

**Town of Portage Lake
Regular Town Meeting
Friday, September 11, 2009**

The polls were opened at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2009, 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 Greg Cyr 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

Christy Dicker 28
Otis Nelson 27
7 ballots not voted correctly
3 ballots of unknown persons voted for

There were a total of 65 ballots.

Christy Dicker is voted selectmen of Portage Lake

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

Number of resident voters present at meeting: 41
Number of non-residents present: 8
Number of residents not registered to vote: 2

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. **Exception:** Upon expiration of tax lien, tax acquired property may be redeemed by the previous owner or heirs before bid notice 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, 2010, to the annual 2010 Town Meeting.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

(Motion made, seconded, and voted in favor for allowing non-voting resident Norman St. Peter to speak)

Norman St. Peter: Exactly how much is 3/12's of the budget?

Greg Cyr: Three month's worth, the way it works out.

Norman St. Peter: It's one quarter of the budget, right? Why 3/12s, why not 1/4?

Rita Sinclair: It's the way it's designated.

Greg Cyr: It's the way it's designated in the law.

Norman St. Peter: How much money are we talking about?

Greg: It is a quarter of each of the line items.

Norman St. Peter: We don't know how much money we are talking about here?

Rita Sinclair: It isn't required to be put in the annual meeting. This is an article that is recommended by Maine Municipal Association in the Town Meeting Manual, that you do 3/12's and not put a figure in there.

Norman St. Peter: Why do we hide that under 3/12s, not 1/4 and say how much that is?

Rita Sinclair: I don't have an answer for that.

Greg Cyr: The way the article is written, it is procedurally accurate to spend three out of twelve months of the budget for each of the items that are expended later in the year.

Judy Moreau: If we did it that way, we would have an article that would be a mile long, if we listed a quarter of each item.

Motion carried.

ART. 7 To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary of the Selectpersons, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor at \$1,000 per person.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: This wasn't in the budget, the \$1,000 per selectmen.

Rita Sinclair: It doesn't have to be. This article was something I proposed to the selectmen and they made no recommendation on it. They are not compensated for traveling back and forth, they don't even end up with that much.

Greg Cyr: So this is to fix the salary. Right now the pay is so much an hour without compensation for any other expenses, travel expenses.

Rita Sinclair: Rarely for travel unless they go to a meeting outside of the community.

Barb Pitcairn: I believe last year they gave themselves a raise to \$10 per hour, that is a good hourly wage. I remember a meeting where a couple of Selectmen got a free dinner. I don't think \$1,000 is necessary, I think \$10 is enough.

Greg Cyr: Is there an article in here that proposes an hourly rate also?

Rita Sinclair: No.

Greg Cyr: So it would go from \$10 per hour to \$1000.

Rita Sinclair: An annual stipend.

Barb Pitcairn: It has always been an hourly rate, why are they changing it?

Rita Sinclair: At an hourly rate they are only compensated for their meetings, and it really doesn't add up to that much.

Otis Nelson: I guess the question that would be is what do they get over the course of a year, what is the average number? That should clear that right up.

Rita Sinclair: The total for the selectmen for the '08-'09 year was \$1,982.50.

Otis Nelson: That is over 3 selectpersons.

Rita Sinclair: For the three of them, yes.

Greg Cyr: The article is to change from an hourly rate to a yearly stipend. The total budget would go from around \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Judy Moreau: If an hourly rate isn't set for a selectmen, the state law says it will be \$10 per day for every day they necessarily serve. That would be \$10 per meeting, only. The state law doesn't say anything about travel expenses or anything.

Greg Cyr: Understand that there is no article to continue their wages at any amount per hour.

Judy: Right but we can change that here.

Greg Cyr: No. You can go down, but you can't go up.

Judy Moreau: Well, we would be going down.

Barb: The only thing I want to say, is as Selectmen, a lot of it is volunteer. The town is willing to compensate you for a lot of your time at \$10 that was what was set previously. If you are willing to take on that as a selectperson, then take it on. I know there is a lot of time involved, but it is \$10 per hour.

Judy Moreau: Can we make a motion to have it amended to read "\$10 per hour"?

Greg Cyr: The way the article is written, you could reduce the \$1000 per person to a number that you believe that is going to be subsequent to.....there is no provision for an hourly rate.

Danny: What is the current rate?

Greg Cyr: \$10 per hour.

(Motion made, seconded, and voted in favor of allowing non-voting resident Donna St. Peter to speak)

Donna St. Peter: I just want to ask a question, do they get \$10 per hour just for meetings or for any time they are conducting business?

Rita: Meetings.

Donna: Maybe that is the fallacy in their pay raise. Certainly they have to do research and other business connected to meetings. Maybe where the equity is changing the hours that they are paid for, documenting how they spend those hours if they don't want to go with a flat salary.

Otis Nelson: My father has been a local town Selectman in Ashland for a number of years. I think \$1000 for these people to put up with the town business over 365 days a year is a low cost. They put in a lot of time when they are not in a meeting. That meeting is a small part of what them people do.

Raymond Chasse: Why don't they make it a flat rate of \$800 per person?

Greg Cyr: There is an amendment on the floor that suggests a different number, in that manner I will accept the amendment.

Danny Higgins: I know people like Ray Cyr who puts in countless hours working on....So when it comes to a person like him, I feel \$1000...you know.

Judy Moreau: This \$1000 per person, that's \$3000. Now are they going to come back and want gas money and food money, etc.?

Rita Sinclair: They don't have an expense account.

Judy Moreau: We just heard Mrs. Sinclair say that they get reimbursed for their gas.

Greg Cyr: By the town?

Judy Moreau: By the Town.

Rita Sinclair: Normally they go with me.

Otis Nelson: What she is saying is under this \$1000, that is a flat rate no matter what time they put in and no matter what expenses they have, at the end of the year they get that.

Barb Pitcairn: No mileage, no anything.

Judy Moreau: The \$10 per hour one didn't have any mileage or anything

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:

Judy Moreau: Have we had any results from any of the grant writers?

Rita Sinclair: Not yet. There should be something at the end of this month.

Judy Moreau: We haven't had any gifts or...?

Grace Nason: I'm wondering where it says "accept gifts and donations" whether it is considered there is upkeep on some articles and they consider that before accepting a gift.

Greg Cyr: Question to the Selectpeople—Do you consider whether there is an added cost before accepting gifts and donations? Things like maintenance.

Ray Cyr: I've never had to accept one.

Grace Nason: I'm thinking of the beach and the grant they got to put the buffer in. There is an upkeep to keeping that garden. It is a lesson we should have learned that not everything that looks good is good.

Ray Cyr: Most of that is voluntary work, to maintain the beach?

Rita Sinclair: That's the way it came out. Originally people were going to adopt a section of the buffer and maintain it, but that has kind of fallen by the wayside. So, yes, we are always looking for volunteers.

Grace Nason: Before it was put in, that wasn't considered. It was only after it was put in, people realized there was work to be done. So I just wondered, when it comes to other gifts whether that is considered before accepting them.

Rita Sinclair: We did just receive \$2000 from Healthy America through ACAP as a donation to our Rec. Department.

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:

Judy Moreau: How much? Do you know how much they are going to get?

Rita Sinclair: We don't know in advance, but it is in the town report what was received for the past year. We can't project what's going to come in for this year. What comes in is deposited and a check is issued to the snowmobile club for that amount.

Jen Curran: Last year it was \$655.

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: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 11 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% on unpaid taxes after December 4, 2009.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Jen Curran: What was the interest rate last year?

Rita: The same.

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 of 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 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:

Herb McPherson: If they prepay taxes, do they get their 8% discount?

Rita Sinclair: They get a 2% discount. In the article above, if they pay in excess of that finally assessed...

Greg Cyr: When the taxes are due they pay 8% on the excess, but this is a 2% discount.

Motion carried.

ART. 15 To see what money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate from the General Fund (Surplus) as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the fiscal year.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS \$75,000.

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: I'd like to make a motion to amend it back to \$30,000, and if the Board of Selectmen need more money they can come back and have a special town meeting.

Amendment moved and seconded to change the recommended monetary number from \$75,000 to \$30,000.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I'd like to see what was spent last year out of this fund.

Herb McPherson: This \$75,000, isn't that like if there is a forest fire on town land, and we have to pay a certain percentage of our appropriation?

Rita Sinclair: That would cover a portion of it. It would not cover it all.

Barb Pitcairn: That is what the overlay is for.

Rita Sinclair: No, that is not what the overlay is for.

Herb McPherson: You have to have that much money on hand in case of a major fire.

Rita Sinclair: It is one quarter of one percent, which would be over \$100,000. It's either \$135,000 or \$153,000. But this would allow us to do something until we were able to call a special town meeting. \$15,000 appropriated from that account for General Admin. for legal fees, and there was \$7,000 for town hall improvements.

Barb Pitcairn: That was all that was pulled out of this fund?

Rita Sinclair: Yes. \$22,000.

Greg Cyr: Is this number statutorily required?

Rita Sinclair: No. The one quarter of one percent for a forest fire is required, the \$75,000 is a figure put in there so if we have a major breakdown on one of the trucks, we don't have to go to special town meeting to lease a vehicle for however many days it takes for the repairs to be done.

Judy Moreau: The \$75,000 is just sitting there, that I understand, but I feel it would be better to lower the \$75,000.

We will always have it over here, but if an emergency comes up or there is a major breakdown, I feel the people of Portage should sanction the removal of money from the General Fund. This is like giving them carte-blanc.

Barb Pitcairn: I'm not opposed to the \$75,000 for emergencies for the town, a fire or flood. I think I would rather omit "unanticipated expenses" and leave it at "emergencies".

Greg Cyr: You can't change the wording in the Warrant.

Ray Cyr: Town meetings have to be posted within 7 days, if we have an emergency, depending on that emergency, we would have to wait at least 7 days to have a town meeting.

Judy Moreau: If you have an emergency, it can be posted 24 hours or less. You can have it on the television, radio.

Ray Cyr: I'm not sure if that's true of a town meeting. It's true of a selectmen's meeting. I'm not sure about a town meeting.

Paul Nason: Last summer there was a special town meeting, you had it on the television. So it can be done.

Rita Sinclair: It was posted.

Ray Cyr: I don't think it was posted on the television.

Paul Nason: It was posted on the radio.

Greg Cyr: The way this will work, we will vote on the amendment and if that is approved then the amount will change to \$30,000. If the amendment is defeated, then the amount stays at \$75,000 and we will vote on the article either as amended to \$30,000 or vote on the article in its natural form at \$75,000. Is the fact that the meeting has to be posted

7 days in advance going to factor in to anyone's vote?

Barb Pitcairn: A meeting for emergency purposes doesn't have to be posted 7 days.

Greg Cyr: Does it make any difference to any body on their vote as to whether they are going to vote for the amendment or against the amendment. If not, we will proceed with a vote on the amendment.

Amendment defeated.

Original Article 15 is re-read and voted on.

Motion on original article carried.

ART. 16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,500 for General Government Account and allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Jen Curran: What is that?

Rita Sinclair: That is what we run the Municipal office with, supplies, telephone, internet. It's listed in the book.

Motion carried.

ART. 17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$61,500 and expend \$3,500 from the General Fund (Surplus) and \$3,000 from anticipated revenues, for Town Officers, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Office Staff.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Town Officers. Does that include the Selectmen too?

Rita Sinclair: It has to. The budget item is included in officer's salaries.

Greg Cyr: That comes out of this account. It was raised on one article and comes out of this account with this article.

Judy Moreau: So there will be no more money for the selectmen.

Barb Pitcairn: You are raising \$61,500 and you want to spend \$3,500 and another \$3,000. My thought process is if you are going to raise money for the officers and employees of the town, you want \$68,000.

Greg Cyr: It is state law, you have to raise it in one, and spend it in another.

Barb Pitcairn: What are we spending? \$68,000. It is all coming from the same fund.

Greg Cyr: \$61,500.

Rita Sinclair: \$61,500 is being appropriated through taxation, \$3,500 is from anticipated revenues, monies that are coming in to the town.

Barb Pitcairn: Taxes are coming in. It is the same thing. Money coming in, revenue, revenue, revenue. So \$68,000 is what we need.

Rita Sinclair: Why should we raise taxes in order to do that when we have revenue coming in? We have monies coming in that we can expend instead of raising your taxes for that amount of money.

Barb Pitcairn: Let's not go there, Rita, because what we are raising for taxes isn't even in the book. We don't even have a tax commitment.

Rita Sinclair: You can't have a tax commitment until after town meeting.

Barb Pitcairn: I just want to know why they want \$68,000? If they need it we will raise it.

Greg Cyr: It doesn't raise \$68,000. The article raises and appropriates \$61,500, it expends \$3,500 and expends \$3,000. So the article is to raise \$61,500, and expend \$6,500.

Barb Pitcairn: From the General Fund.

Greg Cyr: It doesn't say that in there.

Barb Pitcairn: Where are they getting the money?

Greg Cyr: That is not in the article. If you have something relative to the article, Barb...

Barb Pitcairn: \$6,500 is coming from where, Rita?

Rita Sinclair: Anticipated revenue....

Barb Pitcairn: Which is taxes. Whatever comes into the town is revenue.

Greg Cyr: If you have specific questions that you aren't going to accept the answer to, take them up at a different

time.

Otis Nelson: Anticipated revenues is classified as stumpage, stuff like that?

Rudy Boutot: Anticipated, doesn't that mean you hope the money comes in? Or is it kind of a guarantee?

Greg Cyr: The bills will be sent out for this.

Rudy Boutot: I don't think that without knowing where the money is coming from that we can vote on that.

Greg Cyr: It is done that way every year, it is done every year on anticipated revenue.

Judy Moreau: Wouldn't anticipated revenues also be excise tax, etcetera? That's guaranteed money, at least \$3,000, right?

Motion carried.

ART. 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000 for the purpose of Assessing, updating maps and the Registry Fees for Deeds and Transfers.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$23,000 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees to be used for the same.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 & Appeals Boards.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

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 Fines, Plumbing and Building Permitting fees received in the fiscal year.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE MAKES NO RECOMMENDATION

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I understand that there is plumbing, that would be the LPI?

Rita Sinclair: Correct.

Barb Pitcairn: On page 45 in the book, there was an LPI cost of \$990. Was that in addition to what was expended last year? Where did that come from? We have a licenced plumbing inspector.

Rita Sinclair: Plumbing fees. When people put in a septic system or a build a house that needs plumbing put in.

Barb Pitcairn: So that is an outside fee that we are paying for when we have a licensed plumbing inspector?

Rita Sinclair: We are not paying that, that is money that comes in. That's income.

Barb Pitcairn: That's income. So the LPI contract and services is income.

Rita Sinclair: The remaining fees went to the state. That \$990.75 went into the CEO budget to supplement his budget last year.

Motion carried.

ART. 22 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$4,000 from the General Fund for Abatements.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 23 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$15,000 from the General Fund for discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$2,800 for Annual Membership dues for:

Maine Municipal Assn.	\$1,300
Northern Maine Development Corp.	\$1,351
Maine Tourism	\$145

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.
Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Could someone please get ahold of Maine Tourism or the state highway dept. and put Portage on the road signs? I have asked for that for years.

Rita Sinclair: Portage or Portage Lake?

Judy Moreau: Portage Lake, the original name of the town. There's Ashland, then Eagle Lake, Portage is in between. And Northern Maine Development Corporation, what did they do for the town this year? I have to know, please. Nobody knows?

Ray Cyr: We have contacted them several times to answer questions.

Rita Sinclair: To gather information for Tri Community, for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association which we belong to, what we can do for our transfer station without having to rewrite the book that licenses us. There are different ones over there that I have talked to about certain grants that are available. I have worked with them when they were looking to try to set up to have a CEO available if a town is without a CEO.

Judy Moreau: They are worth \$1,300? That's worth all of that money?

Brian Cote: During Dad's funeral, I had relatives fly in from all over the United States. They stopped in Bangor, and they picked up a brochure that said "The Lost Jewel of Aroostook County" and it was a brochure about Portage. I never knew it existed. It was put out by Maine Tourism.

Judy Moreau: That is good, but we are still not on the road signs.

Motion carried.

ART. 25 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for the General Assistance Program and allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 and expend \$2,430 from the General Fund for the following accounts:

FICA/MED (employer)		\$11,100
Employees Health Ins.		\$22,000
Income Protection Plan		\$1,100
Property/Casualty/Liability	\$12,500	
Workers Compensation		\$5,500
Unemployment Insurance	\$3,500	
Volunteer Insurance		\$200

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I have a question. On the property, casualty, and liability. I know the town has to carry a liability insurance policy, but why are you putting the property under this?

Rita Sinclair: Municipal property.

Barb Pitcairn: Why wouldn't this be under other insurance, Rita?

Rita Sinclair: It is all insurances for the town in this category.

Barb Pitcairn: It should be broken down in categories. Property insurance should go under municipal building, don't you think?

Rita Sinclair: No. This building is insured, the sand shed is insured, the seaplane base, the campground; any of our property is insured under this.

Barb Pitcairn: It should not come under insurance.

Rita Sinclair: But it is insurance.

Barb Pitcairn: It's a liability. It's got to be broken down.

Rita Sinclair: No, it doesn't have to be broken down.

Judy Moreau: It doesn't make a difference if it's paid.

Rita Sinclair: It is billed differently. We are not billed separately for each building or each parcel of land that we own.

Barb Pitcairn: Property is separate than the life insurance or health insurance.

Rita Sinclair: Our life insurance is separate.

Barb Pitcairn. Right.

Motion carried.

ART. 27 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,000, in addition to expending \$9,500 from the General Fund, for Town Hall improvements. (Total budget \$15,500).

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Is this plus article 19?

Rita Sinclair: No. We have a Town Hall budget, and Town Hall improvements are for building improvements, like redoing the kitchen floor.

Donna St. Peter: What improvements are planned for this \$9,500?

Rita Sinclair: We have the floor in the kitchen, we have carpets that need to be replaced, we have a hood for the kitchen stove that needs to be done, which is required by the insurance company.

Judy Moreau: You have to fix the roof, too, after you do the fan.

Rita Sinclair: It is a fire suppression system.

Barb Pitcairn: Do you have estimates on that work and an idea of what it will cost? Last year, you had improvements to the Town Hall and we had to expend another \$7,000 to do the improvements. So is the \$15,500 going to be enough?

Rita Sinclair: I would hope that it would be. It should take care of the fan and the kitchen floor.

Barb Pitcairn: So you won't have to pull from the other?

Rita Sinclair: I don't expect to, no.

Motion carried.

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

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$300 in addition to the balance carried forward of \$132 for the Animal Control Account.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$31,000 for the Portage Lake Fire Department.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

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

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 that account.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES
BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS NO

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Rita Sinclair: I would like to make a comment that the \$75,000 is the same as last year. Funds reimbursed to that account would be as last year, we had culvert wash outs in high water and FEMA reimbursed us for the work there.

Norman St. Peter: What is the difference between Art. 31 and Art. 32 as far as the \$10,000.

Rita Sinclair: It goes into a separate account, like a CD, for the purchase of new equipment.

Barb Pitcairn: I noticed in the budget from last year that you had a sand expenditure in excess of \$11,000. I did a little research on that, that is a phenomenal amount of money to be spending on sand. Where are you getting it from?

Rita Sinclair: Portage Construction.

Barb: Portage Construction. I went to the towns of St. Agatha and Eagle Lake. Their sand cost was less than half that amount, and they are bigger towns.

Rita Sinclair: And they have their own pit. Their town owns the pit.

Barb Pitcairn: So their expenditures were like \$6,500 and ours was \$11,000.

Rita Sinclair: We don't own a gravel pit that we can screen sand from.

Barb Pitcairn: With all the land that we've got, we can't even find a gravel pit.

Danny Higgins: The people are the ones that ask for the sand, so our roads are sanded. Now it is put out to bid, and it goes to the lowest bidder. What Rita said about Eagle Lake and Winterville is true, they have their own pit. Without a gravel pit, you have to put it out to bid. The People want the sand on the road.

Rudy Boutot: I don't believe we need sand from bank to bank, that is a waste of sand. The speed limit in this town on the side roads is 35 miles an hour, and I have never seen an excess of sand like that in any town I've ever lived in. It is unnecessary, that is my opinion.

Judy Moreau: Would it be more economical to have calcium on the roads?

Rita Sinclair: You need the equipment to spread it, you need a tank because you have to spray the calcium as it is going down.

Judy Moreau: Would it be cheaper?

Rita Sinclair: No, it would not be feasible.

Gary Hafford: You wouldn't think so for the car parts you'd spend on every year. Calcium is far worse than salt.

Otis Nelson: Calcium has been proven to cause severe road damage as opposed to salt and sand.

Ray Cyr: We did a cost analysis on that, and calcium was more expensive than sand.

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.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$29,890.64 in the Road Improvement Account for major road improvements.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: What is the URIP Funds, and how much did we receive last year?

Rita Sinclair: Urban Rural Initiative Program, it used to be MDOT funds. It comes from the state and the selectpersons have to sign paperwork that goes back to the state that says that it will be used for road improvement. And I have to account for what we expended it on.

Judy Moreau: When do you get it?

Rita Sinclair: It comes in quarterly payments, it will be less this year because of the cut backs. It is a little over \$2000.

Judy Moreau: Are you sure you are going to get it?

Rita Sinclair: Yes.

Judy Moreau: Where did the balance of \$29,000 come from?

Rita Sinclair: That is from the balance of Road Improvement Accounts on page 39. URIP funds last year were \$11,300. We carry that balance forward simply because the URIP funds are in there, that money cannot be allowed to go into the general fund.

Barb Pitcairn: What is predicted for road improvements? Do they have a plan?

Rita Sinclair: We plan to finish ditching the entire length of West Road, we have a lot of patching to do. Hopefully we will be able to reclaim the road, if nothing else. It was voted down before to be able to use the funds for paving. We do what we can, as we can, with what money we have.

Motion carried.

ART. 35 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,000 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: The igloos out here, that goes to Fort Fairfield, right?

Rita Sinclair: Tri Community.

Judy Moreau: Do we have to pay extra for them, or does it come out of here?

Rita Sinclair: It comes out of here.

Motion carried.

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

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$2,000 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Cemetery.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 38 To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balance (\$11,546.36) of the Cemetery Expansion Account to begin construction of a new entrance and signage.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

ART. 39 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$2,500 from the General Fund (Surplus) for Portage Lake Beautification.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

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

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 the Parks, Public Beach, Boat Landing, and Seaplane Base.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: Do you think we should be adding the Pavilion to this?

Rita Sinclair: It is part of parks.

Barb Pitcairn: It is part of parks. So we don't need a Pavilion account any more.

Rita Sinclair: As soon as the balance is expended, no.

Judy Moreau: The upkeep of the seaplane base. I thought that was leased and they were up keeping it. Rita Sinclair:

We have a \$25 fee that we have to pay for certification every year. And we have had to do some work around the dock down there, which isn't part of their lease. We had to put stone in because of insurance.

Brian Cote: Isn't the responsibility of the lessor to be responsible for the dock?

Rita Sinclair: Upkeep the building and the dock.

Motion carried.

ART. 41 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$500 from anticipated Boat Excise Tax Revenue in matching funds as the Towns' 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.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: If this is a matching grant, how much do we bring in with boat excise tax? Is it like a couple hundred bucks or \$5,000? I'm curious to see if we are giving away a lot of money to do this or a little money?

Rita Sinclair: The grant the Lake Association gets is quite detailed as far as training people for knowledge on the invasive aquatic plants and how to inspect a boat.

Kathy Gagnon: Excise, page 44. In boat excise we bring in \$2,134.
 Barb Pitcairn: We are agreeing to give that money, \$500 of that money in a matching grant.
 Rita: In past years we have raised an appropriated that amount for the matching funds.

Motion carried.

ART. 42 To see if the Town will vote to expend \$3,500 from the General Fund (Surplus) for Fireworks for the July 4th celebration.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

(This discussion is missing due to problems with the tape of the Town Meeting)

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.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS NO
 BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Jen Curran: I would like to let everyone know the reason this came about is the snowmobile club gets annual funds from the state of Maine. That grant is an 80% grant with the understanding that the town would cover 20%. The club hasn't pushed it, but if the town didn't give the \$2500 and the state found out, then we wouldn't get that grant at all.

Wilza Robertson: Does this amount have to come from the town?

Jen Curran: It has to come from the town.

Judy Moreau: It is a good return on your money.

Motion carried.

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

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. ME 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

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 45 To see if the Town will vote to expend, from the balance of \$3,000 carried forward, \$1,500 for scholarships for Portage Lake students graduating in June of 2010.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: (Portions of this discussion were lost due to problems with the Town Meeting tape)

Barb Pitcairn: How many students do we have graduating from Portage this year?

Rita Sinclair: I have no idea.

Barb Pitcairn: With the budget of \$3000 that is already there(missing comments)

Greg Cyr: This is saying(missing comments)

Barb Pitcairn: \$1500 of the \$3000 that is already there.

Judy Moreau: \$1500 for a scholarship isn't that much.

Greg Cyr: That total will be divided among the total number of graduates.

Rita Sinclair: We have students that graduated last June, and part of this money is theirs. That is the balance that is

carried. We have students that didn't complete so(missing comments)

So rather than appropriate money for that, we are going to expend from this.

Judy Moreau:(missing comments)

Rita Sinclair: They have to wait until they have completed their first semester.

Motion carried.

ART. 46 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,000 for street lights.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Brian Cote: Can we turn the lights off during the day. We have a couple street lights that are on continuously.

Rita Sinclair: Get the pole number for me, and we will get them fixed.

Ray Cyr: They will turn off the lights, but they will still bill you.

Wilza Robertson: Is the \$9000 for the lights we already have in place?

Rita Sinclair: For street lights we already have.

Motion carried.

ART. 47 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,012 for Ashland User Fees. (Ambulance Service: \$11,218; Library \$1,318; Recreation: \$1,476)

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE 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 \$40,000 to hire a qualified officer for 16 duty hours plus 8 on call hours for police protection. (This is salary only and does not include insurance or a cruiser)

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS NO

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: (Portions of this discussion are missing due to problems with the Town Meeting tape)

Danny Higgins: We work hard on the Budget Cmte. To cut money out, and the last thing we need is any more law enforcement around here.

Brian Cote: If you do the math, 24 hours on duty, \$40,000 a year, (missing comments) That is \$29.50 per hour.

Judy Moreau: I think his math is off, because it is 16 duty hours, stop there; 8 on calls. That is 24 hours for \$40,000, period.

Rudy Boutot: I would say 40 years ago when (missing comments)

Rita Sinclair: The reason this article is in here is it was a request by a citizen, and it didn't go to the budget committee because I got the figures after the budget committee met. If you see, the Board of Selectmen voted no, so we do not want to have this happen.

Judy: We have the Sheriffs, for which we pay our County taxes and State Police.

Brian Cote: If we needed state police or County sheriff to come in during the weekend, would this cost the town more money? Yes or no?

Rita Sinclair: I would say yes, if we could get them, but I doubt you could get them. If there is an emergency here? If

there is something that happens here?

Brian Cote: Say you wanted more patrols on the weekends or during the summer, would you have to pay more money to get them here?

Rita Sinclair: Yes.

Brian Cote: How much? Is it going to be less than \$40,000 a year?

Bea Cormier: I live on Main St., and the trucks that come into town at 4 in the morning and you cannot sleep, they are coming down that hill and they are moving too fast. Wouldn't that stop some of that?

Rudy Boutot: Not if the cop is working from 8 in the morning 'til 4 in the afternoon.

Bea Cormier: They could work different hours.

Terry Curran: That has been an issue forever, it will never change.

Judy Moreau: I can fix the speeding, have Danny come with this bulldozer and make a speed bump.

Rena Boutot: Do you think that \$40,000 might have been a misprint?

Barb Pitcairn: There have been a lot of near accidents on Route 11. We don't have to spend \$40,000, I think that estimate was a lot higher than it needed to be, probably doubled?

Rita Sinclair: That estimate was given to me by an officer of the law.

Barb Pitcairn: The problem is that there is an ongoing issue, it is waiting to happen. We need to keep this on the back-burner. We need to do something about it.

Judy Moreau: We could solve this right here, get a petition and have it signed by everyone in the room including the Selectmen and Town Manger, and give it to the state police and the county commissioners stating to them that we are tired of the trucks going up and down the hill.

Motion defeated.

ART. 49 To see if the Town will vote to allow the Board of Selectpersons to pursue legal action to remove a junkyard that is in violation of the Portage Lake Land Use Ordinance.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS

YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Danny Higgins: Mr. Theriault has paperwork where he abides by the State. He's going to forward that letter to the Selectmen so they can see it.

Judy Moreau: Has this been to the planning board, zoning board, etc.? Or has this just been handled by Mr. Hussey, the Code Enforcement Officer?

Rita Sinclair: CEO, it isn't in shoreland zoning.

Norman St. Peter: I guess the question is, where is this coming from?

Rita Sinclair: Code Enforcement and the Board of Selectmen is why the article is in there.

Danny Higgins: Why hasn't it followed the proper channels?

Rita Sinclair: I believe it has.

Angie Burton: Has this property been declared a junk yard?

Rita Sinclair: Not by the owner.

Angie Burton: Has it been by the State?

Rita Sinclair: That I don't know. It isn't a certified or licenced junk yard through the state or the town.

Ray Cyr: It is in violation of the Land Use Ordinance, and that is why the CEO wrote it up.

Judy Moreau: Why hasn't this been brought up to the planning board and board of appeals before it goes to legal mumbo-jumbo and court proceedings?

Ray Cyr: If it is in violation, the CEO has a duty to enforce the codes, no the planning board or the board of appeals.

Judy Moreau: Mr. Theriault, in this case, has a right to defend himself first before the board of appeals.

Rita Sinclair: He does, but he hasn't chosen to do that.

Brian Cote: My understanding is that the state has clarified this as a hobbyist graveyard, it's not considered a junk yard. I can't see why we are going to spend tax dollars for legal prosecution. This will get expensive. What does a lawyer cost per hour?

Rita Sinclair: \$125.

Danny Higgins: I have paper work that I believe the selectmen should read before this article gets voted on.

Danny Higgins introduces paperwork for the Board of Selectmen and the Code Enforcement Officer.

Moderator Greg Cyr reads the paperwork, a letter written in regards to this article's reference of "junkyard". (Paperwork is attached to end of these minutes)

Judy Moreau: If he is in violation of a subsection of the Land Use Ordinance, then it should go to the zoning board of appeals before it goes to any court. That is the way the Land Use Ordinance reads.

Motion defeated

ART. 50 To see if the Town will vote to expend 20% (estimate \$6,340) of the balance in the Ministerial School Lot Fund toward the 2009/2010 MSAD #32 assessment. (13 M.R.S.A. 3167 allows 20% every 5 years for the support of schools)

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

ART. 51 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:

Judy Moreau: Who is the Chief Executive Officer for this town? Rita?

Rita Sinclair: Yes.

Judy Moreau: What about these guys (referring to selectmen).

Mocino carried.

ART. 52 Shall the Town of Portage Lake vote to approve a community development program and to authorize the Municipal Officers to accept Community Development Block Grant funds, to make assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such a program.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Barb Pitcairn: I wanted to know if you were actually going to implement a program, and do you have anyone who will run the program?

Rita Sinclair: This is an article that is necessary before we can even apply for CDBG funds.

Barb Pitcairn: Do you need an organization or program in effect?

Rita Sinclair: If that happens, then we need to have the article in place.

Barb Pitcairn: I'm all for community development, I just wanted to know what we would do with it.

Motion carried.

ART. 53 To see if the Town will vote to change the operation year back to a calendar year for the year 2011.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDS YES

Motion made in the affirmative, seconded.

Discussion:

Jean Clark: How will that affect when our tax bills come out?

Rita Sinclair: Tax bills will come out in July or August, Town meeting will go back to March.

Jean Clark: Will this be for just one year?

Rita Sinclair: No. Well, I can't say.

Greg Cyr: This article changes it back to the way it used to be, a calendar year as opposed to a fiscal year.

Judy Moreau: Will we have two tax bills again like before?

Rita Sinclair: It is up to the Selectpersons whether we go to a six month shortened year or an 18 month year to get it back on track.

Bea Cormier: What was the purpose to change it in the first place?

Rita Sinclair: A selectperson thought it would be best for the town if we knew what the school budget was going to be, and that it would simplify things. We know what the school budget will be, but it hasn't simplified anything. There are so many other accounts that we have to project what they are because we are dealing on an annual basis. So we have to try to figure out what will be due in the six months from January to June next year.

Bea Cormier: The school budget is the biggest account?

Rita Sinclair: In talking with the Superintendent, I can get an idea of the percentage of increase for the school.

Bea Cormier: So you find it more difficult operating as it is now, than before?

Rita Sinclair: Absolutely.

Barb Pitcairn: Why is that? I don't understand how the fiscal year versus the calendar year...

Rita Sinclair: In a calendar year, everything usually comes in December for fees for the next year like insurances and dues for various accounts. The only thing that we know at the end of June is what the school budget will be.

Barb Pitcairn: What is the school budget?

Rita Sinclair: \$456 thousand-something. \$77 thousand more than last year.

Ray Cyr: Another thing is our tax bills come out in October, near Christmas, and people don't like it. So that's another reason for wanting to switch back to July taxes.

Barb Pitcairn: We did discuss at a selectmen's meeting going to a split year for the taxes. You could do six month billing. To me that would suffice because turning this town back to a calendar year puts us in another split problem situation. It's not easy to reverse. The only reason I'm saying this is because of the work involved and the confusion involved in turning it back to a calendar year.

Kathy Gagnon: Since we have made the change, and I've said this right from the start, the summer time is our busiest time. Since Coffin's is no longer doing hunting licenses or snowmobile registrations, it puts a heavier burden on us in the office. It makes it hard to close out the year and get the town book together. This year the book went to the printers not even 8 days before we needed it. They rushed it, and the book doesn't look the way that we would like. The auditors report didn't get put in for the same reason. Having a fiscal year, puts our busiest times on top of each other, the summer and doing the book. We usually do the book in the winter. It would be easier to have a calendar year because we have January, February, and the first part of March to get work done for the book.

Bea Cormier: How can you budget for the school when we don't have that?

Rita Sinclair: The school budget isn't part of the municipal budget. It is part of the total budget. We need the amount of the school budget in order to commit taxes, but it has nothing to do with the budget the townspeople vote on.

Bea Cormier: Isn't that part of what you raise?

Rita Sinclair: It isn't in here, it is voted on in June.

Bea Cormier: When do we know how much the school budget is? I don't understand that.

Rita Sinclair: It gets voted on in June, and if it passes then they do the calculations and we get a sheet saying how much we owe per month and how much the total is.

Bea Cormier: So the people don't know.

Rita Sinclair: You would know as soon as I do.

Kathy Gagnon: That's why they have a vote in June.

Greg Cyr: The school budget is an entirely different process than this one. It is part of the total tax bill, but it isn't part of the municipal operations, it is part of the school operations. What we do in this town meeting is from this book, that isn't part of the school budget.

Bea Cormier: It never has?

Greg Cyr: It never has.

Barb Pitcairn: But it is part of our tax commitment.

Greg Cyr: Yes, but not at town meeting.

Bea Cormier: I just can't understand how you can figure out...

Greg Cyr: What this budget does tonight is tell us what money is raised and spent for town purposes, not school's.

Barb Pitcairn: This is our annual meeting. These people come together once a year, and we need to know where the tax dollars are being spent. Not just for a municipality.

Greg Cyr: Go to another meeting.

Barb Pitcairn: We don't have another meeting.

Greg Cyr: You are not listening. This is a town meeting for the town's expenditures and the money to be raised that gets spent on the town. The school budget is determined by the school committee and entirely different group of people that comprises the five communities. That is the school budget, the questions you have are relative to the school budget, not the town budget. They are saying they need to change the year because the school budget doesn't help them that much in a fiscal year, June to July.

Bea Cormier: All I'm saying is how can the town put out taxes if they don't know what the school budget is?

Greg Cyr: They can't. This book does not comprise your total tax bill. Your total taxes are not in this book. Only the money that the town raises for town purposes and expends for town purposes is talked about in this book and at this meeting. School budget monies are raised somewhere else and expended somewhere else.

Bea Cormier: But we have to pay it.

Greg Cyr: We have no opportunity in this budget to do anything with school budget money. If you want to talk about it, as it relates to this article which is the timing of the budget year, then we can say either it does matter to these people about the timing or it doesn't. But as far as the school budget goes, we have no control one way or the other what it does.

Bea Cormier: Why are we changing the tax year?

Greg Cyr: It is too much work for them to handle in mid-summer.

Barb Pitcairn: I am going to make an amendment.

Greg Cyr: There is nothing in this article to be amended. The only amendments that are allowed are amendments that change dollar figures downward.

Wilza Robertson: I really don't like to see our tax bill come due just before Christmas, I would much rather get it in the summer when we don't have heating bills.

Angie Burton: I was at the selectmens' meeting when it was brought up about dividing your taxes into two payments. Did that just die in the water? Was it ever looked at?

Rita Sinclair: Yes. This should be a two part bill, one tax bill with two parts to it.

Angie Burton: You could have the opportunity to pay it in two payments.

Rita Sinclair: Right, but that doesn't lessen the burden of getting this book done. This is a mess. Part of the book is done well, the articles aren't in the book the way that it should have been. In the past when we had time, that time of year to be able to work on the town report we always received an award from Maine Municipal Assn. for our town report. We don't get the opportunity now, it's too late. I wouldn't have submitted this.

Angie Burton: I understand your burden in the town office, what about the burden to the tax payers to come up with that money for one year, let alone two?

Rita Sinclair: You can still have a two part tax bill.

Greg Cyr: All this article is trying to do is reaffirm the fiscal year, it will either go to June 30 or December 31.

Judy Moreau: In 1909, our very first town meeting was in March, every town meeting after that was the last Friday in March for ever. So I think we better go back to the way our forefathers wanted us to have it, especially in the centennial year.

Wilza Robertson: Rita, are you saying that this book is a mess, but if we had more time it would be much better?

Rita Sinclair: Yes. It is a beautiful cover, I don't have a problem with that. Between all of us waiting on customers and working with the auditor we didn't have a lot of time. We sent it to the printers, and it didn't come back the way we sent it.

Motion carried.

Christy Dicker is sworn in as a Selectperson for the Town of Portage Lake at 8:48 p.m.

Motion for adjournment made in the affirmative, seconded..

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Corrine Routhier
Resident of Portage Lake, Maine