

Special Town Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2022
5:30 pm at the Portage Lake Town Hall

AROOSTOOK, s.s.

STATE OF MAINE

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Town Clerk Sarah Bauzenberger. Flag Salute was recited. There were 7 resident voters and 3 non-residents present.

ART. 1 It was moved and seconded to nominate and elect Joel Hall as Moderator to preside over said meeting. No discussion. Motion carries. Joel Hall was sworn in immediately by Sarah Bauzenberger

ART. 2 It was moved and seconded to expend up to \$35,500 from the Road Reserve Savings to hire a contractor to seal the pavement cracks on West and Cottage Roads.

Discussion:

Barry Kenney: Ya, I just think before we spend \$35,000 on sealing the cracks in the road I think we should do a little more homework on that. If we can't get it to stick any better than the State did on Route 11, I feel we are throwing our money out the window. When the guys come to do our paving here, I'd like to meet with him and take him down and see his opinion. So, we're late enough in this year if we don't get it done, I don't think it's gonna affect anything. We can always bring it up again at the March meeting. That was my feeling for this. My recommendation is a "no".

Lou Miller: Can I talk?

Moderator explains the process for allowing a non-voter to speak at Town Meeting.

Beech Kenney: I make a motion we let Louie speak.

Arthur Routhier: Second.

All in Favor

Lou Miller: I think you all know I live on West Road. I'm here 6 months plus a year and I walk the road almost every day, and seeing the cracks getting bigger and bigger. My concern is that it ruins the road after....Was it 2015 that most of it got repaved, or part of it, at roughly \$400,000 or \$500,000. And I agree with Beech that the price does seem a little steep, but you figure it's about 9% \$400,000 back 2015. What would it cost to repave the roads now if we let them stay this way? It's been that way...they've had the cracks not just this year, it's been happening. I've asked a couple times a couple of years before but I never pursued it by coming to Town Meeting. I just hate to see the roads go; they are in such good shape right now. And I totally agree with you Beech, Route 11...I mean, you might as well take some dollar bills and burn them. So, if that's the plan, if we come up with a plan and say, you know, it's kind of late in the year, I agree. But whoever is doing...is it Northeast Paving, or...?

Barry Kenney: Steelstone out of Houlton will be doing around the Town Hall here.

Lou Miller: Ya, see what they say. I don't know if they do it, do they do that kind of sealing? Just the cracks?

Barry Kenney: I believe so.

Lou Miller: But as long as you have put it on the agenda, you know....

Barry Kenney: Louie, do you find where the cracks are, is there more water standing in the ditch or are they on dry sections?

Lou Miller: Center-line cracks, like you go from the mill road down past Harold Cyr's. And there's others that go laterally, but where culverts, etc., just the natural...around here what are you gonna do? You're gonna get them. But if we can seal them up maybe we can get our roads to last longer, because if we have to repave you might as well double the \$400,000, I think. Go back to 2015, I

don't know if anybody can argue that, I would probably be lowballing it at a million bucks. You know, I'd rather spend \$30-ish thousand than a million. But that's my two cents. I appreciate it. David Pierce: I agree with both of you guys, but I think like...there has been some talk, and some people acknowledging, that sometimes it will hold water in if you do that. I'm all about fixing them, but I agree we should probably talk to some professionals and see what they think about the longevity of that. The pros vs. cons.

Lou Miller: Who was it that gave you a price, Corrine?

Corrine Routhier: Oh, I can't remember their names.

Lou Miller: Is that what they do for a living? That's their job?

Corrine Routhier: Yes.

Lou Miller: And that was the only quote we got?

Corrine Routhier: Well, we got one from Massachusetts, but they were much higher than this. They were....there was just a lot of....

Lou Miller: Oh, ya, I know. I mean, as long as you get a couple three quotes. Keep it on the agenda.

Motion denied

ART. 3 It was moved and seconded to appropriate \$417 from Overlay to cover a budget deficit in the Transfer Station Department.

No discussion held. Motion carries.

ART. 4 It was moved and seconded to appropriate \$600 from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka America Rescue Plan Act funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the purpose of correcting Hazard Pay for two employees who were not paid their full entitlement appropriated at the special town meeting on July 20, 2022.

No discussion held. Motion carries.

ART. 5 It was moved and seconded to appropriate up to \$9,500 from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan Act funds) received by the Town from the federal government for the purpose of purchasing a front-load washer and drying cabinet for the Fire Department to clean turn-out gear.

No discussion held. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine Routhier, Town Manager & Deputy Clerk