Base open? He stated that he always had a problem with that property as a Seaplane Base. Gloria said the only way we stay licensed as a Seaplane Base is by Town approval, but where at one time it was a federal grant that did all this, how can we sell it? I don't know. Pat remarked that it was abandoned at one time. Gloria agreed and stated that it's only leased for \$200 per year. Pat feels it shouldn't cost us anything, if they are going to be using it and they should maintain it. In the past we were paying to mow the lawns and maintaining it and we were getting nothing for the lease and they were turning around and leasing it out for more money. Gloria said there is a clause in this lease that says that can't be done. We can't complain there because they have put thousand of dollars into the building. They have done a good job there. It's all renovated and they do keep up the grounds. Pat asked if the public could still go there and use it. Gloria said the docks, absolutely. The only thing they asked is if they can block this section off with sawhorses because people were driving around the building and there were kids out front. There is a road that actually goes to the dock and that is what they should be using. We saw no problem with them putting up the sawhorses. Pat said he didn't believe we should have our hands tied. Gloria feels we should be able to up the lease. Rita Sinclair stated, when the last lease came up, Don Everett was asked to sign a signature page to show that the three years had passed and that it was updated to have the signatures of the current Board on it. He refused by taking the lease to an attorney and having it recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Gloria said we don't know what that means. We should have our lawyer take a look at it. Pat said that we probably couldn't sell the property either, because they are tying it up. That would be a good question to ask the lawyer if you could get him on the phone. Gloria said especially where it was federally funded at one time.

4. Transfer Station Chipper - Rita stated that we have spread all the ash that we can spread on that site. DEP doesn't want us to spread it so that it can be seen on top of the ground. We don't have a spreader so we are doing the best that we can. I called Tri Community and Ken recommended Randy Shaw. You probably know him? Pat Raymond said he chips in their yard. They have been shut down momentarily because of the metals in either the wood. I told him that wouldn't be a problem with us because we only accept clean wood and brush. We are looking at getting rid of brush, trees and stumps. If the Board makes a decision to do this, we could eliminate the burn pile and have a bigger area for the wood. Gloria remarked that we wouldn't have the ash trouble. Rita said as it is right now we are limited to a certain size area that has to have a buffer around it. If we chip we could take more and not have the worry of burning. Pat Raymond asked what the cost was for chipping it. Rita replied \$3.00 per ton. They must weigh the chips when they are done. If we want to go by the hour, it's \$400 per hour. Gloria asked how much chips it takes to make a ton, a pickup load or a truck load? Pat answered a truck will haul 30 ton. Rita said she was trying to figure how many tons of chips would be in a truck load of logs. It just wasn't computing. Pat said he would haul legal weight 100,000 pounds gross, and the truck would weigh about 35,000. Gloria asked how much chips do we have? Pat answered, it all depends on the size of the pile of wood you have. Rita said that's just it. If we can stockpile, we can have a bigger pile. We are in the process of updating our Transfer Station Operations Manual. We could have the burn pile eliminated and have it replaced with a woodpile. Burning is going to get costly because of having to dispose of the ashes. Burning requires that the ash be tested before disposal at least one time per year. If it's found to be contaminated, then we have hazardous clean up expenses to deal with. Gloria asked how often would we have to have to have it done (chipped). Lloyd Jandreau has been in and asked if he could take wood in up there. Pat asked what kind of wood are we talking about? Rita responded that they are trees, brush, and stumps. Pat said he thought there was a length limit on that. There is for burning it has to be 4 foot lengths. If it's going to be chipped, 12 foot lengths if it's green. If it's not green, then tree length is fine. Green wood tends to get wrapped around the chipper and makes it much more difficult for them. Pat asked if he was talking just chipping. He also has a grinder. We give him the material and he turns around and sells the chips. Gloria said he will still charge us to chip. Pat said he comes in to Seven Islands and cleans up the yard. Everything is pushed in a pile and he comes twice year and cleans it up. Farmers will use that to make compost. Pat said if it's dry wood the weights not there. If it's green it will increase the weight of your load by 30%. Gloria said that leads to the fact that everybody else is bringing all this wood in and we're paying to have it chipped. Pat said if we have a chipper we are going to encourage a lot more. Rita said, "We've gotten way to much lately. After the last burn I said that's it! Unless we can do some thing, we are not taking any more." Gloria said we have to have it so they (townspeople) can use it. What are they getting out of Portage for their taxes? Rita said we are limited to a certain amount and once that area is full, we have to stop and that's not three stories high, either. The only other thing we can do is to hauling it by

dump truck to Ft. Fairfield. Gloria thinks we should try this guy. It's going to cost us one way or another. I don't like burning it anymore. We are at the point where it's pretty dangerous to burn. Is that something we should table? Pat Raymond said he would like to hear what Gary has to say. Pat asked if Gary misses a lot of meetings. Rita said no, and Gary's push was to inquire about a chipper. I think he feels we could pick one up through surplus sales for a decent price. We could rent a chipper, but it won't handle what we get up there. Pat said a small chipper wouldn't handle that. I think if you are going to open the doors for that you would get an auger. Gloria said her point is that we will still be paying the cost. Even though we owe our townspeople something. Pat said he wanted to throw something in there is there is a waste disposal problem in this area. Seven Islands, Maine Woods, Irving (but not as much as everyone else because they use the old Pinkham dump site) has a problem. We should look at a joint effort for disposal of wood. Right now we have Shaw, but that could change overnight. I'm leery of hiring a chipper because we don't know what we are going to get. Gloria said we will table it for now and discuss it with Gary and go from there.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Land Purchase - The Town Manager presented a request to purchase Town owned land on West Cottage Road by property owner, David Farnham, to erect a storage building. This is a piece that the Town swapped with GNC at one time. Pat Raymond doesn't feel we should sell Town owned land. Gloria is in agreement.
2. Abatement on Tax Bill - Rita presented an abatement to the Board for a parcel that was double billed. There was an error in data entry when the sale was made. This requires the Assessors signatures. The bill hasn't been paid yet, so I will type up a new tax bill for Mr. Pelletier showing the amount due from him. The abatement is for \$704. The Board signed the abatement.
3. Campground License - the Town Manager informed the board that a complaint had been lodged with the Department of Human services that we are running an unlicensed campground. Don MacCallister of DHS has contacted me asking if we are licensed to run a campground. I told him I had seen nothing to that effect in the 3 years that I have been here. I asked him what that entails. He said we would need a septic system, 2 bathrooms with lavatories, 2 showers, a well for drinking water, and a dumping station. If it was after 1970, we may be grandfathered. If it is after the laws went into affect, we have no choice but to comply or close. I'm trying to find out an exact date that the campground was started. I said I would bring it to the Board of Selectpersons to get their input. Pat said if it comes to that we can keep it as a picnic area. Gloria said she doesn't feel that we have to comply with this. Even though it's called a campground, it's more of a tenting sight. Pat asked if there was a date on having to get this done. Rita replied, no. He said if anyone called again he would tell

them we are working on it. Gloria said she wouldn't worry about it unless they tell us we have to close.

**SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**

Pat Raymond - Wants to know what the Board has for concerns and goals.

Gloria Curtis - None

The Board reviewed and signed the Treasurers Warrants.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM (Time 2 hrs.)

**APPROVED:**

  
Gloria Curtis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

  
Patrick Raymond



**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
September 11, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of August 14, 2002 Meetings**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Stumpage Agreement**
- 2. FEMA Grant Completion**
- 3. Transfer Station Update**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Fox Hill Road**
- 2. Crack Sealing on Streets**
- 3. MMA Convention - Bangor 10/16-18/2002**

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2002  
7:00 PM**

Gloria Curtis, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance and Pat Raymond, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

Gloria Curtis made a motion to accept minutes as written. Seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Board of Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

Gloria Curtis dispensed with this as there was no public present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Stumpage Agreement - The Town Manager presented a new stumpage agreement from Irving that Laura Audibert had brought into the office for approval. There is a difference in prices from February of 2002 to now. Pat asked if Laura had made any comments on the new agreement. The Town Manager reported that Laura's comment was that this is probably the best we will get. Pat Raymond would like to know where they are going to cut first. He would like to get some input on the price on tree length logs and the price on softwood before the Board signs this agreement. Pat questioned where the travel area would be once they start cutting. Are they planning on coming out on the West Cottage Road by the campground. Rita Sinclair will check with Irving to find out.

Pat made a motion to postpone signing the stumpage agreement until prices can be verified. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

2. FEMA Grant Completion - Rita Sinclair reported that \$33,705.90 of Federal Grant money had come in to pay for the Personal Protective Gear for the Fire Department. She briefly reviewed the procedure for the grant and stated she was surprised to received word that the grant had been successful. This benefited the Fire Department and the Town because the condition of the gear was an issue when the Department of Labor (OSHA) made their preliminary inspection.

3. Transfer Station Update - The Town Manager reported that Randy Shaw had sent someone to view our wood area to estimate how much wood we might have to chip. It was stated if we stayed with the surface area and piled higher, we could possibly have a truckload of chips. This would be around 30 ton. Gary

Chance commented that for \$100 we could get rid of the wood. Rita Sinclair said it would be much cheaper than the burning process and having to have the ash tested and disposed of. Gloria commented that we don't want to encourage anyone to start bringing tons of wood. Pat Raymond agreed that would be his concern. He wouldn't want to change the specks of our burn area. Rita Sinclair stated that individuals would have to be limited. Gary Chance feels that it would be a savings to the Town. Gary Chance wants to know how often we would have to have the wood chipped. Mr. Shaw had said to call when we are ready for chipping. The Boards directive is to find out how much volume Mr. Shaw would need and how soon he will come after he is called.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Fox Hill Road - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, asked the Board to consider slating Fox Hill Road for paving in the upcoming budget. Cross culverts have been done and some areas have been ditched to try to keep the water from flowing down the road. The cross culverts have been a source of complaint from some of the residents on that road. There has been a septic project in that area and the weight of the trucks has compacted the pavement in the two cross culverts so that it does make it rough. It would be a waste of money to fill them with cold patch and then have to dig it out to have it paved. Pat Raymond suggested putting gravel in them as a temporary solution. Rita Sinclair will contact Lane, Caron, and Morin Paving Companies to get figures on paving the cross culverts and the culvert at the post office.

2. Crack Sealing on Streets - Rita Sinclair reminded the Board that the Town had received an estimate of \$20,000 for sealing the cracks on East and West Cottage Streets. At the time the Board felt that it was too much money to spend. At present, if something isn't done, the pavement will start crumbling and the road will require major repair. Pat Raymond asked the other Board members to choose a date and time that they could look at East and West to inspect the damages. Gary Chance suggested that chip sealing might be another area to check into and compare prices to those of paving. He stated that he didn't know what the pros and cons were, but the Town needs to know what the options are. Pat asked the appropriation of \$25,000 per year for Road Improvement. This was voted on in the late 90's and believed to be a 10 year plan. Rita Sinclair will look into this if she can get a year to start the search. Pat got off the Board in 1996, so it had to be before then. The Board chose Saturday September 28th at 2PM to meet to check the roads.

3. MMA Convention - Bangor 10/16-10/18/2002 - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair asked the Board for permission to close the office on 10/17 so that Kathy could attend the Clerks Day at the Maine Municipal Annual Convention. Rita will be attending Wednesday and Thursday in order to take advantage of workshops for General Assistance, Tax Collector/Treasurer, and some of the Clerk workshops.

The Board has no problem with the office being closed for one day to attend MMA Convention.

#### **SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gary Chance - Question on the fill on the Hathaway Road, maybe Pat would want some around his camp. Pat doesn't need any fill around his camp. Rita reported that the fill has been going to Dave Bolstridge's shop. If anyone else in that area needs or wants fill they can call the Town Office or see Vaughn at the site.

Pat Raymond - Do they expect to continue the ditching and finish it right off? The Town Manager reported that Public Works is hoping to finish this week. Gary Chance commented that they are doing a nice job. Pat asked how far down they planned on ditching. Rita said the plan is to go back down towards the lake and remove the piles of dirt on the right hand side of the road. Pat recommends going as far as DEP will allow us to go. Pat was under the assumption that there is going to be a cross culvert before Dan Higgins road. Gloria remarked that there isn't that much water on Danny's side of the road and that we are trying to have it follow the natural flow. Pat inquired about other projects that are going on. Gloria mentioned the work that has been done at the Seaplane Base.

Agreement with Eagle Lake - Are we still under contract? Rita said the contract had expired in December. She reported that she had several conversations with Doug Chapman and Steve Sherman of the Aroostook Valley Solid Waste Board. Their response was that we would have to pay the initial amortization fees on top of the annual fee, if they could take on our tonnage. The last conversation was that they could not handle the added tonnage. Gloria Curtis asked if Jim Nadeau of NASWA would draw up a new contract. Rita said he had stated that we could continue to operate as we have been under the same agreement until we made a definite decision on staying with NASWA.

Brush on West Cottage Road - Is that completed? Gloria responded that Danny Higgins had been contracted by Maine Public Service Co. to remove the trees that Ashplund had cut down to the lines. Rita has talked with MPS's Glenn Nadeau to inquire about cost sharing to finish the project. This is a possibility. Public Works has cut an area further down on West Cottage Road and it was a time consuming and dangerous for employees who are not trained to do that work. Pat said Roger Bard also does that work and he believes that his equipment is capable of getting the job done faster. He is not sure what his rates are.

Wharf on Hathaway Road - The stakes at the end are a hazard because they are so sharp. They need to be covered with something to cover the sharp edge. Rita will have Vaughn take care of it.

Gary Chance - asked if the Town Manager had found out anything on the lease. Rita stated she had not heard back from Rick Solman, the Towns' attorney. Gary said he was curious as there was another person in town who had inquired about the use of the building. Pat asked who signed the original lease? Gloria stated

that the Board of Selectpersons' did in 1998. Pat Raymond's concern is that the Board or Town has little say about that property. Don Everett has done a good job, but the Town still has no control over the property. Rita Sinclair had typed up a new signature sheet when the lease came due, but Don Everett refused to sign it. His reason was that his attorney advised him that it was an automatic renewal and he didn't have to sign it. Rita will provide copies of the lease for the Board to review.

Land Use Ordinance - where does the Planning Board stand with that? Gloria said it was voted down at Town Meeting and she hasn't heard any more on it. Gary asked if this was the Planning Boards project? Rita Sinclair responded that it was, and they spent many hours working on it with NMDC. Most of the Ordinance was State boiler plate, definitions and duties associated with the Planning Board, CEO, and Board of Appeals. It will come up again, but it will be a State mandated ordinance, not Portage Lakes. Gary feels that it was a poor sell. There wasn't enough focus put on what was actually directed to the Town.

Transfer Station - Was Bill Good willing to switch off with Don? The Town Manager reported that Bill only worked one Saturday as Don Raymond was willing to take on the extra time.

Gloria Curtis - Has Lewis heard anything on the Sutherland Property? Rita Sinclair stated that nothing has come back from Mr. Sutherlands' attorney.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pat Raymond and seconded by Gary Chance. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. (Time 1hr. 20 min.)

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Raymond

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of August 28th Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 1. Seaplane Base**
- 2. Hathaway Road**
- 3. Stumpage Permit**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Tax Abatement for Homestead Exemption**
- 2. Tax Reform Petition**
- 3. Signage For Invasive Aquatic Plants**

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2002  
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Gary Chance, acting Chair, at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gary Chance and Pat Raymond Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager. Gloria Curtis was absent.

Pat Raymond made a motion to accept minutes as written. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Pat suggested that the minutes be shortened to do away with some of the discussion. Gary Chance agreed with Pat and stated that if there were questions, we could refer to the tapes.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** None, as there was no public present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Seaplane Base - Rita Sinclair Reported that she had some complaints from residents about the Seaplane Base being closed off. This is not the area of the dock; it is the area between the Seaplane Base and Darrell Soucy's property. Pat Raymond said since that is Darrell's right of way, we have no say over that. If Soucy's were in agreement to have it seeded, then that's their right. People can go over further and use the dock at the Seaplane Base. Gary Chance agreed to townspeople using the dock. Rita will get back to the individuals to let them know the dock is available to them.

Gary Chance asked what have we found out about the lease? Rita responded that it had been sent to the Town's Attorney, Rick Soloman. Gary asked if the lessee's were responsible for the windsock, and if so, were they aware of it? Rita replied that it was in previous minutes where they stated they would be ordering a new one.

2. Hathaway Road - Gary Chance stated that he and Pat Raymond had looked at the Hathaway Road and observed that Dana had caught a culvert in front of Ted Condon's. The Town Manager reported that he had actually damaged two. After looking at them it appears that one may be able to be repaired. The other will have to have part of it replaced. This will be discussed with Danny Higgins and reflected in his bill for grading.

Pat Raymond stated he was concerned about the crown on the road and the ridge left on the side of the road that will keep water in the road. Rita reported that this was created by trying to pull material to fill the holes in the road and not having anything available. Rita stated that should be taken care of when Bill goes back up to clean up what was left on the edge of the roadway.

Pat also noticed the bulldozer down on the far end and wondered if this had been hired. The Town Manager replied that she had decided that if the ditching was going to get done, it had to be grubbed out first. It took Public Works five days to get to the edge of the woods next to Gary's yard. The bucket just wasn't able to dig into it to accomplish what was intended. With the bulldozer, we were able to keep the backhoe and two trucks going steady. Pat would like to see a breakdown of the cost for ditching and road repairs. Rita said she could do that as soon as the bills come in. Pat is concerned with the additional cost for the dozer. Rita's question to the Board is how far do you want to go. The trees (alders) below the ditched that has been done will be cut, and if the Board so directs, they can continue with the ditching down below. Pat recommends that the end of the ditch be enhanced to handle the water from the cross culvert. Gary asked if the cross culvert would be put in at a slightly higher grade than on the other side. Rita stated that it would be put in a grade but didn't know what that grade would be. Both Gary and Pat stated that they have done a nice job.

3. Stumpage Permit - Pat Raymond reported that he had spoken with James Dube' of Irving, who set these prices. Pat stated that Portage had questions that needed to be answered before signing the agreement. Pat had quoted some of the prices from the previous stumpage agreement, which Mr. Dube' said he wasn't aware of. Pat reported that he had checked on prices and they have dropped some, but not 50%. After much discussion, Pat was able to find out that the markets have gone down, and their biggest buyer has had money problems. Pat had informed then that as soon as we had some answers, the Selectmen would look at the agreement. Pat stated that he will be going to the job site to see what is being cut. After checking with other companies and the prices, and the fact that this agreement is only good until the end of the year, Pat recommends that the Board sign the Agreement. He also stated that the next agreement will be discussed in an open meeting with Irving representatives present.

Pat Raymond made a motion to sign the Stumpage Agreement as is. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries. Rita Will call Dan Pelletier to tell him that the agreement has been signed.

Another concern of Pat's was where will they be coming out with their trucks. Are they planning on coming out on West Road? Rita will check with Laura Audibert to gather this information.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Tax Abatement For Homestead Exemption - Rita Sinclair presented a request for abatement of taxes to allow a Homestead Exemption for Joanne Nelson. Joanne feels that since she has the right to remain there as long as she so chooses and has the responsibility of the taxes and upkeep. Randy Tarr, Portage Lakes Assessing Agent, has advised that Joanne is not eligible for a homestead exemption. Pat asked who a tax bill is normally billed to? Rita replied that the land owner is the one that is billed. Upon the information gathered, Pat Raymond



made a motion to deny Joanne Nelsons' request for abatement. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

2. Tax Reform Petition - The Town Manager reported to the Board that there is a meeting coming up for Tax Reform to change the State's ratio for education. The meeting will be October 1st at 11 AM in Washburn. Rita has to let Washburn's Town Manager know how many will be attending. At this time Board members are not sure if they will be able to attend.

3. Signage For Invasive Aquatic Plants - Rita Sinclair reported that the Lake Association has requested that the Town make a cooperative effort with them to have DOT signs put up on RT 11, and have signs made to put up in Coffin's Store, the Town Office, Coffin's Store, and the campground. Gary asked if they were looking for money to help pay for these signs. Rita said she believed that they were, and that they want the Town to take care of the purchase. Pat Raymond said he believed that IF & W had information to this affect and they should be contacted before any action is taken to purchase signs. They may have this information available.

There was discussion on what could be done about the speeders through Portage Lake, whether it's local people or truckers. It has become a serious problem. Both Pat and Gary discussed things that they have witnessed and what the remedy may be. There doesn't seem to be any definites at this time.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Pat Raymond - The only concern is the Hathaway Road and the Stumpage Permit.


Gary Chance - How much longer are we going to be renting the portable toilets? The Town Manager reported that they are supposed to be picked up at the end of the month. Gary stated that the Town needs to look at something more permanent. The portables are costing \$400 a month. Rita reported that the cost is \$200 each because we are having them cleaned every week. Gary stated that the cleaning is absolutely necessary because of the way people operate there. He hopes that next year we can get a permanent structure there. If we get a newer model toilet, people won't be able to throw bags of trash in there. Pat Raymond feels that a septic system would be to the Towns' advantage and it would eliminate the smell. The Town Manager reported that she had to do an update this past summer for the grant that was used to update that area back in the 70' and wondered if it might be possible to get the same grant to update the facility. Pat believes that it's a hard area to control, whether it's an outhouse or a toilet unless you are fortunate enough to have someone patrolling it. It was a disappointment to see that outhouses were built at the boatlanding/campground by the state grant that the Town received. At that time they had done away with the well so there wasn't an available water supply either. even a holding tank


would be an improvement. Gary commented that a holding tank may be the answer for the beach. We would have to have a water supply there. Rita Sinclair said if the holding is a last resort, but it is within the Shoreland Zoning. Gary asked if the Town had the responsibility for supplying a toilet. If there is a law that says we have to supply this facility it would be somewhat easier to install the particular facility that worked the best, whether it is a holding tank or a complete system and the DEP might be more co-operative with us if we could show that by law we were mandated to provide this facility. Pat is unsure if we have to provide any thing.

Rita Sinclair has quotes for the Board on the two sunken culverts on Fox Hill and the culvert at the Post Office of \$1,200 from Lane Construction Co. the Post Office can get by this winter, but on Fox Hill th cross culverts are bad. We could put gravel, cold patch, or hot mix in there. I can try to get a couple of prices from Morin or Caron. The Board agrees that getting some other figures may be to our advantage. Rita reported that Lane was going to send an estimate on paving Fox Hill. Gary Chance asked if that might be an area to try chip sealing. Rita stated that the problem is that heat affects that chip seal. Pat Raymond said it does, and that's why it should not be used where there is heavy traffic. We should get some figures for both.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. (Time 2 hrs.)

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Curtis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Raymond

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
October 9, 2002**

Call Meeting To Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of September 11, 2002 Meeting

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Road Inspection - East, West, and Sutherland
2. Dept of Labor, OSHA Citations
3. Assessors Return of Assessment
4. Fox Hill Culverts/Complaints

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Sand Bids
2. General Assistance Ord. Appendixes for 2003
3. Personal Property Tax Question
4. Order of Municipal Officers
5. Seaplane Base Lease
6. Meeting Schedule/Managers Vacation

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance and Patrick Raymond, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

A motion was made by Gary Chance and seconded by Pat Raymond to accept the Minutes of the September 11, 2002 meeting as written. Motion carries.

The Treasurers' Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** Gloria Curtis moved to dispense with Business From Floor as there was no public present. Gary Chance seconded the motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Road Inspection - East, West, and Sutherland - The Town Manager asked the Board if they had been able to go out. Pat Raymond said they didn't go out. He would prefer to have all Board members present. Gary Chance said any day was fine for him. Gloria Curtis stated that Saturday would be best for her. The Board planned to meet at 10 A.M. Saturday, October 12 to do an inspection of the three roads.

2. Dept. of Labor, OSHA Citations - The Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that she had a meeting with the Department of Labor in Houlton today and because the citations had been taken care of, and policies for Lock-Out Tag Out and Personal Protective Equipment had been written, the recommendation would be to dispense with the fines in consideration of the expense the Town incurred to remedy the citations. The Personal Protective Equipment Policy needs some clarification and time will be allowed for that. It will take about two weeks before the final decision is made. Hopefully, we will not have fines to pay as there was no money budgeted for this. Pat Raymond asked if the Town Manager had a set protocol on how to handle internal monthly inspections. The Town Manager replied that she will be doing walk through inspections. Pat was concerned with documentation. There are Hazard Assessment sheets that will be filled out, signed and dated. The same will be done for training when it occurs.

3. Assessors Return of Assessment - The Town Manager presented the Return of Assessment for signatures of the Board to return with the payment for County Taxes.

4. Fox Hill Culverts/Complaints - The Town Manager explained that she had expected some residents from Fox Hill to be at the meeting since she had a complainant that came into the office and wanted to know when the next meeting was. The sunken culverts are fixed. Public Works put gravel in them as a temporary fix. The other complaint was that no work was being done on Fox Hill, everything was being done on the Hathaway Road instead. Rita had told the complainant that Fox Hill has had some work done with new cross culverts and driveways as well as an area that was entitled to repair under FEMA funding. It doesn't solve the problem of the run off from the hill washing into Mr. Pinette's driveway. It's not a new problem for his driveway.

Pat Raymond feels that Fox Hill is in pretty good shape. It wouldn't take much to get it in shape. If we lump some small projects together, it might be a little cheaper.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Sand Bids - Gloria Curtis opened 1 bid for winter sand submitted by Portage Construction Co. The bid of \$6,232 for 800 yards of sand is the same as last year. Pat Raymond asked if had the sand and salt delivered at the same time. Rita Sinclair said she would see if it could be coordinated for the same day delivery. Pat Raymond made a motion to accept the bid on the sand. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

2. General Assistance Ord. Appendixes for 2003 - The Town Manager presented the new appendixes to the Selectpersons for signatures to adopt the new GA Appendixes. She informed the Board that these change on a yearly basis, sometimes with slight increases in the allowed amounts for rent, fuel, food, utilities, and personal items. Gloria Curtis stated that a certain criteria had to be met and Rita stays up to date on what that is.

3. Personal Property Tax Question - the Town Manager presented the Board, as Assessors, with a question on lists submitted by Taxpayers. If a person who is in business has a computer listed as part of their personal property, can they just take it off the list and claim they are not using it for business reasons? The business name is used as part of the internet address. This same person didn't come to the Board of Assessors to go over the list. It wasn't until she came in to pay taxes that she complained about her taxes. I told her that because her business name (in part) is used on her internet address, it would be considered a form of advertising. She claimed she doesn't use it on e-bay. Pat Raymond feels that the taxpayer needs to inform the assessors of changes prior to the April 1st deadline. Gloria stated that her computer is claimed on her personal property because people contact her through the internet to ask about rates. Rita Sinclair just wants to know where the line should be drawn. Gary Chance believes that since the request was not made prior to April 1, then nothing will be abated for this year. Next year if this individual makes it known prior to April 1st that will make a difference. The Board is in agreement to uphold existing policy.

4. Order of Municipal Officers - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair presented an Order of Municipal Policy to the Board of Selectpersons for signatures. This Order states that the Board directs and authorizes the Municipal Tax Collector/Treasurer to apply any tax payment received to the outstanding or delinquent taxes due in chronological order beginning with the oldest unpaid tax bill. This is usual practice for most towns but there is nothing on file directing or authorizing the current Tax Collector/Treasurer to do this. Pat Raymond said that has been the practice for Portage. Rita stated she would like to have something in black and white on file in case someone challenges it. The Board of Selectpersons is in agreement to sign the Order of Municipal Policy.

An item not on the agenda is a copy of the State Valuation for the Board to review. This is mailed out each year and is based on a prior years value. Pat Raymond asked if this is based on the TIF Agreement. Rita assumes so, but will have a definite when Steve Lemay, Aroostooks contact from Maine Revenue Services, comes in to verify the Homestead and Veterans Exemptions.

5. Seaplane Base Lease - Rita Sinclair wanted the Board to know she had received a letter from the Towns' attorney saying that he needed to know exactly what the Board wants from the lease. It was explained to him, Richard Solman, that none of the previous leases were perpetual leases. They have always been three (3) year leases. Gary Chance asked how far back the leases went. The first one is dated 1977. Pat mentioned that there were leases before that. The last lease, Don Everett's, was the one that was reworded to read it would be an automatic renewal. There is a copy of the last lease to Jim Strang which has the notes for the changes to make it an automatic renewal. It would be nice to know why these changes came about, and if the Board has a right to increase the lease amount. Gary Chance would like to see the signature page current. Pat Raymond agrees that the three (3) year term is sufficient. We need to know if we can make changes in the lease as written. That also gives the Board the opportunity to make recommendations and revisions to the lease, if need be. Rita Sinclair mentioned that there was no hesitation to come to the Board for new docks when the old docks were deteriorating. Pat Raymond stated we need to know what the Town's legal rights are concerning the lease. Rita Sinclair will contact Rick Solman and see what can be done.

6. Meeting Schedule/Managers Vacation - The Town Manager requested the Boards input on the meeting schedule for November and December. November's second meeting falls on the 27th, the night before Thanksgiving. If no one has travel plans it will be fine. December has a meeting date that falls on the 25th, which is Christmas night. Recommendations were to leave all meeting dates as is except for the November 27th and December 25th meeting. A decision will be made at the December 11th meeting whether or not to schedule a meeting for the end of December. Rita asked the Board to keep in mind that Kathy is on vacation that week and the end of year process will be initiated.

The Town Manager reported that she would be out of the office October 30 through November 8th for vacation.

#### **SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**

Patrick Raymond - Wood Chipping. What has been found out on the wood chipping? Rita Sinclair stated that she had not had any return calls to be able to set dates for the chipping to be done. Pat Raymond gave the name of TNT Trucking in Ft. Kent. The name is Steve Theriault. They do the same work that Randy Shaw does. He has a chipper and a grinder. Rita will contact Mr. Theriault to see if arrangements can be made for chipping the wood at the transfer station.

Stumpage Agreement - Pat asked if the Town Manager had contacted Dan Pelletier of Irving to see if he was all set with the Stumpage Agreement. Rita stated Dan picked up the Agreement and will be returning a copy of the same after Irving signs it.

Temporary Help - When will this subside? The Town Manager responded that both Public Works will be off next week. The last week of October should give them time to finish the things that take two men to accomplish. They have had to remove the chain from the sander to get it fixed only to find that it needs to be replaced. Sullivan's in Ashland fixed it last year and refused to work on it this year as parts are too difficult to find. Several other area businesses have been contacted to obtain a chain. The only ones that can provide it is Lavoie in Canada and Lane Supply in Brewer. Lavoie expects us to bring a length of chain to them and wait while they make the chain. The Town does not have a vehicle that the Town Manager is comfortable sending to Canada and will not use a private vehicle for this. Lavoie does not provide shipping. Lane Supply will make the chain and have their salesman drop it off here on his way through Portage so there will be no charge for delivery. After some discussion the Board decided to have Lane Supply go ahead and provide the chain for the sander and have them keep a file so we will be able to go back to them in four or five years to replace the chain.

Hathaway Road - Is this finished? The Town Manager responded that because of tire problems with the backhoe, they had to bring it back to the garage. We have been using tubes inside of the tubeless tires to keep air in the tires. Even with a new tube, it would not hold. The front rims are not in very good shape and the tires are very worn, both front and back. We called four different places to price tires. We also called for a price on rims. Gary Chance asked what was wrong with the rims. Rita reported that the rims are rusted on the inside and even though they have been sanded the rust returns and this is why we can't keep tubes. The tires are so bad on the edge they look chewed. Gloria asked if the life of the rims was gone. Pat Raymond said it was the first time he had heard of that. Rims don't fall apart. What is wrong is the highway miles on the highway. The project I have seen on the Hathaway is a lot of wasted man hours. The equipment is traveling up and down the road and you'll wear those out within a year or so. We need to address that. If you have a project, limit the travel of that machine. Gloria stated we could leave it on site until the project is


done. Pat Raymond remarked that he has never heard of rims rusting out. I don't believe you have to buy a rim. Rita told the Board that they can view the rims as the backhoe is in the shop. Pat questions the cost of the rims and the tires as being an added expense. We should be looking at cutting costs as much as possible. He wants an explanation on what's wrong with the rims. Rita asks how long they expect the rims to last. Pat stated he didn't know. After more discussion on tires and rims (refer to tape of October 9, 2002), Rita asked if she had used the wrong terminology on the condition of the rims. Pat asked if the rims on the rear were bad. Rita stated they were not, the rear tires that are worn. Again Pat stated that the Board needs to address the fact that the backhoe is doing too much road travel. You'll be looking at new tires again next year. Pat made a recommendation to leave the equipment on site and if we are afraid of vandalism, then leave it on someone's property. Equipment that is not being used most of the time is a costly item. Maybe we need to look at this a hire this out. What is it going to cost us to replace this. If you add the cost and all the repairs, can you get that contracted out for whatever it costs us. That is something we need to look at again before we buy another truck. Eventually we'll need to replace that equipment. Pat spoke with someone in St. Francis and they hire everything out. They feel that they were saving by not having to pay for equipment, repairs, insurance, or a full time person.

Gary Chance - Dock at end of Hathaway Road. When will that be taken out?  
Pat Raymond - Hathaway Road. Are they done there? There is a problem there at the end of the ditch. The wind blew trees down over the ditch. The ditch needs to be defined somewhat, because it never was. There is no telling where the water will go. The sod that was left in front of Pat's driveway when the road was graded, needs to be removed. Gary's input was that to improve the road it will need some gravel. Pat wanted to know how far down the road we are going to go. Gary said if there are going to put some rock dams put in, they need to start at his driveway. If they don't get the rock dams in it will flush the hay bales down.

Gloria asked when the Board wanted to make a visual inspection of the rims. Gary said that if the tires were already on, they wouldn't be able to see much.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM by Gary Chance. Seconded by Pat Raymond. Motion carries. (Time 2 hrs.)

APPROVED:

  
Gloria Curtis

  
Gary Chance

  
Patrick Raymond



**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** September 30, 2002

**Subject:** Meetings & Additional Information

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** Rita Sinclair  
Tel. 435-4361 Office - 435-7191 Home

\*\*\*\*\*

**To:** Gloria Curtis  
Gary Chance  
Patrick Raymond

\*\*\*\*\*

**Enclosures:** 1. Tax Reform  
2. Holding Tank Ordinance  
3. Preliminary State Valuation

---

**Notes:**

Please notice that the meetings for December need to be adjusted. The second meeting falls on Christmas. If the Board agrees, maybe one meeting in December would be sufficient. Since Kathy is on vacation that week, it would give me more time for the end of year process.

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
October 23, 2002**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of September 25 and October 9, 2002 Meetings**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Road Inspection - East, West, and Sutherland
2. Dept of Labor, OSHA Citations
3. Resolution Supporting An Act To Reduce Property Taxes Statewide
4. Seaplane Base Lease
5. Wood Chipping
6. Backhoe Information

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Tax Abatement
2. Ad in Dedication of NMVCCC Booklet
3. Items For 2003 Budget

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance and Patrick Raymond, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

A motion was made by Pat Raymond and seconded by Gary Chance to accept the minutes of September 25 and October 9 meetings as written.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons after discussion on the work done on the Hathaway Road.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** Dispensed with as there was no public present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Road Inspection - East, West, and Sutherland - Gloria Curtis presented the Town Manager with a copy of the Selectpersons findings from inspecting these three roads, plus more work that needs to be done on the Hathaway Road. Gary Chance stated that on the Hathaway Road there are three trees marked with a red X's that need to be cut. A furrow made by the grader needs to be removed, and the big culvert at the railroad tracks needs to be uncovered.

All culverts (driveway and cross) need to be inspected and made sure that they are free flowing. Pat Raymond stated that Fox Hill needs to have the worst cracks sealed or patched. Check on the price of chip sealing for the low traffic roads. The Stockford Road has a hole near the beginning of the road that needs patching. Sutherland Street needs to be chip sealed or hot topped. Pat suggested possibly getting grant money for paving. Gloria stated that West Road was paved through the piggy-back program with the state. Gloria Curtis had mentioned the quote of \$20,000 the Town had received for crack sealing. Gloria stated it was suggested that Public Works do this, but the Town doesn't have the necessary equipment. Pat Raymond feels that Sutherland and Stockford Roads should be a priority for paving or chip sealing.

The Fish Lake Road has mud from all the water on it. Gloria Curtis stated she had taken pictures of the road. She stuck a stick in the road and took a picture of it to show how deep the mud is. Pat Raymond spoke to Bib Vigue who will speak to the road committee. Pat stated that he had recommended paving the road. Rita Sinclair replied that paving had been suggested to the committee at the last road committee meeting. The representatives from the businesses felt that paving would be too expensive. Pat Raymond said speed bumps had been suggested to slow the traffic down. Pat suggested writing a letter to the Road Committee, and to be sure to include Georgia Pacific since they are the ones that

generate the traffic. Rita Sinclair reported to the Board that MPS Co. (Maine Public Service) has had their budget cut by \$100,000. This means that the tree cutting on West Road will not happen this year unless the Board chooses to go with a proposal made by Dan Higgins. Dan was in the office today and offered to do half of the project originally offered by MPS Co. in the co-operative plan with the Town. He would do 16.5 poles for the Town for \$5,000 rather than the 33 poles for \$10,000 in the Co-operative plan with MPS Co. Gary Chance suggested waiting until Spring in hopes that MPS Co. budget will change. Rita Sinclair stated that a change in their budget was doubtful. Changes in their budget included a position for a highly paid CEO and it didn't sound as though that was going to change soon.

Gloria Curtis asked about roadside mowing. It was done once this summer. Gloria stated she was dissatisfied with the way the job was done. The mower doesn't reach that far out. Rita Sinclair said the mower is set up for state requirements. Gloria asked about Roger Bard. Pat Raymond said Roger was the operator, not the owner. Pat will get the telephone number for the owner.

The docks have been pulled from the Hathaway Road and stored at the Transfer Station. Gary Chance stated that the new docks at the Seaplane Base have been removed from the water. They need to be stored differently so the weight of the snow doesn't break it. The pieces that can be removed should be stored inside. Gloria said she had spoken with Darrell Soucy and he said the only thing that needed to be done was to place a brace under the dock. Gary Chance stated that if the dock comes apart so easily it should be stored under cover to lessen the chance of it getting broken.

2. Dept of Labor, OSHA Citations - The Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that since the citations have been corrected that the fines have been cleared. A form letter was received stating that the Town was cleared of citations and fines. This will be on file with all the paperwork on the inspection and the citations.

3. Resolution Supporting An Act To Reduce Property Taxes Statewide - The Town Manager reported that she had received a packet of information regarding this resolution. Each Board member has a copy of this information so that they can familiarize themselves with it. Basically it is Legislature that would say the state must pay 55% of cost of education rather than the states intent is to pay 55% of the cost of education. Gloria Curtis asked if signatures were required. Rita Sinclair responded that unless an appointed official collects signatures it is not necessary. Dan Higgins has volunteered to handle this in The Town Managers absence. The Town Clerk has found two more volunteers to assist in the signature gathering process on November 5, 2002.

4. Seaplane Base Lease - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, spoke with Richard Solman, the Town's attorney, who had misinterpreted the original letter requesting information on the signing of the lease. Mr. Solman asked if an attorney had written the new lease. The Town Manager had reported that all previous leases had been through an attorney, but this one had not. The Board may want to draft

a letter to Mr. Everett letting him know that there are to be some changes in the lease for 2004 -2007. Mr. Solman will look into this further. Gary Chance wanted to reaffirm the statement that we do not have a problem with the lessee's, Don and Sharon Everett. It's all in the wording of the lease. All present agreed with Mr. Chance's statement.

5. Wood Chipping - The Town Manager reported that she had contacted TNT for rates on chipping the wood at the Transfer Station. They charge \$300 per hour. There is no market at present so most contractors are stockpiling. He did say possibly in November, but not definite at this time. Lou Pizzuti of DEP will back in his office on Monday. If he gives the okay, we may be able to leave it until spring. As it is, the wood is not contaminated, but should we burn it, then we would have to haul the ash to Ft. Fairfield for disposal. Randy Shaw is still a possibility for chipping. The Town Manager stated that she is still trying to contact him.

6. Backhoe - The Town Manager reported that she had contacted some contractors and another municipality to find out how often they have to replace tires on their equipment. All had said they replaced tires every two to three years. After looking at the history on the Town's backhoe she found that the tires had been replaced twice in fourteen years. This will make the third time and that seems to be a good record considering all the hours that the machine has on it.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Request For Tax Abatement - Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that Francis Bartlett had requested an abatement on taxes for a building (mobile home) that had been removed on November 27, 2001. Paperwork to that effect has been received. Apparently the assessing agent never picked up on this. The Board signed the abatement and the Town Manager will send a notice of such to Francis Bartlett.

2. Ad in Dedication of NMVCCC Booklet - The Town Manager presented information to the Board to decide if they wished to place an ad in the dedication booklet for the NMVCCC. This booklet will be available for the cemetery's dedication ceremony. The ads are just a way of showing support for the veteran's cemetery. Pat Raymond made a motion to place a \$65 ad in the booklet. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

3. Items for 2003 Budget - The Town Manager asked the Board to present items that they wish to see on the 2003 budget. Estimates for paving and chip sealing are being requested. Gloria Curtis mentioned that paving is a concern as far as one inch verses two inches. How long will it last. The Town Manager has an estimate of \$28,000 from Lane Construction for paving Fox Hill Road. Pat Raymond stated that is too much. There are better ways to address that. Rita Sinclair replied that this gives us a basis for other figures. There will also be some figures coming in for chip sealing. The Town of Woodland has several

roads that are chip sealed, so there may be available information there to make a comparison on chip sealing verses paving.

Rita mentioned that other budget items will be one, possibly two, fire proof filing cabinets. The vital records need to be stored in a safe place along with the minutes of Town Meetings for Portage Lake. She stated that Portage Lake is very fortunate to have all of its history intact. It would be in the Town's best interest to preserve it. Some of the records need to be refurbished before they disintegrate. Gary Chance asked how big a file would be needed and how much would it cost. Rita stated it would depend on the size of the cabinet, but they usually cost around \$1,000. The Moses Program for IF & W will require us to purchase another printer and possibly another Internet line.

Gary Chance asked how big the holding tank at the beach is. Gloria Curtis said she believed it to be a 1,000 gallon tank. Gloria said the only thing wrong with that tank is that people would throw things down the hole that prevented the tank from being pumped out. Gary commented that if we were to change it to a flush type system, it would prevent that from happening. Gloria Curtis said it is definitely something that we should look into. Maybe there are grants out there to help with that. Rita mentioned that the campground is another area that needs to be considered. Pat Raymond said if Fern weren't there to look after it we would have more problems than we do.

Pat Raymond asked about the Municipal Building. Rita stated that her concern was still the heating system. It is much better than it was, but still leaves a lot to be desired.

#### **SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**

Pat Raymond - Snow plowing - Is there anyone that can be called in? Rita responded that Paul Nason had come in to say he would be available and so did Danny Higgins. They don't want to be on call all the time but are willing to fill in on weekends or early mornings. Both spares will be required to go out with Vaughn during the day to plow to familiarize themselves with the equipment and the roads.

Gloria Curtis - Joanne Nelson called Gloria about her "life estate" from Ralph Pelletier and the homestead exemption. Gloria had made a call and was told that Joanne would have to have a deed that stated it was a life estate, but if says right to occupancy then it won't apply. She was referred to Dave Ledou to for any further questions. The Board had made a decision at a previous meeting that, based on Randy Tarr's advice, that the request for abatement be denied. Gloria stated that if Joanne has the necessary paperwork then she should not be denied the exemption, or in this situation, an abatement. As this time, it is up to Joanne to provide the information needed. The Town Manager has called Mr. Ledou and is waiting to hear from him on the matter. The Board will get that information prior to the next meeting.


Dan Higgins has told Gloria that he and Lewis Cousins, CEO, had discussed grant writing for the Town. Dan claims that Lewis is willing to write the grants and if they are successful, he will get the administrative fees. Rita Sinclair

asked what happens if the grants isn't successful. Gloria stated that Dan had not mentioned that. Rita will be speaking with Lewis on that matter. Pat Raymond discussed the past requests for grant writing. It's not easy to write a successful grant. Discussion followed on grants that Portage Lake has received. Also, what to look for in a grant application and the qualifications required for writing a grant.

Gary Chance - Is the Planning Board still working on the Land Use Ordinance? Rita responded that they were not at this time. She believed that they felt they had tried their best to make changes requested by residents at the public hearings and it was still voted down. They had worked with the assistance of NMDC and followed the states guidelines, but were not successful. Gloria Curtis suggested that a different presentation would help. Rita stated that she will mention this to Ken Hodsdon and ask him to bring it up at the next Planning Board Meeting.

Motion by Pat Raymond, and seconded by Gary Chance, to adjourn meeting at 9:20 P.M. (Time 2 hrs. 20 min.)

APPROVED:

  
Gloria Curtis

  
Gary Chance

  
Patrick Raymond

Fall  
of

Road Check 2002 Pat Raymond, Mary Chace, Alou Carter

- #1 Before Snowfall - clear fronts of all culverts so water will free flow. This is for all roads and driveways.
- #2 Fox Hill - need to fill & patch cracks (worst ones) near cemetery, dry hydrant etc. Check pros & cons for chip seal on low traffic roads.
- #3 Hathaway Road - Tracks to <sup>250 ft</sup> ~~take~~ need rock dams (severally) then wisdom of dirt needs to be removed. Ditches look good ditch defined alders & bushes cut. Remove docks - put on Rd off Danny's. This is Pat Raymond's property. Culvert before tracks was buried by grader. Any job hired needs to fine tune their work not leave in the mess.
- #4 Sutherland Street - great ditches - road of course is terrible  
not Top ~~Check pros & cons of Chip Seal.~~
- #5 Stockford Road - Patch worst of Rd. 3/00 mile possible  
Chip Seal?
- #6 Vaughn - liquid seal, fill worst cracks on East Rd & West Rd. Examples: Herb McPherson area, tennis courts, near 171, 159, Bearly Croft, 131 Diamonds, Yells, Vollerouts, Chauncy Condon Bohers.
- #7 All picnic tables at some times to be painted & repaired. Out House Head of Lake needs to be painted or stained.
- #8 Need to make sign for Transfer Station (Gt Wood only).  
Maine Public to finish on West Rd.  
New Rd side mower (needs to do better job) reach out further into ditch. (Roque Band)?



# 9 Woods Road Committee needs to receive letter.  
Terrible dust in summer. Terrible mud + rocks also.  
Trucking is the major problem. Some mud  
dragged on West Road almost to beach area.

Board will sign letter!

# 10 Make sure jobs are coordinated so back hoe & other  
equipment have less Rd miles (use) saves on life of  
machines.

Rent Equip when needed

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
November 13, 2002**

Call Meeting To Order

Roll Call

Approve Minutes of October 23, 2002 Meetings

Approve Treasurers Warrants

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Road Update
2. Seaplane Base Lease Update

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Selectmen / Assessors Meeting

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
Rescheduled from  
November 13, 2002  
to November 14, 2002  
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance and Pat Raymond, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager.

The minutes of the October 23 meeting will be mailed to the Selectpersons for their review.

The Treasurers Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Selectpersons.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** Dispensed with as there was no public present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Road Update - The Town Manager, Rita Sinclair, reported that all culverts had been inspected and cleaned by Vaughn Devoe of the Public Works Department. He had found that the culverts on East Cottage from the area of Scheaffer's to Plourd's are plugged almost to the top. We can try to having the fire department flush them out or we can remove them to see if the debris inside can be dislodged.

Gary Chance stated that the bales of hay on the right side of the Hathaway Road need to be removed. Just leave the ones on the end. Pat Raymond had removed one that had piled up at the cross culvert. Gary remarked that the bales get saturated and break loose then wash down to the end. He is afraid that come spring it will all be piled up down there. Rock dams are needed instead of hay bales because they don't wash away. It won't take that many, just look for signs of erosion. Don't go overboard.

Rita also mentioned that there are some problems with the backhoe and that has been scheduled to be done.

Gloria commented on the rocks in the winter sand. Pat Raymond asked if this had been mentioned to Mr. St. Peter. Nothing has been said yet as there have been no complaints.

2. Seaplane Base Update - The Town Manager presented copies of the letter she received from Attorney, Richard Solman, with his recommendations for resolving the problem with the lease. Pat Raymond stated that he hasn't told us anything new. The Town Manager reported that his options have changed since our last telephone conversation. It appears that, in order to get something done with the lease, we'll have to go to court. She stated that it's too bad it has to come to

that, as there are more chances for there to be hard feelings. All that is wanted is a reasonable length of time for the lease. Gloria asked when the lease will be coming up again. Rita said that it won't be renewed until 2004. The lease fee is due again December 3, 2002. Gary Chance feels that we should pursue the matter. We aren't trying to get rid of these people (Gloria added, or sell the property), but on the other hand, we should keep this issue alive so that we can regain this property under the town's control rather than under an a private individual, any private individual. It's the Town's property and the Town should have control. Gary suggests that we invite Donnie and Sharon to a meeting to discuss the situation. Pat Raymond agreed that we should get a feel for what they are thinking. Gloria stated that originally they felt they could be terminated at any time. The Town Manager stated that just before Donnie had the lease recorded there was a proposal put before the Town for the purchase of the Seaplane Base property with a first right of refusal should the purchaser decide to sell. Pat asked what ever happened to the conditions of not being able to sell property that the Town had received federal funding for. Gloria commented that the Town had no interest in selling the property; they had received a proposal to that effect. Gary stated that the Townspeople have no rights to town owned property, only Sharon and Donnie do. Pat agrees that we should invite them to our next meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Selectmen/Assessors Meeting - The Town Manager gave the Board a copy of a letter of invitation to an annual meeting in Presque Isle for all Selectpersons and assessors. Pat stated he is unable to attend daytime meetings.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gloria Curtis - None

Pat Raymond - The lease was the only thing of concern.

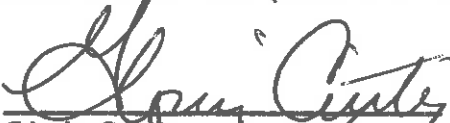
Gary Chance - Sand Spreader - Rita reported that the chain had been replaced. Back-up for plowing. Paul Nason had asked if he would receive stand by pay. Gary said he believed that he would be called out only when necessary. Rita will make sure Paul knows that he isn't expected to sit by the phone, but he will be asked on occasion to cover for Vaughn.

Dave Bolstridge has talked to Gary about the fire departments tanker truck and where they can store it. Gary told him to talk to Rita about storage area. If there is a problem then we can all get involved. Gloria asked which truck they were talking about. Pat Raymond said it can't be stored outside because it will freeze. Rita said the only solution she has is to move the small dump truck outside and let them put the tanker in the public works garage. Pat Raymond asked if that truck had a plug in for a block heater. Rita said she wasn't aware of

it, but would find out. Gloria stated by doing this we aren't putting the Town's trucks in jeopardy.

Tree Harvesting - Gary asked if Pat had been out to check on the situation. Pat responded that he had not, but Laura would let us know when they begin. Pat Raymond made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Gary Chance. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. (Time 1 hr. 15 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
Gloria Currie

  
Gary Chance

  
Patrick Raymond

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
November 27, 2002  
7:00 PM**

**Call Meeting To Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of October 23 and November 13, 2002 Meetings**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Seaplane Base Lease**
- 2. Harvest Operation**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Backhoe Repairs**
- 2. Tanker Truck**

**SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
November 27, 2002  
7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis, at 7:00 PM.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Gary Chance and Patrick Raymond, Selectpersons; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager; Sharon and Donald Everett, residents.

Gloria Curtis went directly to **OLD BUSINESS**:

1. Seaplane Base Lease - Gloria gave a brief history of how the present lease came about. She stated the previous lessee wasn't keeping the building up and agreed to give up the lease. The Town put it out for bid to see if there was someone interested in it that would be willing to fix it up. One bid was submitted, which was that of Don Everett. He and Ray Beaulieu (Town Manager at that time) discussed what needed to be done to bring it back into shape. The reason that the agreement was made the way it was is because Donnie was uncomfortable with putting a large amount of money into fixing it up and having the Town take it away from him. He didn't want that to happen. Ray decided at that point that the Town wouldn't want that either. That's how the lease got made the way it is and Ray is the one that reworded it. Ray brought it to the Board (Gloria, Dan Higgins, and Steve Belanger) to read. We felt at that point that it was in Donnie's best interest to go that way. We weren't thinking about the Town selling it or leasing it to anyone else. We agreed to it as we thought it was a good plan. Gloria stated that she is still in agreement with the lease the way it is written. As time goes by and Selectpersons change and town managers change, it could be taken away from Donnie. Gloria stated that to her knowledge that is why it was set up that way. Donnie Everett stated that Gloria was correct 100%. He added that everyone knows if it hadn't been done that way the \$5,000 that he has spent on the building over the last three years, someone else would be getting the benefit of it. Donnie said it would be as of last year. Gloria remarked that she thinks Donnie misunderstood the offer made last year. Rita Sinclair stated that it was only a proposal, and it had to go before the Board. Gloria stated that the Town was not interested in selling the property. Donnie remarked that to protect himself he would only agree to the way the lease is written. More discussion followed (refer to the audio tapes of November 27, 2002) and resulted in Donnie Everett saying he would not sign an updated lease as there was no reason to. Gary Chance stated he has no problem with the Everett's being there. The problem is with the wording and it doesn't allow for the townspeople to have a say about their interest in the property. Donnie replied that the townspeople still have access to the dock and the water. Gloria stated that the way the lease is written, it is all to Donnie's benefit. Pat said he doesn't believe the Board that

signed the lease understood what they were signing. Gloria disagreed stating that there was no other interest in the seaplane base. As a result of the discussion Pat feels that the lease should have been written to reimburse the lessee for major improvements. He stated it is too bad the Town has a lease that they have no say in. Pat asked if Donnie would be interested in looking at a different kind of lease, one that would reimburse him for any financial investment. Donnie's response was, "None, whatsoever." He added that if the Town ever decided to sell, he would be interested. Pat Raymond said he would not support the sale of any Town owned property. Gloria agreed. The Board thanked the Everetts for coming in and they left the meeting.

2. Harvest Operation - Rita Sinclair reported that Laura Audibert had stopped by to let the Board know harvest operations are about to begin. Doug Cray will be the cutter for Irving. Gary Chance reported that he had been out there and it is a deer corridor. He assumes that could get us into trouble. Rita replied that is something that Dan Pelletier had covered with Rich Hoppe the last time Irving was considering cutting in, or near, a deer yard. Pat Raymond stated that is the responsibility of the forester and in this case it's Laura Audibert. Irving is the one that would be required to get a permit. Gary asked since it was joint owned property how the Town was getting handed a red herring. Why do we make the call whether to cut it or not. Rita Sinclair responded that it is joint owned property, but the Town's interest is greater than the other owners. Pat Raymond reported that there is a management plan for deer yards in the areas of operation. Gary asked about Irving coming to the Planning Board to get permission to extend the road, to put in the culvert. Pat wasn't aware of that. Gloria commented that the Planning Board approves the permits for roads and culverts.

Gloria returned to the Agenda as printed.

The Selectpersons approved the minutes of October 23 and November 13 meetings.

The Selectpersons reviewed and signed the Treasurers' Warrants.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:** Dispensed with as there was none.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Backhoe Repairs - Rita Sinclair reported there have been some problems with the backhoe which warranted having it checked over by Dana Cameron, the Caterpillar mechanic. The stabilizer cylinder is scored and even though the seal was replaced, it spews oil. The other problems are transmission related. Southworth- Milton has given an estimate of \$10,460.25. The breakdown is \$8,960.25 for replacing the transmission, including parts and labor. The estimate for the cylinder repair is \$1,500 which includes parts and labor. Rita stated that she would contact Vic at Southworth - Milton to ask if the actual would be no more



than 10% above the estimate. Questions were asked about where the work would be done . Rita responded that in this area it is usually done at the Town garage. Ashland just had some work done on one of their machines and it was done on site. Down time can only be estimated. It may take up to 4 weeks to get the transmission. Rita will call to get a better idea of the time involved. Gary asked if the work comes with any kind of warranty. Pat Raymond suggested that Dan Higgins be contacted for a backup in case of a storm while the Town's machine is down. Pat asked the Board if they are giving the Town Manager permission to go ahead and get the backhoe fixed for that price. Gloria stated it wouldn't matter if it were another \$2,000 or so, it still needs to be fixed.

Pat Raymond made a motion to pursue repair with Southworth - Milton for the estimate and an increase within reason for repairs. Gary Chance seconded the motion. Motion carries.

2. Tanker Truck - Rita reported that there is nothing of any great concern at this time since a valve needs to be replaced on it. It won't be filled with water for a while. The other thing that needs to be decided is that the "spare truck" is not really a spare. It is used in the summer for hauling gravel, but it is not in condition to put a plow on it and go. That's why we have the Ford. It is used to plow smaller areas and Sutherland Street. Pat asked why isn't it used to plow? Rita stated that the tires have no traction. Gary asked if that was with chains on it. Rita said they have used chains and it still doesn't go. Pat expressed concern for an emergency. He has seen times in the past when there has been a major breakdown and they would have to go to the old backup. You wouldn't be able to plow the roads with the old Ford. Rita stated that is all we have. Pat asked if a plow could be put on the old truck. Rita replied that it could. Pat said if it was just a matter of tires, then we could put a set of chains on it. In the past they had a truck set up with chains and a plow ready to go. We can't afford not to have a backup truck. The Board wants the spare truck to be road ready in case of an emergency.

#### **SELECT PERSONS CONCERNS:**

Gloria Curtis - asked if there had been any road complaints. She thought someone had reported potholes on East Cottage Road. Rita said she had checked the roads Sunday evening and didn't find anything other than some black ice out towards the end of West Road. She called Paul Nason in on Monday morning to put some sand out. Other than that, there have been no reports or complaints.

Pat Raymond - None

Gary Chance - Traffic flow in the center of Town. He almost got hit pulling out of the store. He did recognize the truck being one of TNT's and called the company. Rita said that has been an issue for some time. There have been so many complaints regarding this. The Sheriff's Department and the State Police have

both said the more individuals that call in the better the chance of getting something done.

Electrical repair at Dave Bolstridge's garage and camp - has this been taken care of? Rita Sinclair replied that she had requested two estimates from Dave Bolstridge before any work was done. Pat Raymond asked to be filled in on what had taken place. Gary stated the Bill good had caught the electrical wires with the dump body on the truck after he had dropped off a load of fill from the Hathaway Road. Rita reported that she had gone up to take a look at the damage. It appeared from where Bill had dumped the load and the distance to the garage should have been sufficient time to have the body completely down. Apparently it wasn't. The electrical wires had been torn from the camp and also out of the box in the garage. When Dave discussed this with me, I had told him we needed two estimates before anything was done. This has not happened yet. Gary mentioned that Lewis had given permission for Greg Lundgen. Pat Raymond wanted to know how Lewis came into this as CEO. Rita said she believed Dave had come to see Lewis about Greg being qualified to do an estimate or do the work. Rita stated she would find out as soon as she had the opportunity to speak with Lewis.

Rita Sinclair - Two items of concern. One is trash being left in the battery barrel by the igloos. Trash was left last year in the fire department's hose trailer. It is frustrating to have to clean up after people from away. It has been suggested that the Town get a dumpster for garbage. I think that would be asking for more trouble as there are always those that would abuse the privilege. Instead of paying to have their trash picked up, they would deposit it in the town's dumpster.

The second item is foreclosure for unpaid taxes on two separate parcels. One is Therlault's and Roberts. Bangor and Aroostook Railroad is in bankruptcy so we are not able to do a foreclosure on any of their property. All notices have been sent, and there has been no response from either party. If not paid by foreclosure date, the owner can still reclaim the property, but they will have to pay all taxes due on the property. The foreclosure is on 2000 taxes, so in order to retain the property, the owner would have to pay all taxes for 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Pat Raymond made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Motion seconded by Gary Chance. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. (Time 1 hr. 30 min.)

APPROVED:

  
Gloria Curtis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

  
Patrick Raymond

SELECT PERSONS HOURS 12/2001 - 11/2002

Date	Curtis	Routhier	Dicker	Chance	Raymond
12/18/2001	1	1	1		
12/20/2001	1.25	1.25	1.25		
01/09/2001	2.25	2.25	2.25		
01/23/2002	1.25 Absent		1.25		
02/10/2002	2.75	2.75	2.75		
02/20/2002	1	1	1		
02/21/2002	2	2	2		
03/06/2002	1.5	1.5	1.5		
03/20/2002	1.5 Absent		1.5		
03/29/2002	3	3	3		
04/10/2002	Absent	2.5	0	2.5	
04/24/2002	3	3	0	3	
05/15/2002	2	2	0	2	
SpTwnMtg	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	
05/29/2002	2.25	2.25	0	2.25	
06/12/2002	1	1	0	1	
06/26/2002	2.5 Resigned		0	2.5	
07/17/2002	2.25	0	0	2.25	
07/24/2002	0.5	0	0	0.5	
07/31/2002	2	0	0	2	
08/14/2002	3	0	0	3	
08/21/2002	0.5	0	0 Absent		
08/28/2002	2.25	0	0	2.25	2
09/11/2002	1.5	0	0	1.5	1.5
09/25/2002	Absent	0	0	2	2
10/12/2002	2	0	0	2	2
10/23/2002	2.25	0	0	2.25	2.25
11/14/2002	1.25	0	0	1.25	1.25
11/27/2002	1.5	0	0	1.25	1.25
Office	8	3	2	3	1
TOTAL	55.75	29	19.5	37	13.25

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
AGENDA  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
December 11, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**Call Meeting to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Approve Minutes of November 27, 2002 Meeting**

**Approve Treasurers Warrants**

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Land Use Ordinance Revisited
2. Backhoe Update
3. Estimate for Electrical Repairs

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Signatures on Warrant for Special Town Meeting
2. Holiday Closing December 24 - 26th
3. Meeting Schedule For 1st Quarter
4. Budget Committee for 2003

**TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE  
SELECTPERSONS MEETING  
December 11, 2002  
7 P.M.**

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Gloria Curtis.

Present: Gloria Curtis, Chairperson; Pat Raymond, Selectperson; Rita Sinclair, Town Manager. Selectperson, Gary Chance was absent.

A motion was made by Pat Raymond, and seconded by Gloria Curtis, to accept the minutes of the November 27th meeting as written. Motion carries.

The Board of Selectpersons reviewed and signed the Treasurer's Warrants.

**BUSINESS FROM FLOOR: None**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Land Use Ordinance Revisited: Rita Sinclair reported that Ken Hodsdon, Chairman of the Planning Board, wanted to discuss bringing the Land Use Ordinance back to the Town for approval. Since Ken was not present, the Chair moved on to #2.

2. Backhoe Update: Town Manager, Rita Sinclair reported that the backhoe needed more repairs than anticipated. The flywheel and the starter need to be replaced. The only thing that isn't done is the starter. The backhoe is usable and the starter will be replaced as soon as it comes in. Dana Cameron mentioned that upgrading may not be to the Town's benefit. A used piece of equipment, even though fairly new, has already used some time on the warranty. The Town is eligible for a discount and looking at a new piece of equipment, even if it isn't a Caterpillar, would be to the Town's advantage. Our backhoe is repairable and I wouldn't be concerned about replacing it.

Ken Hodsdon entered the meeting room and Gloria Curtis returned the meeting to the first item on the agenda.

1. Land Use Ordinance Revisited: Ken Hodsdon stated that at the last Planning Board meeting everyone on the Board wanted to have the Land Use Ordinance reconsidered. Apparently there has been some discussion around town that the ordinance should be brought back up. Ken stated he was looking for the Selectpersons support. As you know, on January 1st all the old ordinances are going to be null, if you don't have a Comprehensive Plan. We have a Comprehensive Plan, so as of January 1st, we will still have our ordinances in place. There are some problems with the old ordinance, and it would really be good to have a new one. Ken stated that he thought that before, but when it went

to Town Meeting, he found out otherwise. He believes that there was a lot of misinformation. There are things in this town that aren't protected the way it is now. We have a Comprehensive Plan that says we'll do certain things but the old ordinance does not do it. There's a discrepancy. There are things, such as the protection of the aquifer, that the new ordinance addresses. There is no ordinance against a pig farm in town. Gloria Curtis stated that as long as they followed the rules if they could have one. Ken answered yes. He also said the same goes for strippers. It has happened in other towns such as Medway. The Town Manager remarked that it had happened in the Town of Exeter. Ken said if someone wanted to do that we couldn't stop them. So there are reasons to update, and more importantly is the building code. Pat Raymond asked if the building code is necessary? Ken responded that it is for protection. Pat asked against what? Ken responded from having roof collapsing. Pat asked if there would be an ordinance that would mandate certain specs for trusses and things like that. Ken answered yes. Gloria asked if we had that now and Ken answered no. The Town Manager stated that there had been a complaint by a resident that the carpenter who was adding on to the existing camp was not building according to the standards. There was nothing our CEO could do because we do not have a building code. A building code would make the builder more cautious about how they complete their work. Ken stated he had a pet peeve with mobile homes. He used Oakfield as an example. We don't have anything that would stop that from happening here. He doesn't want to bring the Land Use Ordinance up again and get whipped like that. He stated that his purpose of being at the meeting was to see if the Board of Selectpersons would support the ordinance if it were brought up again. He believes that would make a difference in how the vote would go. Pat Raymond stated that the only thing he was afraid of was that you can go overboard with any of this. Pat stated that Ken had made a comment that brought up old memories. Pat said he started out in a mobile home years ago, and Ken had one on the hill, too. Pat said if he had not been able to start with the mobile home, he would not be a resident of Portage. Rita Sinclair stated that it would not be that mobile homes would not be allowed; it would be that they would be limited to a certain year, such as a 1970, and it would have to be up to code for plumbing and electrical. Pat Raymond said a comment like that would scare people. I think a lot of the contents of the ordinance were miscommunicated. Gloria remarked that people need to be made aware of what is state mandated out of the whole ordinance. She believes that people were overwhelmed by the whole thing rather than what actually applied to the town. Pat would like to have more than one copy available to the townspeople before they vote. Ken said there are things that can be eliminated from the ordinance. Pat stated he wasn't aware that it could be broken down. Gloria said we have to do something, somewhere, at sometime even if we have to do an ordinance at a time. Pat stated that at this time he is not familiar enough with the ordinance to support it. Pat said he doesn't have a problem with pursuing it, if it is done in the right manner. We have to look at the Town's interest. Gloria stated we have to find out what the real problem is, what the people are worried about and how to change it. The Board thanked Ken for coming in and he then left the meeting.

Pat Raymond expressed concerns over where one draws the line with some of the things in the ordinance. Gloria agreed that we can't get to picky. The people need to know what they are voting for. The feeling is, if you are paying taxes on your property, you should be able to do what you want.

**3. Estimate for Electrical Repairs:** Rita Sinclair presented an estimate for electrical repairs on Dave Bolstridge's property. Dave said he was unable to get anyone to give him second estimate. There is no breakdown on the estimate presented. Gloria Curtis wants a detailed estimate. The Board won't consider the estimate as presented. Rita Sinclair stated that the town's insurance is \$500 deductible.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Signatures on Warrant for Special Town Meeting:** The Town Manager presented a warrant for signatures to the Board. The Abatement/Discount Account is overexpended by \$5,450 due to the number of taxes paid during the discount period. The article is asking for voter approval to expend \$5,450 from surplus to cover the overdraft. The Board signed the warrant.

**2. Holiday closing December 24 - 26th:** The Town Manager reported that the office would be closing at noon on the 24th and possibly not opening again until Friday the 27th. Kathy Gagnon will be on vacation and the Town Manager may not be back before the 27th. The Board agreed to the closing as long as the hours are posted.

**3. Meeting Schedule for 1st Quarter:** The schedule was presented by the Town Manager for January, February, and March of 2003 for Selectpersons meetings. The Board accepted the schedule as presented.

**4. Budget Committee for 2003:** The Town Manager asked the Board if they had any recommendations for the Budget Committee. Last years members were Gerry Cormier, Anita Theriault, Cherry Danker, and Bud Clark. Mike Bartlett was unable to make last years meetings. Pat Raymond suggested Steve Belanger to be included in this years committee along with the previous members. Pat asked when the committee would meet. The Town Manager replied that there would be a meeting, or two, for the Selectpersons to review the budget before it goes to the joint meeting of the Board and the Budget Committee.

#### **SELECTPERSONS CONCERNS:**

Pat Raymond - What has been done with the old plow truck. Rita Sinclair reported that the tire problem wasn't with the back tires on that truck, it's the front tires. The other plow is a V plow and isn't much good for plowing the road. There is no spare sweeper. Pat said we have a truck with no plow. The alcohol evaporator on the old truck wasn't working. Vaughn was able to get it fixed, but

had to leave it to get the backhoe ready for repairs. We would still need a block heater and a wing for the old truck. Pat said if there is no wing, the V plow isn't much good. Rita stated that the plow frame could be changed over to the old truck in the event of a breakdown, but that it would be without the wing because the old truck doesn't have the necessary hook up. If we were in an emergency situation the state may be willing to plow for us until we can get the truck fixed. Pat said to proceed with the tires or, if the tires can pass inspection, a single set of chains to get us by. There are others out there that plow, Pat stated. If we had a major storm we wouldn't be stuck. Even Maine Woods might help in an emergency. Irving would probably help out, too.

Hathaway Road - The hay bales haven't been moved. If the backhoe gets repaired before there's too much snow, he can still pull the bales out and leave them to one side. If not we'll have to watch it come Spring.

Fish Lake Road - Pat has talked with Bob Vigue and explained the situation with the mud and the dust. Pat told him about the sticks in the road to show how deep the mud is. Pat said their own man, Al Murphy, has advised them of what needs to be done. A meeting of the road committee is needed.

Gloria Curtis - There was a call from a resident asking if we couldn't get Jake Brake signs to put up. It's mostly between 4 and 6 AM, and it's the Sunbury trucks. Pat suggested calling DOT to get some input. Gloria said we have tried that, as she has talked with him herself, and he doesn't give much encouragement to solving the problem. Speed is a problem.

Informational to the Board - the foreclosed property is Map 20, Lot 21 on East Cottage Road. The tax bill was not returned, but the certified notices were.

Pat mentioned that he had spoken with Laura Audibert and everything was on track. Gloria asked when we would start receiving money. Pat responded that it probably won't be for a while as the market is slow.

Pat Raymond made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Seconded by Gloria Curtis. (Time 1 hr. 15 min.)

**APPROVED:**

  
Gloria Curtis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Chance

  
Patrick Raymond