

Town of Portage Lake Regular Town Meeting Friday, August 22, 2008

AROOSTOOK: ss

STATE OF MAINE

The polls were opened at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22, 2008, then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2. Polls were opened from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to vote by secret ballot.

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

It was moved and seconded to elect Nancy Flint as moderator to preside over said meeting. Motion carried. Then and there the polls were opened to the public for the purpose of voting on Article 2.

ART. 2 To elect by secret ballot the following officer:

ONE (1) SELECTPERSON FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS

Gary Hafford with 32 votes.
Gary Chance with 15 votes
Gerald Cormier with 9 votes
Danny Higgins with 3 votes (nomination withdrawn)
Judy Moreau with 2 votes
Carry Hafford with 1 vote

There were a total of 62 ballots.

Gary Hafford was elected to the office of Selectperson. He will be sworn in at the end of this meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles:

Number of resident voters present: 33
Number of non-residents present: 8
Number of residents not registered to vote: 1

ART. 3 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appoint all necessary officers, not elected by ballot, for the ensuing year.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 4 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes, to be advertised and sold by bid, and to issue a quit-claim deed for same.

EXCEPTIONS: Upon expiration of a tax lien, tax acquired property may be redeemed by previous owner or heirs before bid notice is given.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

ART. 5 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any Town owned personal property under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

ART. 6 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the TOWN of Portage Lake's annual budget during the period from July 1, 2009, to the annual August 28, 2009, Town Meeting.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion:

Danny Higgins: What was last year's figure for the article that was just motioned?

Rita Sinclair: It was 3/12, the same thing. It is 1/4 of our budget. This article is to pay our bills for the months before the town meeting. We haven't finished this year's budget yet, it hasn't been voted on.

Barbara Pitcairn: It is confusing with the 3/12, it would be easier as 1/4.

Rita Sinclair: It has to be written that way, it is by months.

Judy Moreau: That is only for a month? July 1 to August 28 is one month.

Rita Sinclair: We moved our meeting up to August from September, so it should read 2/12 instead of 3/12. It is two months instead of three months.

Danny Higgins: This article is incorrect and it shouldn't be voted on.

Rita Sinclair: It can be amended.

Motion denied.

Article 6 as Amended: To see if the TOWN will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to spend an amount not to exceed 2/12 of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the Town of Portage Lake's annual budget during the period from July 1, 2009 to the annual August 28, 2009 Town Meeting.

Motion on amended article made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART 7. To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary of the Selectpersons, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS

\$10.00 PER HOUR

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: What makes the Selectmen think that they need a raise? Why should the inhabitants of the Town of Portage Lake give them a raise? I am looking for the answer to come from the Board of Selectmen.

Ray Cyr: Because we do a good job. If you don't think so, shoot it down.

Motion carried.

ART. 8 To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectpersons to accept gifts, donations and grants on behalf of the Town should such items become available.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 9 To see if the Town will vote to expend all money received from State reimbursement for snowmobile registrations to the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining and improving trails for use by the public.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None

Motion carried.

ART. 10 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for and accept snowmobile trail grant funds on behalf of the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining and improving trails for use by the public.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How many miles of snowmobile trail to they have to groom and maintain?

Brian Cote: 75 miles.

Motion carried.

ART. 11 To see when the Town will vote to have their taxes committed, when they will make them due and payable, to fix a rate of interest to charge on taxes unpaid after a set date, and to set that date, or act on anything relating to the commitment of taxes.

RECOMMEND: TAXES BE COMMITTED BY OCTOBER 1, 2008, THAT THEY BE DUE AND PAYABLE ON THAT DATE, THAT ALL TAXES PAID WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE MAILING DATE RECEIVE A 2% DISCOUNT, AND ALL TAXES UNPAID AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009, BE SUBJECT TO 8% INTEREST RATE.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

ART. 12 To see if the Town will vote to set at 8% the rate of interest to be paid by the Town to taxpayers who pay an amount in excess of that finally assessed.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

ART. 13 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to bring writs of entry for recovery of such parcels of land as have been acquired by the Town by reason of non-payment of taxes, the time for redemption having expired.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion carried.

ART. 14 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or the Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. sec. 506.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion carries.

ART. 15 To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate from unencumbered surplus as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the fiscal year.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS \$75,000.00

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion:

Judy Moreau: If there was \$75,000 here for emergencies, why is it you come to special town meetings to pay for whatever?

Rita Sinclair: I looked into that this year, and it is for any unanticipated emergency expense, and we really wouldn't have to go to town meeting. We are limited to this amount, anything beyond that we would have to go to Town Meeting.

Judy Moreau: Earlier this year we had a special town meeting for the lights for the building here. Could you have used....

Rita Sinclair: Yes, but I didn't know that at the time.

Motion carried.

ART. 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,000 for General Government.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$61,500 for Town Officers in addition to the balance carried forward. (Town Officers: Selectpersons, Town Manager, and Town Clerk)

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: How much is carried over?

Rita Sinclair: A little over \$2000.00

Motion carried.

ART. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the purpose of assessing, updating maps, and registry fees for Deeds and Transfers.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 for the Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees to be used for the same.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the Planning and Appeals Boards.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Is this an appropriate amount for the training and classes available for the Planning Board and Appeals Board people? There are a lot of classes out there. I feel that is what the Planning and Appeals Board people need.

Rita Sinclair: We have new people coming on board, but we have appropriated that amount in the past and have had a surplus.

Judy Moreau: How much goes to each.

Rita Sinclair: We don't have it divided up.

Danny Higgins: The Appeals Board receives no money other than to pay the Secretary, who does a fine job.

Barb Pitcairn: There are a lot of workshops available for the Planning Board and Appeals Board so they can better understand things.

Danny Higgins: Whatever money she is getting, you are getting a fine secretary who is keeping fine notes.

Motion carried.

ART. 21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,000 for Code Enforcement activities, in addition to the Plumbing and Permitting fees received in fiscal year

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Gary Chance: I would like to mention that Bruce (Hussey) and Rita and others work late hours. I think the Board might consider paying them an overtime rate past a certain time in the evening.

Danny Higgins: I think that is a wonderful idea.

Barb Pitcairn: I would like to know what the \$14,000 is for. We have a Code Enforcement Office who is here one day a week.

Rita Sinclair: He works the 52 days a year, he is back here to do inspections or check on violations of codes. He comes in other days to do paperwork.

Barb: I thought it was an hourly job.

Rita: It is.

Gary Chance: It is an unpleasant job that someone has to do. He is taking up his evenings to be here for meetings and such. He should get overtime pay because he is working at night.

Rita Sinclair: That \$14 thousand plus permitting fees and fines also pays for supplies, anything he needs for his office, and mileage reimbursement.

Judy Moreau: The mileage comes out of the \$14 thousand? On his regular days, we don't pay him mileage.

Danny Higgins: Instead of the \$14 thousand, how can we raise that to \$16,000?

Rita Sinclair: We can't.

Danny Higgins: Can the Board consider giving him a raise?

Barb Pitcairn: This is a capped out fund, the fund is allowing \$14,000. We have allotted a fund of \$14 thousand for him.

Gary Chance: Does he use the entire \$14 thousand?

Rita Sinclair: Absolutely.

Gary Chance: So if that money runs short at some time during the year, what do we do? Take it out of the emergency fund?

Grace Nason: On page 35 you can see the expenditures from last year.

Motion carried.

ART. 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for abatements.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 23 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$25,000 for discounts on taxes paid within thirty days of the mailing date.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,775 for annual membership dues for:

Maine Municipal Association	\$1,300.00
Northern Maine Development Corp.	\$1,320.00
Maine Tourism	\$ 145.00

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for the General Assistance Program.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 26 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$53,570 for the following accounts:

FICA/MED (Employer)	\$10,000.00
Employees Health Ins.	\$21,500.00
Income Protection Plan	\$ 1,200.00
Property/Casualty/Liability	\$12,500.00
Workers Compensation	\$ 4,950.00
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 3,270.00
Volunteer Insurance	\$ 150.00

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for Town Hall

improvements, in addition to the balance of \$5,749.44 carried forward.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: The septic system that we have needs improvement.

Rita Sinclair: We fixed a pipe last year.

Danny Higgins: Is there a leach field or just a holding tank?

Rita Sinclair: There is a tank and a leach field.

Motion carried.

ART. 28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Account.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 29 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,000 for the Portage Lake Fire Department.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500, in addition to the \$215 carried forward, for animal control.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: When the animal control officer catches a dog and takes it to Presque Isle, does the Town pay the fee to put the dog in the kennel?

Rita Sinclair: We pay the animal control officer to pick up and transport the animal. We have an annual fee that we pay to Central Aroostook Humane Society, we don't have to pay each time. We have a contract with them to take the animals that he takes there.

Judy Moreau: We don't pay anything above what is here?

Rita Sinclair: No.

Motion carried.

ART. 31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for Public Works Equipment Reserve Account.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,000 for the Public Works Account in addition to any funds reimbursed to this account.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: What is the \$75 thousand for?

Rita Sinclair: Payroll, tools, training, mileage, telephone, gas diesel, salt, sand.

Judy Moreau: Did I hear you correctly when you said payroll comes out of the \$75 thousand?

Rita Sinclair: It does, for anyone who works in Public Works.

Motion carried.

ART. 33 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$25,000 from the Stumpage Revenue Account for the Road Project Reserve Account.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 34 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$50,000 from anticipated excise tax revenue, in addition to the URIP Funds received and the balance of \$23,724.02 in the Road Improvements Account for major road improvements.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: Are we going to bring back the hot top paving portion?

Rita Sinclair: Are we going to pave roads?

Danny Higgins: Some of the roads can't wait to the point where we need major construction. Hot top is a good preventative maintenance.

Rita Sinclair: Sealing the cracks then paving would have been a good preventative measure, the prior Board of Selectmen voted down sealing the cracks.

Motion carried.

ART. 35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,500 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association assessment.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: It is an inconvenience to taxpayers to drive to Eagle Lake to get rid of things. Is there any way the Board could look into joining with Ashland?

Nancy Flint: For Nashville, it was much cheaper to go to Eagle Lake.

Rita Sinclair: I tried for two years to get back into the Ashland Association. Because Portage didn't go with them in the beginning, they down-sized their facility so it isn't big enough for another community. I don't think the Town would want to pay amortization fees.

Danny Higgins: Is there a chance we could get one more bin for whatever the other two don't hold?

Rita Sinclair: No. We are opening up the chance for people to haul garbage in there.

Danny Higgins: Don't you have a man up there to watch things?

Rita Sinclair: We do. Having been up there myself sometimes, I know it is difficult to watch all the bins up there when it gets busy. We have a bin for multi-waste, we have a bin for metals, a bin for hazardous waste, a wood pile. I think that is enough.

Danny Higgins: What about truck tires?

Rita Sinclair: No. You can take them to Eagle Lake.

Danny Higgins: When I buy truck tires I pay a disposal fee for them, then when I take them to Eagle Lake I pay another disposal fee. That is double taxation.

Rita Sinclair: You need to talk to your government, not me. You need to go to the state.

John Robertson: Anyone who is a resident of Ashland can take car tires to the Transfer Station for free. Why can't we have a plan like that? Car tires, pick-up tires.

Rita Sinclair: I will see what I can find out.

John Robertson: I'd appreciate it if you would. Tires are being dumped in the woods because people don't want to bring them to Eagle Lake to pay the fee.

Nancy Flint: You can take them to Fort Fairfield directly for free.

Danny Higgins: The point is it is still double taxation. This state is very overburdened with taxes.

Motion carried.

ART. 36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 for the Transfer Station.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 37 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the Cemetery.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Do you think I could have some dollars to get a plaque for Mr. Lannigan?

Rita Sinclair: That will be done this year.

Judy Moreau: You said that last year. He has got to have a plaque.

Barb Pitcairn: Who is Mr. Lannigan?

Judy Moreau: He is the man who donated the land for the cemetery.

Danny Higgins: Has he died?

Judy Moreau: Several year's ago.

Danny Higgins: Is he buried up there?

Judy Moreau: Yes he is. He is buried in the middle of the road.

Motion carried.

ART. 38 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$10,000 from the Stumpage Revenue Account in addition to the balance carried forward of \$2,017.33 for Cemetery Expansion.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: How much do we have in the stumpage account? We are going to give it to the Road Project Reserve account and we are going to give it to the cemetery expansion. Have we got money?

Rita Sinclair: We have money in the stumpage revenue account, it isn't quite \$100 thousand with stumpage and silva-culture.

Danny Higgins: I was up there for a burial not long ago, and the road was in very bad shape. Is there anything we can do about that? A lot of times, which helps, is you can take the grindings of asphalt and use that to bind over the top of the dirt.

Rita Sinclair: Mary Ann would you like to tell the people here about the future plans for the cemetery?

Mary Ann Caron: We are working with Dan Bridgham on new plans for the cemetery to get new roads in there. I can show them to you this week.

Judy Moreau: On page 47 it says, \$105,961.29 in the stumpage.

Rita Sinclair: I apologize. I didn't add in what we received this year.

Motion carried.

ART. 39 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for the Portage Lake Beautification Committee.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: What are we going to do about the Town signs?

Rita Sinclair: What town signs are you referring to?

Danny Higgins: The ones as you are coming into town.

Rita Sinclair: They are brand new.

Danny Higgins: They are? Maybe I go by them too fast.

Motion carried.

ART. 40 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500 in addition to anticipated income from Campground Fees, for upkeep and maintenance of Parks, Public Beach, Boat Landing, and Seaplane Base.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Do we have a group of people who are working on the grounds to decide where the monies will go?

Rita Sinclair: No. This is for the campground for work that needs to be done there, this includes mowing and any maintenance.

Barb Pitcairn: I thought this was for improvements.

Rena Boutot: What about the Seaplane Base? I thought there were people who were authorized to use that and would

upkeep that building?

Rita Sinclair: This wouldn't be anything for the building, but we have to maintain that area. Last year we had a problem with the insurance, when our insurance came and inspected. We had some materials brought in so people wouldn't twist an ankle on the rocks heading down to the dock.

Motion carried.

ART. 41 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 in matching funds as the Town's share of the Portage Lake Association's application for an Invasive Cost Share Grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 42 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,000 for fireworks for the July 4, 2009, Centennial Celebration.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

John Robertson: I'm not un-patriotic, but I don't want my tax money to go for fireworks that will be over in an hour. We have heating bills, gas bills, food prices have gone up. This is extravagant when fuel prices are rising. There should be fund raising, bottle drives, or donations from the property owners of the town. This is too much.

Barb Pitcairn: What do we normally spend?

Rita Sinclair: \$3500.

Barb Pitcairn: We are pretty much doubling it because of the Centennial.

Judy Moreau: If we need fireworks for the Centennial, which I agree with Mr. Robertson, we don't need this. I think we should keep it at last year's \$3500.

Danny Higgins: Being that it is our 100 year anniversary, in tribute to the founders of this community, I think it is a nominal fee to pay to honor the people who founded this community. I am in favor of that article.

Judy Moreau: When our forefathers came here, it was hard times. I think they would frown on this much money.

John Robertson: The tax money comes only from people who own property. It isn't right that they have to foot this whole bill. There are other ways to raise money that is more fair. If people want this much money, let them make a donation. If it rains you miss the fireworks anyway, it is a waste of money.

Danny Higgins: I think it would be a tribute to the founders of this community to honor their hard work to build the community that we have today. We are going to paint the Catholic Church, we don't have volunteers but it will be done anyway.

Motion carried.

ART. 43 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club, Inc., for the purpose of creating and maintaining snowmobile trails for public use in the Town of Portage Lake.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I referred back to Art. 9 where they are asking for more money for the Snowmobile Club.

Rita Sinclair: Art. 9 is for fees that come in from the State for reimbursement.

Barb Pitcairn: Article 10 also?

Nancy Flint: That is for grants that they write and earn.

Motion carried.

ART. 44 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,351 for the following Social Services donations:

Aroostook County Action Program	\$ 78.00
Agency on Aging	\$295.00
VFW Memorial Day	\$100.00
Catholic Charities	\$100.00
Humane Society	\$546.00
No. Maine Veterans Cemetery	\$100.00
St. John RC & D	\$ 44.00
American Red Cross	\$123.00
Northeast Combat	\$175.00
Shelter for the Homeless	\$390.00
M & M Food Kitchen	\$100.00
Maine PBS	\$100.00
Central Aroostook Soil & Water	\$200.00

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Brian Cote: These social services, are these their recommendations?

Rita Sinclair: Yes.

Motion carried.

ART. 45 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Scholarships for students graduating in June of 2009.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 46 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for street lights.

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 47 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,207 for Ashland User Fees:

Ambulance Service:	\$10,574
Ashland Library	\$ 1,242
Recreation	\$ 1,391

BUDGET COMMITTEE AND SELECTPERSONS RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 48 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to publish the Centennial book "History and Hearsay" for the 2009 Centennial Anniversary.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Norman St. Peter: This is a little ambiguous, but this is a loan to this committee, rather than a grant. The money made once we sell the book will more than pay back what we used to publish the book. So the town will gain, rather than lose on this article.

Danny Higgins: I think that was very well explained.

Motion carried.

ART. 49 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$50,000 from the Revenue Sharing Account for the purpose of reducing 2008/2009 taxes.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: What if we don't get the revenue sharing? We get that from state and federal government?

Rita Sinclair: This is what will be coming in. The state does a notification in advance, so we know what is coming in. We had some left in the revenue sharing account, and with what we are getting this year we will have \$50 thousand.

Judy Moreau: You are sure we are getting that, right?

Danny Higgins: The only thing sure in life is death..

Judy Moreau: Death and taxes.

Motion carried.

ART. 50 To see if the Town will allow the Board of Selectpersons to authorize the Town Manager/Chief Executive Officer to submit grant applications that will benefit the Town of Portage Lake and, if said applications are approved, to further authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute all necessary documents pursuant to the applications, receipt, implementation, management, and completion of projects.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

Gary Hafford is sworn in as a Selectperson for the Town of Portage Lake at 8:02 p.m.

Motion for adjournment made in the affirmative, seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Routhier
Resident of Portage Lake, Maine

