

2024 WARRANT

AROOSTOOK, s.s.

STATE OF MAINE

To: Brian R. Cote, resident of the Town of Portage Lake, County of Aroostook, and State of Maine

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Voters of the Town of Portage Lake, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Municipal Building in said town on **Thursday the twenty-first (21st) of March, 2024, at three o'clock (3:00) in the afternoon until seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening**, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

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

ART. 2 To elect by secret ballot the following Officer(s):
One (1) Select Board member for a term of three (3) years
One (1) School Board member for a term of three (3) years

AND to notify and warn said voters to re-assemble at the Portage Lake Municipal Building on **Friday, the twenty-second (22nd) of March, 2024, at six-thirty (6:30) in the evening**, then and there, to act on the remaining Articles to wit:

Note: Select Board & Budget Committee recommend a YES on all budget articles, unless otherwise noted

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

ART. 4 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount in each department of the Town's annual budget during the period from January 1, 2024 to the annual March Town Meeting.

ART. 5 To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to accept on behalf of the Town any gifts, donations, grants and State funding or reimbursements, including Revenue Sharing, Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, Tree Growth Reimbursement, BETE Reimbursement, and Veteran Exemption Reimbursement, and exercise such authority as needed to implement grants.

ART. 6 To see if the Town will vote to allow a 2% discount on taxes paid within 30 days of the mailing date and set an interest rate of 8.5% on unpaid taxes 60 days after the date of tax commitment, per 36 MRSA sec 505.4. (Note: 8.5% is the maximum allowable interest to be charged in 2024, as set by the State Treasurer)

ART. 7 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Sec. 506, and to pay an interest rate of 0% on those prepayments.

ART. 8 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to allow the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosure when a request has been made by the owner before the notice of foreclosure has been executed and it is in the best interest of the Town.

ART. 9 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to sell or dispose of tax-acquired property via quitclaim deed by first offering the property to the former owner(s) or if deceased to his/her heirs/devisees/personal

representatives within 30 days of the date of automatic foreclosure for a price equal to all taxes, interest, fees and costs owed; then if the former owner does not repurchase the property, the Municipal Officers may sell the property using the process authorized by 30-A MRS §943-C, provided that if the former owner does not request that process or the Board is unable to list or sell the property as required by §943-C(3), the Board may sell the property through a competitive sealed bid process in which a notice advertising sale of the property shall be published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. For sales other than to the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 MRS §943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

- ART. 10 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to advertise the proposed sale of any Town acquired property and Town owned personal property valued over \$500 under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.
- ART. 11 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate \$25,000 from surplus as they deem advisable to meet emergencies that may occur during the calendar year.
- ART. 12 To see if the Town will vote to accept all monies received from the Maine Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program for the coming year and deposit those monies into the Road Reserve savings account for future use.
- ART. 13 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$72,000 from anticipated motor vehicle excise revenue for the Road Reserve account.
Note: Excise tax was enacted into Maine law in 1925, 36 MRS §1482. It is based on the manufacturer suggested retail price to make the tax fair for everyone. It is levied yearly and the money is typically spent on local road maintenance, construction and repair.
- ART. 14 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$55,000 from anticipated revenue sources for the purpose of reducing the 2024 tax commitment.
- ART. 15 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$25,000 from the 2024 Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) Reimbursement for the following reserve accounts:
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| Revaluation Savings Account | \$5,000 |
| Portage Lake Fire Department Reserve Account | \$10,000 |
| Public Works Equipment Reserve Account | \$10,000 |
- ART. 16 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 20% of the Homestead Exemption Reimbursement received in 2024 for the Town Hall Improvement Reserve savings account.
- ART. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,335 in addition to \$4,785 carried forward and \$780 from Nashville Plantation for elections and general administrative services for a total budget of \$39,900 for the General Administration operating account, and to allow any other revenues, reimbursements and fees to be used for the same.
- ART. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$70,784 in addition to \$15,316 carried forward and \$4,900 from Nashville Plantation for administrative support fees for a total budget of \$91,000 for Office Staff payroll (Town Manager/Treasurer, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk).

- ART. 19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,340 in addition to \$1,010 carried forward for a total budget of \$7,350 for Real & Personal Property Assessing and Registry of Deeds fees, and to allow any revenues from lien costs to be used for the same.
- ART. 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,047 in addition to \$10,953 carried forward for a total budget of \$21,000 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees, reimbursements, and donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 21 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$469 in addition to \$531 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,000 for the Planning & Appeals Boards.
- ART. 22 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,064 in addition to \$4,036 carried forward for a total budget of \$19,100 for Code Enforcement activities, and to allow permit fees, fines, and any other reimbursements to be used for the same.
- ART. 23 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,887 in addition to \$113 carried forward for a total budget of \$14,000 for Discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of tax bills, and to carry forward \$717 and appropriate up to \$283 from Overlay for a total budget of \$1,000 for tax Abatements.
- ART. 24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,475 for annual membership dues to Maine Municipal Assn., Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce, Greater Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce and Central Aroostook Soil & Water, and to appropriate up to \$250 from the Designated Tourism Account for Maine Tourism Assn. dues.
- ART. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$65,213 and to carry forward \$5,587 for a total budget of \$70,800 for the Insurance & Social Security account, and to allow any reimbursements and dividends to be used for the same.
- ART. 26 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$4,774 for the General Assistance account and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.
- ART. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$23,840 in addition to \$3,260 carried forward and \$400 from Nashville Plantation for a total budget of \$27,500 for the Portage Lake Fire Department operating account, and to allow any reimbursements, fees, or donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 28 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,925 in addition to \$725 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,650 for the Animal Control operating account, and to allow any dog license fees and fines to be used for the same.
- ART. 29 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,326 in addition to \$2,924 carried forward for a total budget of \$4,250 for Contracted Services for grader work, excavator work and miscellaneous expenses related to this account.
- ART. 30 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$65,111 in addition to \$11,489 carried forward and to appropriate \$25,000 from Motor Vehicle Excise tax revenues for a total budget of \$101,600 for the Public Works operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

- ART. 31 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$75,650 for Aroostook Valley Solid Waste Disposal District (Ashland Transfer Station).
- ART. 32 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$255 in addition to \$745 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,000 for expenses related to the Portage Lake Transfer Station, including the annual reporting and licensing fees and maintenance of the old dump site.
- ART. 33 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$153 in addition to \$2,380 carried forward and appropriate 100% of the annual Veteran Exemption Reimbursement for a total budget of \$2,950 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery, and to allow lot sale revenue, fees, and donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 34 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,200 for the Beautification department, and to allow any donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 35 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$1,335 for the Portage Lake Recreation Department and to allow any revenues and donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 36 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,050 in addition to \$2,150 carried forward for a total budget of \$13,200 for the maintenance of the Town's Parks, Public Beach, Seaplane Base, and Pavilion, and allow revenues from rentals, reimbursements, and donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 37 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$3,700 for the maintenance and improvement of the Campground and Boat Landing, and allow revenues from camping permits, boat excise taxes, reimbursements, and donations to be used for the same.
- ART. 38 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$5,000 for continued restorations and improvements to the Seaplane Base.
- ART. 39 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,319 in addition to \$256 carried forward for a total budget of \$6,575 for street lights.
- ART. 40 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$300 for the Portage Lake School Board stipends, which is equal to a rate of \$25 per member for each meeting that they attend.
- ART. 41 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$94,652 for user fees & subsidy to the Town of Ashland to cover our portion of ambulance service (\$59,670.47), recreation department use (\$16,463.36), and public library use (\$18,517.87).
Budget Committee & Select Board have made no recommendation on this Article
- ART. 42 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,070 in addition to \$100 carried forward for a total budget of \$3,170 for the following requested financial social services assistance:
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| American Red Cross | \$500 |
| Aroostook Agency on Aging | \$300 |
| Aroostook County Action Program | \$156 |
| Ashland Food Pantry | \$525 |
| Catholic Charities of Maine | \$100 |
| Homeless Services of Aroostook | \$628.25 |


Life Flight Foundation	\$359
Maine Families Aroostook	\$200
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.	\$100
Martha & Mary's Food Kitchen	\$100
Northern Maine Veteran's Cemetery	\$200


- ART. 43 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$1,000 from anticipated boat excise tax revenue for the Town's share of matching funds for the Portage Lake Association's cost share grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.
(Budget Committee makes no recommendation.)
- ART. 44 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lake Historical Society (pursuant to Title 30A, Ch 223, Sub Ch. 4, §5726(6))
- ART. 45 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lake Snowmobile Club for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance of local snowmobile trails for public use, and to pay to the Portage Lake Snowmobile Club all snowmobile fees reimbursed to the Town from the State of Maine in the coming year.
- ART. 46 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers ATV Club for aiding in the maintenance of the local ATV trail system for public use.
- ART. 47 To see if the Town will vote to allow expenditures from the Designated Summer Round-Up account and Designated Fireworks account as needed for the purpose of hosting the annual Summer Round-Up weekend. (Note: These two accounts are funded entirely with donations and fund raisers; no taxes are raised for the purpose of funding them)
- ART. 48 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$77,900 from Road Reserve for the purpose of sealing cracks in the pavement on West Rd. and Cottage Rd. as preventative maintenance and damage control.
- ART. 49 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$3,200 from Surplus to purchase a new welder and cart for the Public Works Department.
- ART. 50 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$600 from Surplus to complete the eaves and trim on the new sand shed lean-to.
- ART. 51 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$2,200 from Surplus to re-surface the Municipal Cemetery parking lot with gravel.
- ART. 52 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$4,000 from Surplus for purchase a 4-drawer, letter-sized fire proof filing cabinet for the Town Office to protect permanent records and town reports.
- ART. 53 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$1,100 from Surplus to upgrade the Town's website to a new platform software.

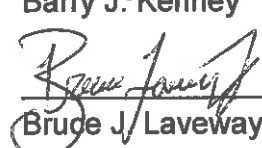
- ART. 54 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the remaining funds in the ARPA Reserve account and appropriate \$415 from Surplus to upgrade the main receipting computer in the Town Office to a higher capacity server.
- ART. 55 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to \$5,800 from the Silviculture Reserve to pay Irving Woodlands to herbicide a portion of town forest in the Oak Point area that was replanted in 2021.

Dated: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Municipal Officers:


Michelle Y. Johnson, Chair


Barry J. Kenney


Bruce J. Laveway