

1/3/85 The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Raymond Chasse.

Minutes of the previous year's meetings were read and accepted.

Old business: Chairman Roland Caron has resigned. Board member Clarence Cook has moved from the state. Planning Board members have never been sworn in. This will be discussed further with the Town Clerk Gladys Cote.

New business: Raymond Chasse was chosen by the Planning Board to serve as Chairman to replace Mr. Caron. Jeanne Currier was elected Secretary to replace Mr. Chasse.

Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Stolze discussed problems he's had with building permits. Questionable or doubtful applications will be brought before the Planning Board for decision, routine applications will be taken care of by Mr. Stolze. It was decided that requests should be acted upon quickly - if necessary special meetings may be called to discuss applications.

A ramp must be added to provide access to the Town Hall for the handicapped. Estimated cost is \$7,000 to \$10,000.

Town Manager Velma Casey requested the Planning Board evaluate the need for more office space for the town office - a possible solution is a new building. Chairman Chasse will bring in a set of plans for discussion at the February meeting.

Easement on land across the West Road for the sewer system was discussed. It would involve all camps from Raymond Moro's house to the Harris camp. Approximately 50% of the land is town owned, 26% is owned by Great Northern Paper Co., 15% is owned by Prentiss & Carlisle.

Present at the meeting were: Malcolm Nason, William Condon, Raymond Chasse, Eugene Morris and Jeanne Currier.

After deciding the next meeting would be held the first Thursday of February, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Currier  
Secretary

2/4/85 The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Raymond Chasse.

The minutes of the January 3 meeting were read. Corrections were made in the estimated cost of providing access to the Town Hall for the handicapped. Also changed were the ownership percentages of the proposed land to be acquired for sewer improvements on the West Road. The minutes were accepted with these changes.

Plumbing Inspector Ralph Stolze had been contacted by Charles Maxwell of New Jersey. Mr. Maxwell sold some land on Fox Hill to the State for the rerouting project and is left with approximately 1960 square feet of property. Since the town has a minimum square footage requirement of 2000 square feet, Mr. Maxwell seeks a variance. Plans for moving the camp and building a new outhouse were shown to the Board; the camp is to be 25 feet from the side boundary and 50 feet from the back property line. Motion was made to accept this application with the stipulation that a soil test be made of the proposed site for the outhouse and that a building permit is obtained.

Town Manager Velma Casey has received correspondence from the federal government regarding specifications of town dumps. Effective January, 1985, no burning will be allowed, iron and pesticides are not to be buried. Since the town dump is on ledge, a more suitable burial site must be found - preferably with a gravel base. Gene Morris and Raymond Chasse will check with Great Northern Paper to see if any GNP land would be available for this purpose.

Raymond Chasse showed the Board plans for a new town office building. The 24' X 36' building plans illustrated a layout of office, conference room, bathroom and utility room for approximately \$35,000. Water, sewer and foundation would cost about \$8,000 to \$10,000 more.

2/4/85

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Gene Morris reported that Great Northern would be willing to consider the request for easement for sewer improvements on the West Road. Prentiss and Carlisle have not been approached regarding their share of this land. Gene Morris will contact Jim May of P & C.

The Planning Board voted to make the following recommendations to the Board of Selectmen:

1. That the Town acquire the property needed for sewer improvements on the West Road. Each system would be maintained by individual property owners but proper sewer systems should be made available to protect the water of Portage Lake.

2. Advice should be requested of the Northern Regional Planning Board for guidelines pertaining to federal codes for a new town office, especially regarding handicapped access.

Present at the meeting were William Condon, Raymond Chasse, Eugene Morris and Jeanne Currier.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Currier  
Secretary

2/11/85 John Suffron, representing Superior Mining, conducted a meeting updating the Bald Mountain exploratory drilling project.

Freeport Mining will not renew their option of drilling for a second year - their fall core samples showed less gold and silver than had been calculated in their spring and summer samples.

Superior/Mobil will continue to pay the lease but will look to sell the drilling option to any other interested group. Approximately 71,000 acres surrounding Bald Mountain are currently leased to Chevron and there is a possibility this company would be interested.

The gold samples show granules rather than veins of gold. It is a more expensive process to extract since the rocks must be crushed before being chemically treated to release the gold. Metal prices have dropped and such expense would not be practical at this time.

Attending the meeting were Town Manager Velma Casey, Selectman Omar Paradis, Planning Board members Malcolm Nason, William Condon, Emile Bushey, Eugene Morris, Raymond Chasse and Jeanne Currier.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION I**

**J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203**

**APR 23 1985**

**Ms. Velma Casey  
Town Manager  
Town of Portage Lake  
P.O. Box 154  
Portage, ME 04768**

**Dear Ms. Casey:**

As you are aware, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) sponsored public meetings throughout the State in order to discuss the open burning dump issue with those towns which continue to open burn municipal refuse in the State. Four such meetings were held during January in Bangor, Augusta, South Portland, and Presque Isle. A meeting scheduled for Calais was cancelled due to poor projected attendance. The towns represented at the four meetings are listed in the attachment to this letter.

At the meetings, EPA explained its position on the open burning issue and options available under the Clean Air Act to comply with Federal requirements. The ME DEP explained the State requirements governing municipal refuse disposal and what technical assistance it can offer to municipalities in the planning of alternative disposal systems. The towns were given the opportunity to ask specific questions concerning the Federal requirements governing open burning and the State requirements governing the operation of an acceptable disposal site. Also discussed were the problems the individual towns were having in complying with the prohibition.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a general summary of the major issues discussed at the meeting and to inform you of EPA's planned enforcement strategy for insuring compliance with the prohibition:

**Major Issues Discussed:**

**1. Federal Law vs. State Law**

**Why is the State law different from the Federal law?**

The original federally approved State law did not allow towns to burn municipal refuse. In 1976, the State relaxed its flat prohibition on open burning municipal refuse to exclude towns with populations of less than 1000. However, EPA could not approve this revision due to its potential

harm to air quality and, therefore, must enforce the original prohibition.

## 2. Open Burning vs. Landfilling

Does open burning cause less environmental harm than landfills?

Towns which presently open burn are likely causing a greater problem than towns which operate proper landfills. The ME DEP stated that ash from combusted municipal refuse can cause more severe groundwater problems than could be expected from the landfilling of uncombusted refuse due to the increased solubility of the ash in the groundwater. It is the ME DEP's responsibility to insure that all landfills are sited and operated properly. A properly sited and operated disposal operation will generally not cause environmental problems.

Also, open burning of municipal refuse has been shown to cause potential violations of the federal air quality standards based on health and general welfare. Household trash has changed a great deal from trash of twenty years ago. There are increased amounts of plastics, chemicals, paints, solvents, acids, etc., presently used in the household which were not generally present in municipal refuse historically. When these products are burned, toxic fumes are likely to be emitted with the potential for adverse health effects. This is especially true for those people who reside adjacent to burning dumps or who are directly impacted by the plume. This population is also endangered by potential groundwater leachate problems from the disposal operation. Although one small open burning dump in a rural location may not seem to pose environmental problems, many small open burning dumps taken collectively have the potential to cause a significant air pollution problem.

## 3. Alternatives to Open Burning

What other disposal options are available to small towns?

There are various alternatives to open burning. Towns can minimize costs by establishing a regional disposal system where all design, construction and operating costs would be shared among member towns. Private contractors are available in some areas to perform hauling and/or disposal services. A town's existing open dump site may also be suitable for further development as an approved landfill or transfer station. The Bureau of Land Quality Control is available to assist towns in choosing and implementing their best practical solution.

4. Cost

Is open burning less costly than other disposal options?

Proper solid waste disposal will cost towns more money not only in increased operating costs but also in costs associated with system design and construction. Other small towns in New England have incurred increased costs in establishing proper disposal systems. Presently, out of approximately 1700 municipalities in New England (a large number of them in rural areas), approximately 110 are still open burning (approximately 95 in Maine, 14 in New Hampshire and 1 in Massachusetts).

Presently, EPA is willing to allow those towns that are working in good faith towards an acceptable solution the time they need for design, construction and implementation of alternative disposal systems. We are aware of the difficulties faced by small towns and we recognize that alternative means of waste disposal cannot be developed overnight. However, we do expect towns to cease open burning as soon as practicable. EPA will target for federal enforcement (1) those towns which have immediate alternatives to open burning yet continue to open burn and (2) those towns which are not attempting to investigate and implement alternatives to open burning. Our hope is that your Town, the State of Maine, and EPA can work cooperatively towards eliminating open burning in your town and implementing an environmentally acceptable alternative.

If you have ceased open burning or are presently working on an alternative to open burning, please write us and inform us of your status. Please include information on the alternative you have chosen and the timetable you plan to implement to cease open burning. If you have already ceased open burning, please inform us of the date by which all open burning ended.

We will review all submissions we receive in response to this letter together with information we will be receiving from discussions with the Maine DEP to determine which towns are potential candidates for federal enforcement. You should be aware that continued violations of the open burning prohibition can result in the initiation of federal enforcement action against violating municipalities.

If you have any questions, please call Robert O'Meara or Stanley Chin of my staff at (617) 223-5137.

Sincerely yours,

*Linda M. Murphy*  
Linda M. Murphy

Linda M. Murphy, Chief  
State Air Programs Branch

cc: John Bastey, ME DEP  
Hollis McGlaufflin, ME DEP

May 9, 1985 The Town Planning Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Wayne Gagnon suggested that the town trade a piece of land behind Velma Casey's home for land owned by Mrs. Casey, located by the West Road entrance of the Station Road. The purpose of this trade would be to store a 10,000 gallon water tank for the Town Fire Department. It was mentioned that B & A Railroad was to have first option to buy this town-owned land according to the deed on the property. The Planning Board voted to approve this suggestion and Mr. Gagnon will approach the Town Selectmen for their approval.

J. Paul Levesque submitted an application for a building permit for a summer camp and boathouse. The lot is 200' X 125' and is located on the Forestry Road. No details were supplied on this application and since there are many Shore Land Zoning Ordinances that must be met, the Planning Board could not approve the application. Mr. Levesque will be notified by mail of the sections of these ordinances which must be met.

The Fox Hill Road relocation was discussed. Article 5 of the State's proposal would have the Town responsible for plowing the old section of the road. This section is only about one mile but includes Fox Hill.

The town dump was the next subject discussed. The State has given a three year period for improvements to be made, but no burning will be allowed. A minimum of 100 acres are needed for the landfill area. Great Northern Paper would make land available for the town but it is up to the town to locate a suitable site.

Gene Morris was approached by someone interested in the 24 acres on the West Road. This town-owned land is not being used right now but to have it surveyed for lots, etc. an application would have to be made and a special town meeting called.

Members present: Raymond Chasse, Emile Bushey, William Condon, Eugene Morris, Malcolm Nason, Jeanne Currier. Velma Casey and Ralph Stolze were present at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



APPROVED

MAY 20 '85

BY GOVERNOR

CHAPTER

188

PUBLIC LAW

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE

H.P. 976 - L.D. 1399

AN ACT to Prohibit Open Burning at All  
Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Sites.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

38 MRS.A §599, sub-§2, TC, as repealed and replaced by PL 1983, c. 504, §7, is amended to read:

C. Open burning of solid waste material at a municipal solid waste disposal site serving less than 1,000 persons shall, prior to January 1, 1989, only be prohibited where the Board of Environmental Protection, after investigation and hearing, shows that the continuance of open burning at a specific municipal site is in violation of air quality standards.

All municipalities that are open burning solid waste materials, other than brush and demolition debris, at their solid waste disposal site as of the effective date of this paragraph, shall submit an alternative solid waste disposal plan acceptable to the Board of Environmental Protection by July 1, 1986. These plans shall be implemented as soon as possible after approval by the board, but in no case later than January 1, 1989.

June 19, 1985 Town Planning Board special meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Discussion was held on the application for a conditional use permit filed by J. Paul Levesque.

The first part of Levesque's plan is to bring the lot to grade according to DEP's specifications. The location of the septic system will be decided later. The building permit will not be issued until the septic system passes inspection by Plumbing Inspector Stolze.

The conditional use permit was granted and a letter sent to confirm this.

Members present: Raymond Chasse, Emile Bushey, Eugene Morris, Malcolm Nason, William Condon, Jeanne Currier. Velma Casey also attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

7/11/85 The Town Planning Board meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. The dump situation was discussed. Raymond Chasse located a potential site near the Chip Plant. More information is needed from the state on their requirements for environmental protection, soil tests, etc.

Mac Nason has seen Leo Nadeau's truck hauling gravel from the town pit leased to Great Northern. The lease specifies that gravel from this pit is to be used only for the GNP woods roads.

Raymond Chasse will check with Mrs. Casey to see if anyone gave Nadeau Construction Co. permission to use the town pit and what other arrangements have been made regarding price, etc. Chairman Chasse will also check to see if anyone issued a permit for the septic system at the Ray Moro camp on the Beach Road.

Members present were: Raymond Chasse, William Condon, Malcolm Nason and Jeanne Currier.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

9/19/85 The Town Planning Board meetinw was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Raymond Chasse.

The minutes of the 7/11 meeting were read and accepted.

Town Manager Velma Casey spoke of the Northern Maine Regional Planning Board's research into a regional incinerator. The towns from Oxbow through Eagle would be included in the plan. There is the possibility of federal funding. Nothing definite has been decided; this is an alternative to landfill-type dumping.

Mrs. Casey informed the Planning Board that the state issued the variance for the septic system of Ray Morrow. Apparently, the EPA informed Mr. Morrow that his septic system was to be corrected and the state issued the variance. Code Inspector Ralph Stoltz did review the plans for the system.

Selectman Dan Higgins informed the Board that the town gravel pit was the source of ledge used by the Nadeau Construction Co. on the Beach Road. The State DOT contacted the Town because the project was running short of funds. The Selectmen and Town Manager decided it would benefit the Town to make the gravel pit available for use on the project, subject to GNP + P & C approval. The lease states that the gravel from this town pit must be used only on the GNP w-ods roads between Three Mile Gate and the Chip Plant.

Kevin Boushey attended the meeting to suggest an alternate plan for the town school building. The building was turned over to the town on September 4. Boushey contacted the FHA and found that funds were available to subsidize the development of low to moderate income housing (\$10,000 to \$20,000 yearly income). Boushey is interested in possibly buying the school and converting it into a 4 to 6 unit apartment house. A marketing survey would have to be conducted to verify an interest in the project. The State Supervisor of FHA would require at least 12 signatures (if 6 units were constructed). Letters of intent for rental would have be submitted by potential renters. This proposal would increase the tax base but might also increase the town tax rate since more services might be required by the tenants.

The Northern Maine Regional Planning Board drew up a plan for the school building to be converted to a new town hall. The cost is estimated at \$29,000. No decision will made on this issue without the townspeople voting.

Members present were Raymond Chasse, Malcolm Nason, Gene Morris,  
Emile Bushey, William Condon and Jeanne Currier.

Also present were Kevin Boushey, Dan Higgins and Velma Casey.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

10/3/85 The Town of Portage Planning Board meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairman Raymond Chasse.

James Barresi from the Northern Maine Regional Planning Board and Michael Young, an engineer with the N.M.R.P.B. were in attendance. Mr. Barresi explained the proposals drawn up for the Portage Central School. Option 1 illustrates a new building similar to the Patten Town Hall. For a cost of \$29,600, the town would construct an 888 square foot building. Option 2 illustrates the conversion of the school at a cost of \$25,000 and would contain 6,700 square feet. Since the Planning Board must make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, it was decided that Option 2 would be the better choice. Mr. Barresi pointed out that the Town Hall of Patten was not big enough for that town's needs after such a short time in use.

Mr. Barresi discussed the State's Act to Prohibit Open Burning. By January 1, 1989, all towns in the state must be in compliance with this law. This means that solid waste cannot be burned except for brush and demolition debris. A solid waste disposal plan must be submitted by July 1, 1986. The three alternatives were discussed and compared. Those three alternatives are: landfill, transfer station and incineration.

Landfill - The Portage town dump is a landfill but the current site is unacceptable. This old dump will have to be covered with clay-type soil and planted with grass seeds. The cost of closing this dump was estimated as between \$5,000 and \$10,000. If this method is chosen, a new site would have to be located. There would have to be test wells and piping to be sure there is no leakage. The estimated cost of maintaining a landfill area would be \$38 to \$40 per ton according to the N.M.R.P.B.

Transfer station - This method would require the Town of Portage to locate another town that would accept our garbage in their dump. However, the Town of Portage would have to accept responsibility for whatever is buried. This would not be feasible since there is no way of telling what is in the plastic garbage bags, nor their origin.

Incineration - This method would require a regional incinerator to be built; with other towns sharing the expense, it would be affordable. It is the most efficient method since the garbage is reduced by 95% by

burning. There would have to be approximately 2 acres set aside for a landfill area since "white goods" and tires cannot be burned. "White goods" are junk washing machines, refrigerators and other scrap iron that cannot be burned. This method would also require a building to store the ashes from the incinerator. The Madawaska/Frenchville incinerator uses a 60' X 80' metal and concrete shed which is filled with the ashes from 6 months' burning. Twice a year the shed is emptied and the ashes buried. The ashes are covered with soil and grass is planted to prevent erosion. A two acre landfill would last about 22.8 years according to the calculations of N.M.R.P.B. engineer Michael Young. This method is the only safe way to dispose of pesticide, herbicide and fungicide containers. The cost of disposing of garbage by the incineration method was estimated at \$32. per ton. This estimated price includes setup expenses, maintenance, financing (at 10% interest rate) amortized over 20 years. It also includes the two acre landfill area, test wells and piping and the building to store the ashes until they are buried. Portage's share was estimated to be about \$12,800 per year.

The Planning Board voted to recommend the incineration method to the Selectmen.

The Board discussed the Model Ordinance Relating to Flood Hazard Building Permit System and Review Procedure. The only amendment was that the Code Enforcement Officer should collect the fees. The Board voted to recommend that this Ordinance be accepted for Town use.

Members present were Raymond Chasse, Emile Bushey, William Condon and Jeanne Currier. Present also were James Baressi and Michael Young.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Town Planning Board  
Portage, Maine 04768  
October 4, 1985

Board of Selectmen  
Portage, Maine 04768

Gentlemen:

The Town Planning Board makes the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. To convert the Portage school to Northern Maine Planning Board's proposed layout for a new town hall.

2. After the conversion of the school, the town truck and other town equipment should be stored in the place of the fire equipment in the old town hall. The fire department should be moved to the new town hall as proposed.

3. If regional interest is shown, an incinerator would be the best solution to the town landfill problem. Due to pollution problems and after-effects involved with landfill areas, this seems to be the best course of action. It is the Town's responsibility to keep Portage Lake clean.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Chasse  
Chairman

RC/jzc



Town Planning Board  
Portage, Maine 04768  
October 29, 1985

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Portage  
Portage, Maine 04768

Gentlemen:

The study committee appointed at the October 14 public hearing submitted the following proposals at the October 22 special meeting of the Planning Board:

I. To move the town office to an existing 22' X 35' classroom on the west side of the Portage School for a temporary solution. To appoint a person to supervise the renting of the remainder of the building for a period of one year. This will give the town some insight into feasibility of recreational use of the building or other uses.

II. To expand the classroom on the Northwest corner of the school 15' westerly to accomodate fire trucks and leave the rest of the building to be developed for the town office and recreational functions, etc.

III. To get facts and figures on the feasibility of building an addition over the present fire truck garage, an area of 25' X 32'10" to be used for a new town office, council chambers and kitchen.

IV. Lease or sell the school for housing for the elderly or veterans. Get an appraisal of what this would result in - jobs, taxes, revenues.

After much discussion, agreement was reached by the Planning Board. The Board recommends that the town office be moved temporarily to the school (Proposal I). The Board also recommends that the Selectmen research the cost and feasibility of the other proposals. In the event the voters decide the school should be sold or leased, Proposal III, the expansion of the town hall could be an alternative.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Chasse  
Chairman