

2012

# 2012 Town of Portage Lake Annual Town Meeting Minutes

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**Town of Portage Lake  
Annual Town Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 30, 2012 at 7 p.m.  
Portage Lake Municipal Building**

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AROOSTOOK, ss

STATE OF MAINE

The polls were opened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, the twenty-ninth (29<sup>th</sup>) of March, 2012, then and there to act on Articles 1 and 2. Polls were opened from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to vote by secret ballot.

**ART. 1** To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.  
Diane Chouinard was elected moderator.

**ART. 2** To elect by secret ballot the following Town Officer:

One (1) Selectperson for a term of three (3) years

Barbara Pitcairn was elected Selectperson with a vote of 60 out of 66 votes.  
There were 5 write-ins, and one blank vote.

The meeting reconvened at the Portage Lake Municipal Building on Friday, the thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) of March, 2012, at seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening, then and there, to act on the following articles to wit: (Diane Chouinard turned the meeting over to Deputy Moderator Susan Rogers, who is sworn in by Diane Chouinard)

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

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 4** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard 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 January 1, 2013 to the annual March Town Meeting.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS

YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: **I would like to amend that article.** It says "to see if the town will vote authorize to the Selectboard to spend an amount not to exceed 3/12 of the budgeted amount." I would like to delete the "3/12 of the budgeted amount", because they have worked on the budget, they have their budget and they have their figures that they need for their budget. If they need to exceed the budget, they can come back before a special town meeting and ask why they need to exceed it.

Sue Rogers: How would you like to word that motion...the amendment?

Danny Higgins: With your help...

Sue Rogers: I'm not amending it, though.

Danny Higgins: How would I like to amend it?

Sue Rogers: You would like to amend...

Danny Higgins: **"To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to spend an amount not to exceed the budgeted the amount in each budget category of the Town of Portage Lake annual budget during the period from January 1, 2013, to the annual March Town Meeting."** And now may I just say something?

Sue Rogers: Where we have a motion to amend on the floor, we need to take a vote to amend that first before we have any more discussion on it.

Danny Higgins: Yes, but could I just say something?

Sue Rogers: After we vote to make the amendment. Danny is making a motion to amend to *not* vote to authorize the Board of 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 from the period of January 1, 2013 to the annual March town meeting. I need a motion in the affirmative for that amendment.

**Motion made and seconded for the amendment to Article 4.**

Sue Rogers: All those in favor of amending Article 4...

Dave Farnum: Can we discuss that first?

Sue Rogers: We are making a motion to amend.... Then we have discussion. I'm sorry, you are correct. I got ahead of myself.

*Discussion on the amendment to the article:*

David Farnum: Isn't the purpose of the article to authorize the town to spend money period, because it hasn't been authorized in the year 2013. We are not going to authorize it tonight for 2013, so come January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the town can't spend any money. Isn't that the purpose of the article?

Sue Rogers: My understanding of this David is the town runs on a calendar year, January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The budget we are looking at right now is for the 2012 year. Come January 1<sup>st</sup>, the town meeting for the 2013 year is not held until March. There is no budget that has been set for January, Feb and March through the remainder of 2013. The budget right now is only for the 2012 year. What this is saying is this is allowing the town to not exceed that budgeted amount for January, February, and March of next year before the new budget can be approved for the 2013 year. Am I correct Hollie?

Hollie Umphrey, Town Manager: What it is saying also to go along with that is per category. Whatever you vote in tonight per category you cannot spend January, February, and March of 2013, 3/12 of the budget that you've already voted on this year. You cannot exceed beyond that. It gives you your checks right there, you cannot go beyond.

Danny Higgins: Then I misunderstood the article. You need the 3/12 to run January, February and March.

**Motion to amend article 4 fails.**

Danny Higgins: I would like to thank all the Board members who worked on all of the different committees, you people are the backbone of the town. You work on the committees tirelessly and you don't ask anything from the town. I especially want to thank you for your work on the school.

*Discussion on Article 4 as written: None.*

**Article 4 carries as originally written.**

**ART. 5** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to accept gifts, donations, and grants on behalf of the Town, should such items become available.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: Get all the donations you can.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 6** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to file applications for the 2012-2013 State of Maine Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs; and if said applications are approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, and exercise such authority as needed to implement such programs.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: Are there any CDBG grants going out, coming in, applied for?

Hollie Umphrey: Not as of today's date. We are working on those but they have not gone out yet.

Judy Moreau: Is there anything the town can get, I mean, any specific grants that you know of? Like energy improvements?

Hollie Umphrey: I'm currently working on an Efficiency Maine grant and also with NMDC on possible road improvement funding. They are just in the work stages, they are just being sent to those agencies. There is nothing to report on at this point, but yes, there are grants in the pipeline.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 7** 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 7% on taxes unpaid 60 days after the date of tax commitment.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 8** 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.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 9** 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.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: Is it still a 3 year time frame?

Hollie Umphrey: 18 to 24 months upon foreclosure notice. Once the foreclosure is in there, we have the right as a Selectboard to notify people of quitclaim deed. If that is not done, then we can sell that property. It is a state-wide policy.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 10** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard 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 is given.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Jim Dumond: What happens if the guy that had it made the bid? Does he have to pay the taxes right away?

Hollie Umphrey: He has to pay everything against the property that has an assessed value of it. So if there is a \$2,500 property tax lien on that for X amount of years out, that and any fees assessed against that property.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 11** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard 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 positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: Didn't we vote last year to have that stuff put out for bid? Barb? Dave?

David Pierce: Yes, if there was property here I believe that we would advertise it and people would bit on it. Like we did with the fire boat.

Barb Pitcairn: Yes, so it does go out to bid.

Judy Moreau: Well it doesn't say that here.

Barb Pitcairn: Well "deemed advisable". We advised.

Herb McPherson: Did you sell the boat?

Barb Pitcairn: Yes.

Herb McPherson: When?

Hollie Umphrey: It was posted and advertised to put out to bid.

Herb McPherson: When?

David Pierce: Last summer.

Hollie Umphrey: Late summer, fall. It was when I first came in.

Judy Moreau: I think I'd like to amend this to read "To be put out to bid before sale".

Hollie Umphrey: In other words just to clarify that, Judy?

Judy Moreau: Yes...

Sue Rogers: So you would like it to read "**To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the Town to put to bid before sale and disposal of any town owned personal property under terms**

**and conditions as they deem advisable**". Is that how you want it to read? You need to tell me how you want it written, I can't write it for you.

Judy Moreau: Just as long as it says that it has to go out to bid before it is sold. I don't know how you would want to word it. Really, I don't.

Danny Higgins: I don't understand that. If they put it out to bid, it's going up for sale.

Barb Pitcairn: Remove "To sell and dispose" and put "To put out to bid".

Judy Moreau: That's right.

Sue Rogers: OK. We have an amendment on the floor that hasn't been seconded.

#### **Motion to amend made and seconded.**

*Discussion on the amendment:*

Dave Farnum: The only problem with that is if you get something that is worthless, and you were just going to dispose of it, now you can't dispose of it.

Barb Pitcairn: That's correct.

Dave Farnum: There was some discussion at a Selectboard meeting at one time, I don't know if it set a limit, but it was going to be reasonable. You know, if it was valued over \$500 or whatever it was, then you had to put it out to bid, but with things that were worth \$20 and so-and-so wanted to buy it and the Town just wanted to get rid of it, we would sell it to that person, because you wouldn't put something up for bid for \$20. Perhaps if you really want an amendment to this and you want to make it fair and make it reasonable, put a \$500 limit on it; anything over \$500 would go up for bid. That's my suggestion. I just can't see putting up to bid \$20 or \$30 items. If you word it that way, you've got to.

Anita Theriault: How was it worded last year?

Barb Pitcairn: This way.

Sue Rogers: I think it's been that way since...

Judy Moreau: It was amended last year, I think it was "to a notice of sale" or something like that.

Dave Farnum: Yes. They changed it to read "To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to publish the sale of any town owned personal property". And they deleted "under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable". So that way if you publish the sale I suppose that meant if you are going to sell something you probably should have somebody who is interested can come in and say "I'll pay this much for it". They didn't put it out to official bid, but the highest person who...kind of a casual bid. If Judy came in and said "I'll give you \$50 for this" and I came in and said "I'll give you \$75", you'd sell it to me...it's not a formal bidding process, but... Anyway, that is the way it was worded last year.

Sue Rogers: So we have Judy's amendment on the floor to read as "to put out to bid before sale". Is there any other discussion regarding the amendment Judy has made?

#### **Amendment to Article 11 fails.**

*Discussion on original Article 11:*

Judy Moreau: There is no discussion; it's just the way it needs to be.

Sue Rogers: I need the new amendment.

Dave Farnum: I'd like to have the Article written so that it reads: **"To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to publish the sale of any town owned personal property"**.

#### **Motion made in the positive, seconded, on the second amendment made to the article.**

*Discussion on the second amendment to the article:*

Lisa Rubin: So, what do you want to publish? How much is it to publish? Again we are still at the point where if it is just a \$20 item, how much is it to publish? Publishing is going to cost money.

David Pierce: We could post it, if it something that is very low value.

Lisa Rubin: It depends on what "publish" means? To me, "publish" means in the paper, and that costs money. Is it worth it?

Danny Higgins: What do you have worth \$20 that we could discard? Do you follow me? If it's an old chair, you are going to throw it out.

Lisa Rubin: Well, then you are going to have to set a dollar amount. If you are saying everything you are going to sell, you are back to setting a dollar amount. Because everything means everything.

Danny Higgins: If it is something less than \$20 or \$30 dollars...

Lisa Rubin: Right, that's what I'm saying. You have to set a dollar amount. There has to be an amount set, Danny, because everything is everything.

Sue Rogers: Excuse me, we need to bring this back. The amendment does read “to publish the sale of any town owned property.” I believe what Lisa is saying, any is any. Any is a pencil, any is a backhoe. It does state “any”.

Judy Moreau: What would you like to change to make “any” go away?

Sue Rogers: You tell me. I’m the moderator; I’m just explaining.

Dave Farnum: I think last year when they talked about the whole thing and reworded it, I think they said that publishing it wasn’t going to be in the newspaper, they were just going to publish it locally, it wasn’t going to be a big issue. It was something that the town agreed to, it wasn’t all spelled out in the article like that. But the intent wasn’t to pay to put ads in the newspaper. They were going to make it a reasonable public notice to the townspeople so they would know something was for sale if they were interested. I don’t think you are talking... large items are probably going to be handled differently, or make sure that everybody knows, or if you are going to have a \$2,000 truck in the newspaper you are not going to put a notice in the town office door saying it is for sale if you want it.

Jean Clark: So, could it say “To post it” instead of “To publish it”? Would that make more sense?

Corrine Routhier: Last year you guys changed it to “To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to advertise and sell by bid Town owned personal property”.

Dave Pierce: Well that covers it, advertise has many forms.

Danny Higgins: With the fine Selectmen that we have, I believe they have the discretion and the common sense...What is worth \$20 and whether it is worth a pen that is worth \$1, you know, they have the discretion. If it is going to exceed a large amount, they will publish it. If it is going to be a \$20, or \$40 or \$50 item, they will put public notice out like they do when there is an election or whatever.

Christy Dicker: That is exactly what the original article says. We are going to use our discretion. We are going to sell a pencil the way it should be, or we are going to sell the boat the way it should be. And that is exactly what the original article states. We are going to use our discretion.

Angie Burton: Where are we at right now, Sue?

Sue Rogers: We are still discussing the amendment “to publish the sale of any town owned property”.

Judy Moreau: Let me change the amendment...

Sue Rogers: You can’t. We have to take a vote, and you have to turn it down. The Amendment reads “To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer on behalf of the town to publish the sale of any town owned property”.

**Second amendment to Article 11 fails.**

Angie Burton: I move that we leave it as-is, exactly the way it is worded.

**Moved and seconded to keep original article.**

*Discussion:*

Jean Clark: But if it was changed last year to read differently, then that really should be in here, shouldn’t it?

Sue Rogers: It is an annual article, though, correct? It isn’t an article that is voted on once and that covers eternally. It is an article that comes up every year.

Arthur Routhier: I think as Danny said, we have three competent people on the Board, let them use their discretionary opinion on selling stuff and leave it at that. That’s why I voted these people in, let them do the business.

Hollie Umphrey: Just to clarify for everyone to go along with your Selectboard, the policy that I have established since I’ve been working is that anything that needs to be upon is not my decision to put it in and sell it, it goes through the proper channels, checks and balances, and it goes to the Selectboard for their discretion on it. Publishing, posting it, will be within...everyone will be aware of exactly the business at hand, then it would be followed by the Select board’s recommendation.

Sue Rogers: The actual motion on the floor is to leave Article 11 as written.

**Motion carries to leave Article 11 as originally written.**

(Side: Sue Rogers: I would suggest that anyone can come before the Board to change the way the article is written before the town meeting next year.)

**ART. 12** To see what money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate from surplus as they deem advisable to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS \$75,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: Here we go again. Last year we voted to reduce that to \$25,000. So, I would like to make a motion to amend that figure...

Sue Rogers: I don't believe you have to amend that. They are just making a recommendation; there is no money amount written in the actual article.

Judy Moreau: Yes it is. It is a recommendation, but...

Sue Rogers: It isn't written in the article.

Jen Curran: Isn't the motion saying that they were going with the \$75,000 and it was seconded?

Sue Rogers: That's not how it is. If it was, it would read to "raise and appropriate \$75,000" and it doesn't. Actually you don't have to make an amendment. I'm confused, especially where there is no total there, how to go forward with that.

Hollie Umphrey: What I have done on this, and this is open for you folks to vote on a sum, I went back into history. You are correct Judy, last year you did have \$25,000. I went back to the previous years. The reason there is a significant dollar amount there, is should there ever be an emergency up here, when you have that, most towns have a set-aside amount of money which is called a cost-share rate. If you have the Federal Government come in, FEMA or whomever, it is a 75%/25% cost share rate. For the majority of disasters, the dollar figure is significant, so they want you to have in your coffers the capability or paying up to 25% or almost \$75,000. There is no figure in here, you can make a recommendation to lower that. So, the Selectmen have in here, that has been the history of \$75,000. The recommendation comes from the floor, your set dollar figure. It is not to take the money and put a large figure, but that is how most programs have operated and then it would be up to you to entertain an amount.

Sue Rogers: For an example, Judy is recommending \$25,000...

Arthur Routhier: Hollie, if we set an amount of \$25,000, how does that affect our funds if there is a disaster? How does FEMA look upon us only having \$25,000 available?

Hollie Umphrey: Then you would have to come back for a special town meeting. What it would be based upon is the extent of the emergency. If it is, say, which we have been experiencing in our summers and what-have-you, your tornado and what took place in Ashland is far exceeding the \$25,000 cost.

Arthur Routhier: So there would be a special town meeting.

Hollie Umphrey: You would have to come back. You can put aside a certain dollar figure; if it exceeds it you would be a special town meeting to increase that.

Danny Higgins: Back when we had the floods and all of the camps flooded, it didn't cost the town anything.

Hollie Umphrey: That is because it was not a natural disaster that took out your infrastructure of the town, it impacted upon individual camp owners and home owners. That's where it gets into a very difficult situation. If we had a natural disaster that came in and took out our roads, or the woods from an ice storm. It is very case specific.

Danny Higgins: At that time they had to fix the end of the West Cottage Road due to that storm.

Hollie Umphrey: It is based upon the exact appraisal of your damage per event. You could have two or three events.

Danny Higgins: The town didn't come up with anything, with the exception of fixing the West Cottage Road, which they got a grant for.

Hollie Umphrey: When it deals with the personal homeowner, that is the homeowner, not the Town of Portage Lake.

Brian Cote: By chance this summer, with global warning going on, I predict you get a forest fire. FEMA's not going to come in; it will be the State of Maine. If the State of Maine has to help Portage put out a fire in the woods, it will cost us more than \$25,000; it's going to cost us more than \$75,000. This is just a figure that somebody wants to see.

Dave Farnum: Silva-culture account is supposed to cover forest fire. That was one of the uses of that.

Brian Cote: That's not millions.

Dave Farnum: No, it's a percentage of the town's valuation, and at the time the balance was supposed to be in Silva-culture account. That is per the Forest Committee.

Judy Moreau: God forbid that we do have a forest fire, which in the original article years and years ago, this article was so worded that it was for a forest fire. It didn't say "any emergency" such as lawyers' fees, or this fee or that fee. Now, God forbid there be a forest fire, the State of Maine isn't going to come clawing at our door and take away our children for a few dollars.

Herb McPherson: Is the cost of the forest fire still one-tenth of one percent of the town's valuation?

Hollie Umphrey: I don't know. I can't answer that.

Herb McPherson: What is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of the town's valuation?

Barb Pitcairn: \$72,000.

Herb McPherson: OK. So that is where the \$75,000 comes from. That is what the town is liable for in a forest fire. The town has to pay that before the state is going to pay.

Judy Moreau: But they don't want it in the next 24 hours. We could have a special town meeting and be sure that the money is being spent for a forest fire or for some legitimate expenditure.

Diane Chouinard: As Danny said, that is why we voted those people in, they are responsible.

Hollie Umphrey: Basically most communities do have a dollar figure based on your valuation, you may never use it but it shows that you do have the capability of providing your portion of an event, not only state but federal. And, yes, FEMA is one of them, and RCS is another one, US Forestry. There are numerous. That is, on record, your capabilities of paying your portion.

Dave Farnum: To the best of anyone's knowledge, in the past 10 years, has any of the monies out of the Article 12 each year, ever been spent for emergencies?

Kathy Gagnon: No.

Lisa Rubin: Where is that money going?

Dave Farnum: The only point to my question is if it has never been spent....

Sue Rogers: I am following the Maine moderators manual for rules and procedures, and in an open article, like this that requests to see a sum of money, all we have to do is...Judy you just need to state "I make a motion to authorize the Selectperson to appropriate \$25,000", then we need a second on it and we then vote on it. If it gets turned down it is still open, and we need to motion for another sum. It does not have to be an amendment, a motion is much easier on an open ended...

Dave Pierce: Did I miss something at the very beginning that Jen mentioned, when this was first talked about, wasn't a motion made and seconded right before all of this discussion?

Sue Rogers: A motion was made but we haven't voted on it.

Judy Moreau: Now I want to make a motion to change the recommendation.

Sue Rogers: It is easier if I just....

Judy Moreau: It's not going to pass anyway, I can see right now.

Sue Rogers: When we vote we will be voting to appropriate \$25,000. If you disagree, don't vote in the affirmative. **The actual motion on the floor is to raise \$25,000 to appropriate from surplus to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year.**

**Motion to amend the recommendation to \$25,000 fails.**

**Motion made and seconded to approve the recommendation of \$75,000.**

*Discussion on \$75,000 recommendation: None.*

**Article 12 carries with recommendation of \$75,000.**

#### ARTICLES 13 TO 21 RELATED TO THE CURRENT TIF MONIES:

**ART. 13** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appropriate of \$19,388 from surplus to repay the TIF program fund for the \$4000 Pavilion (2009 Article 36 and \$15,388 Walking Trail (2012 Article 37) expenditures originally approved at the September 2, 2010 town meeting.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Dave Farnum: Actually there is a misprint I believe, Article 37 wasn't in 2012, it was in 2009. I just want to let you know it's not 2012. It is just a misprint.

Sue Rogers: So it should read 2010, it is just a misprint.

Hollie Umphrey: I just want to clarify this, and then the next one I'm going to turn over to the TIF Advisory. On this, you did speak about this in your town meeting, you did vote to spend those monies. When we put together last fall a TIF advisory committee recommended by the state, which their letter is in the front of the book here, they did say that those two items would need to be paid back. That is why they are in here at this time. Not that they were done incorrectly, you did the right step, but it was as a loan. You could not spend those monies to spend on the Pavilion or the Walking Trail because they were outside of the wish list. They were correct in being able to use that, but only on the basis that it be paid back.

Brian Cote: Do we have money in surplus to pay this?

Hollie Umphrey: Yes we do.



**Motion carries.**

**ART. 14** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of current retained TIF tax revenues to reimburse the Town for the costs of 2005 purchase of a plow truck in the amount of \$106,895, the 2007 purchase of a fire truck in the amount of \$224,087.76, part of the 2009 purchase of a backhoe in the amount of \$49,000 which totals \$379,982.76 and will be transferred to the town's surplus account. The TIF program fund currently has a balance of \$95,632.98 (which includes the above \$19,388) and requires a minimum balance of \$500 in the check-writing portion. The three expenditures items are qualified TIF program projects for which retained TIF tax revenues may be expended.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: The TIF program is set up in 10 categories?

Hollie Umphrey: There is a wish list, yes.

Brian Cote: Last year going through the books, I think each column was after the end of the 20 year period for the TIF, each column was going to receive a total of \$100,000?

Hollie Umphrey: Not each one, no but the high mark figures would be approximately \$100,000.

Brian Cote: How can we pay for a fire truck for \$224,000 out of that column when that column only has \$100,000?

Hollie Umphrey: One category that you had in your original wish list was for a Route 11 corridor. The scenic bypass up on top of the hill, which will not be in place because the State had repaired the road coming up out of the hill, and that was for \$102,000 approximately. So that money rolls over into it. You can go higher in certain categories, but you cannot add categories. So if you are not using certain figures that were set aside in the original wish list, they are no longer feasible, then you can move that money over into original existing articles.

Brian Cote: This will pretty much deplete the TIF account. We only have 7 more years on this.

Dave Farnum: It will pretty much deplete what is there, but the purpose is to spend it on approved projects. The town, when they bought the fire truck, should have gone to the State and paid for the fire truck out of TIF, the same for the plow truck. The backhoe was a bonus because it was associated with the plow truck.

Brian Cote: So instead of doing a municipal, low interest loan on the fire truck... But we couldn't take the money out of TIF because there wasn't enough in there to buy the fire truck.

Barb Pitcairn: At that time, you are right.

Dave Farnum: It could have been used each year after the money came in. But it wasn't done that way. It took 6 weeks of negotiating with the State to get them to say "yes". So we finally get the State to agree, so now that is why we are paying back instead of paying... And it frees up the money to be used for other town expenditures.

Arthur Routhier: What about the other seven categories in the TIF account, are they going to be put aside until the funds generate again? Such as the monies for the business park, industrial park? The town really needs to look into the Industrial park, we need to draw companies. If there are monies available, we should venture and get these companies to come to the town and give them all of the opportunities to be in place. If we are using up all of this money up now, is it going to be a year or two before the TIF account generates enough funds to generate what they need, or will there be funds available?

Dave Farnum: In the next seven years there will be over \$400,000 more added to the TIF account.

Arthur Routhier: The question is do we need to pay the big lump sum of the fire truck down now? Let's pay half of it down, and give some of the other categories monies to bring jobs into the community.

Dave Farnum: The other seven items on the wish list aren't necessarily items that...

Arthur Routhier: Hollie, haven't you been approached by several people about an industrial park?

Hollie Umphrey: Yes I have.

Arthur Routhier: I think this town needs jobs. Why pay that truck down? We don't have to pay it down. Is there a problem carrying it on a couple of years?

Judy Moreau: You are not understanding. The truck has already been paid off, we are paying ourselves back.

Arthur Routhier: I think paying the town back in jobs is a lot more important than putting the money back into the coffers.

Judy Moreau: But you cannot use TIF money for that.

Arthur Routhier: Sure you can. It is right there in the columns. Who has last year's book?

Judy Moreau: Well, I've got it, but you speak to the Department of Economic Development in Augusta and they will say you need to stick to your wish list.

Arthur Routhier: It is on the wish list. It is category number 10.

Judy Moreau: No, it's not.

Dave Farnum: Industrial park development.

Arthur Routhier: There you go. Read the book.

Dave Farnum: So, what is it you want to spend the money on?

Arthur Routhier: Hollie, what were you approached with as far as industrial park monies? What are they looking for?

Hollie Umphrey: I'm working with Don Tardie, Maine Woods and NMDC and a few others. There is the desire for us to bring forward and enhancing the industrial park adjacent to the mill area, which is part of the original TIF wish list. That is why you went into a TIF with Maine Woods. Part of it was we were paying ourselves back on certain items, which were the fire truck, and other items I don't have in front of me. One of the line items, yes indeed, is an industrial park that would give the capacity to create more jobs outside of just the mill.

Judy Moreau: Is there enough room at the industrial park to have any other, I would imagine, wood related facility?

Hollie Umphrey: Where I'm at with discussions on this, and I have been bringing some of it to the Selectmen meetings, is to look outside, including enhancement of the deer yard, at the same time looking at the land that the town owns out there. One of the probabilities, possibilities, is working with USDA Rural Development and looking at possibly capturing some of the steam energy from the kilns out there to heat large high tunnels, which are greenhouses. You know that Masardis farm, Porter Seed Farms, that was where they received over a million dollars on that. If we could look at enhancing, bringing some jobs into the community outside of the just mill, what other jobs can come into town. We are up against the wall, we are limited on what we can do in this community. Hunting, fishing, etc., as we know are going by the way. Discussions of the mind, that is on the boiler plate, so what else could we do? I was working with Don Flannery of Maine Potato Board at looking at funding for the town to possibly put large industrial-sized hot-house seedling places. You could do everything from seedlings to tomatoes to trees, what have you, which would bring in some jobs into the area. A

different type of industrial park. When you think of industrial park, don't think of what is at the base in Presque Isle or over at Loring. Look at it as utilizing your natural resources in this area. It could be biofuels, pellets, what have you.

Judy Moreau: How about if whatever industry wants to come in, if they got their own TIF, for say 5 years. I think that would be a better deal than not having this money from this TIF put back in our surplus account.

Hollie Umphrey: I understand that. I think as it is, it would have to be an amendment on one of those item if you are not going to do an industrial park, because that is part of the original wish list.

Judy Moreau: That is up to the TIF advisory committee, and the state in order to amend that.

Lisa Rubin: I thought we might be able to get back on track. Just saying.

Dave Farnum: Even though there are seven other articles on the TIF wish list, the expenditures have to be associated with the TIF district or TIF companies; they can't be used to expand the industrial park because it is not directly related to Maine Woods. Everything has to be related to Maine Woods.

Arthur Routhier: It very well could be.

Dave Farnum: It has to be related to Maine Woods in the existing TIF. If Maine Woods wants to get extra land and build another building and another company to make pellets and generate electricity or whatever, monies from this TIF cannot be used for other development. If they want a separate TIF district, they can. These monies are supposed to be spent on expenditures that are related to Maine Woods and their TIF agreement, or any necessities caused by Maine Woods. The plow truck isn't for Maine Woods, but the plow truck was in the original wish list because you had to plow the roads and take care of the roads because of the increased traffic for Maine Woods. The same with the backhoe, the same with the plow truck. That's why a lot of the seven other items don't really qualify because you can't take anything out of those categories and relate it to Maine Woods. This is per the state.

Jim Dumond: You might as well take them off if they don't relate.

Dave Farnum: You don't have to take them off; you just don't have to spend any money on them. Even if you wanted to spend money on the other seven items, the Town still has to vote on it just like tonight. If the town votes not to do this, the money stays in TIF and doesn't get spend. If we vote to do this, the monies get spent out of TIF and you can put them in surplus, then you can use them for expenditures the Town needs without raising taxes. It is your choice. If you want to turn around and use some of these funds later to develop the park, you can do that if the town votes on it. Because the monies can be used for anything after tonight. But before this vote, you can't use the monies for anything

else. The monies are still going to be there, they are not going to be spent on anything. All you are doing here is taking them out of TIF so the town can spend it on anything.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 15** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditures of current retained TIF tax revenues in the amount of \$15,000 to upgrade the Town's computer system, including associated software and wiring. This is a qualified TIF program project. Any money not required/expended will remain in/transfer back to the TIF program fund.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Dave Farnum: This is one of the seven items on the list and it is approved, and they need it right off.

Arthur Routhier: Is this a quoted price, \$15,000? Is it going to cover everything that is needed?

Hollie Umphrey: I believe it will be below that. The original wish list had \$20,000, and the latest quotes that I had coming in I believe will be under.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 16** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$100,000 from surplus for the purpose of reducing 2012 taxes

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Dave Farnum: I want to mention this money coming out of surplus just came out of TIF. If you are wondering how much money we have in surplus or why we have that much money, it is because we just took it out.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 17** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$10,000 from surplus for the Fire Department Equipment Fund.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: Does this also come out of the TIF account?

Herb McPherson: Is that a surplus account, or is that just a regular fire department account.

Sue Rogers: It states surplus, so it is coming out of surplus, correct?

Herb McPherson: It is coming from surplus, but there is a reserve account for new trucks. Is that what...?

Sue Rogers: This is not the reserve account. This is straight out surplus.

Herb McPherson: What is the Fire Department equipment fund? We always had a Fire Department equipment fund, under the Fire Department budget.

Barb Pitcairn: It is a reserve account.

Sue Rogers: So it just wasn't written correctly?

Arthur Routhier: What is the equipment needed at this time for the fire dept., do they have a list of equipment needed? Or is it just another wish list the fire dept. has?

Herb McPherson: Actually Arthur, this reserve account is for future purchases of fire trucks. That is what the reserve is for. That's why I asked why...

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 18** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$18,000 from surplus for Fire Department replacement radios.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: Why isn't this coming out of the Fire Dept. reserve account?

Sue Rogers: Why do these purchases not come under the reserve account?

Hollie Umphrey: In this particular Article here, the radios and repeaters exceeds the normal Fire Dept. budget...

Danny Higgins: I'm talking about the reserve account. The money that they set aside to buy trucks and whatever. I just want to know why the money isn't coming out of there, instead of appropriating more money. We are appropriating another \$18,000 when we already have money in an account.

Brian Cote: Danny, what this is, a couple years from now the FTC is requiring that everyone in the US goes to narrow-band, and we have gotten quotes from two different businesses in the county that supply radios and the quotes are substantial amounts. What we are trying to do here is, instead of taking it out of our budget or taking it out through

surplus, we are trying to take it out of the TIF account. In one of the columns in TIF, it says 'communication equipment', and that is what this Article is about.

Danny Higgins: It doesn't say that in there....

Brian Cote: Yes it does.

Hollie Umphrey: On page 54.

Danny Higgins: Alright. Excuse me.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 19** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$70,000 from surplus for the Road Reserve Fund.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion: None. Motion carries.*

**ART. 20** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$40,000 from surplus for the Public Works Equipment Reserve Fund.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 21** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$37,300 from the 2012 TIF retained tax revenues for the Public Works Equipment Reserve Fund to complete the payment(s) on the 2009 purchase of a backhoe.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 22** To see what sum the town will vote to raise and appropriate for the General Administration account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$32,605

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Sue Rogers: This is open-ended; anyone can make a motion for the sum.

**Motion made and seconded to recommend amount of \$32,605.**

*Discussion: None. Motion carries.*

**ART. 23** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$1,000 for vital record preservation and to allow all the fees collected from vital records requests to be used to defray some costs of having the old town records preserved.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 24** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Officers, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Office Staff.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$66,300

**Motion made in the positive, seconded for the \$66,300. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 25** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate monies for the following: \$2,400 for the purpose of assessing Personal Property; \$3,500 for the purpose of assessing Real Estate Property; and \$200 for Registry Fees of deeds and transfers

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$6,100

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

John Robertson: Does this mean that we are going to finally have an assessor to go around and check personal property?

Hollie Umphrey: Yes, we have hired Just Values, who is Mike McPherson from True Value Associates out of Mapleton. He will be here next week. We are going out site by site looking at personal property.

John Robertson: We haven't done this before. I'm not opposed to it; I just want to see...

Hollie Umphrey: We have a contractor in place and he will be here next week. He was here last fall.

Dave Pierce: It was done last year.

John Robertson: I didn't see anybody.

Dave Pierce: They missed you I guess.

Judy Moreau: When are we going to have the whole town assessed again?

Barb Pitcairn: That is the next article.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 26** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate monies towards town revaluation not to exceed \$16,500 for 2012.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$16,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Hollie Umphrey: This is for a partial payment of this. I'm in the process of securing estimates. One has come in right now that, to do an entire town revaluation, it is in excess of \$50,000. Fort Kent just completed theirs at \$152,000. The last one you had was in 2000, and the cost was \$38,000. Currently it is at \$52,000.

Dave Farnum: What year are you shooting for having this done?

Hollie Umphrey: 2013. This year we are working on capturing data and all of the property records. It would be in place with the best estimate by 2013.

Dave Farnum: Does this money go into an account? And in 2013 you will raise the rest?

Hollie Umphrey: That is the plan. It will be pulled out and set aside for that.

**Motion carries**

**ART. 27** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$26,690 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$26,690

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: I think we will need more than that. We will have to come back to a special town meeting because of the price of them things up there (points to the lights) and that thing down there (points toward the basement and furnace).

Hollie Umphrey: Your cost last year for heat and oil was \$15,000. I'm seeking estimates from Mechanical Services, Efficiency Maine and several others to come in and look at the overhead lighting and your heating system, and energizing the building. So for that we would come back for a special town meeting.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 28** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the Planning & Appeals Boards.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$1,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 29** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$13,000 for Code Enforcement activities, in addition to the plumbing, building permit fees, and fines received in the calendar year.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$13,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 30** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$4,000 from surplus for Abatements.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$4,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 31** To see if the Town will vote to expend \$15,000 from surplus for Discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$15,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: We are losing that much money because people pay early?

Barb Pitcairn: I like the way you say that. Actually we have more money to work with because they pay the full amount before.

Hollie Umphrey: It is an incentive to get them to pay early.

Brian Cote: You get a 2% discount, right? So we are losing \$15,000 a year from everyone that is paying early.

Hollie Umphrey: So you get your money in quicker and have use of the money.

Danny Higgins: One of the reasons, Brian, right now, the tax money is coming in slow, so when you give them the discount that gives the Selectboard and the Town manager money to work with. And to my knowledge the money is coming in very slow. Does that answer your question Brian?

Brian Cote: Yes.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 32** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,311 for Annual Membership dues for:

Maine Municipal Association	\$1,313
Northern Maine Development Corporation	\$1,463
Maine Tourism	\$145
World Acadian Congress	\$390

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$3,311

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: On the World Acadian Congress, I thought the dues for that were \$100 per year?

Ray Cyr: It is \$1 per person.

Hollie Umphrey: And our census shows 391 people, so we have two more payments of \$390.

Judy Moreau: What?

Hollie Umphrey: The census of Portage Lake showed 391, and it is \$1 per person for what we pay to this Congress.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 33** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$375 for General Assistance Program in addition to the balance carried forward of \$3,625 and allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$4,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: Hollie, what is the minimum if someone comes in and asks for general assistance?

Hollie Umphrey: It is case by case and based on their income and the nature of what they are asking for. A minimum of \$200 for fuel, or what have you. The guidelines have become so strict, that is why there hasn't been a lot spent this year. But that doesn't mean it will not be the same. It is a case by case basis. One person cannot get the full amount. It is per item for whatever needs they have applied for.

Brian Cote: Is there a minimum? Is there a maximum?

Hollie Umphrey: All good questions, I can't answer that at this point. I haven't had any cases come in. But when I do I'll call Augusta to get clarification.

Brian Cote: Say a single mom comes in, and she doesn't have a job and...

Hollie Umphrey: They do have parameters for what a single head of household for a particular item. We don't create the guidelines. It is set by the state.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 34** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$55,153 for the following accounts:

Property/Casualty/Liability	\$11,962
Unemployment Insurance	\$4,917
Workers Compensation	\$5,635
FICA/MED (Employer)	\$11,500
Employees Health Ins.	\$20,022
Income Protection Plan	\$1,117

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$55,153

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: At some point are you going to look into trying to get a better health care program, or having the employees paying a certain amount of their insurance, because in another article you are asking for a raise for these people. In the private sector, most people have to pay a deductible, do you follow me?

Hollie Umphrey: Where we are at right now, the cost for the policy you have in place is cheaper than most other policies. You are paying a less amount this next year, you're close to \$5,000 less than you paid previously. The reason for that is that you are paying for 2 full time people, not three. And the salary cost per hour for clerk, highway dept., what we pay them per hour is probably the cheapest of at least all of Aroostook County, so it is almost like a wash. They are getting full benefits; they are getting a very low hourly rate compared to any other town other than one in Aroostook County, and probably north of Bangor. We are not paying health care on myself, I came with my retirement.

Danny Higgins: The only reason... I was at a meeting today and I was speaking to this contractor, and through that idiot that we have in the White House his insurance premiums are going up 39% this year. Do you follow me? That is pretty hard for people in the private sector to absorb 39% increase in health insurance.

Hollie Umphrey: I agree with you.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 35** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Fire Department Equipment Reserve account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$10,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Hollie Umphrey: On these, these need to be...you have already paid. These Articles are in here, uh, I'll address Article 35 right now. This is in there if the TIF articles did not pass. You have already paid yourself in the earlier TIF agreements. If it did not pass, this is your normal every year appropriation of \$10,000. I would make a recommendation that you vote NO on this article. You have paid yourself back in an earlier TIF Articles into your reserves.

**Motion fails.**

**ART. 36** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the Portage Lake Fire Department.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$30,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Herb McPherson: I see in the Fire Dept. account \$15,000 went to salaries. There is nothing broken down to who does what. The Fire Chief didn't even put a report in the book. Is that right?

Hollie Umphrey: That is correct.

Herb McPherson: Why is that?

Hollie Umphrey: I can't answer that, Herb.

Herb McPherson: Can you answer me how much the Fire Chief is paid?

Hollie Umphrey: I can't right off the top of my head. Kathy, do you have those figures for the breakdown?

Kathy Gagnon: I think it is \$3,500.

Hollie Umphrey: \$3,500 a year.

Herb McPherson: Do you know that is more than the fire chief in Fort Kent gets? And this guy can't even right a report? What did the Fire Dept. do this year? We didn't have any fires, we didn't have any calls, we didn't have any training? Where did that money go? What do they get \$15,000 for? Can somebody answer that?

Brian Cote: I can address that. I called him this evening and asked him the same question. He said he dropped the ball, that was his answer.

Herb McPherson: So why didn't he do a report?

Brian Cote: He stated that he missed the deadline, so the report never made it to Kathy in time for publishing in the book. If I would have known, I could have inserted a print out.

Herb McPherson: Why didn't he come here tonight to face the public?

Angie Burton: When are elections of officers?

Brian Cote: We just had them.

Danny Higgins: When Herb just brought that up that the Fire Chief is paid more than the fire chief in Fort Kent, my head started to sweat. I'm asking, who is going to look into this?

Barb Pitcairn: Herb, you have made some very good points, and this needs to be addressed but probably at a later time.

Herb McPherson: Why? Everybody is here, this is town meeting. It has to be addressed and everybody has got to be made known of it. How many members does the department have now?

Brian Cote: 11.

Herb McPherson: That figures out to a pretty good sum for every one of them if there is \$15,000 and he gets \$3,600.

Dave Pierce: There was training money that was incorporated into that. Secretary gets \$400, the training officer gets \$400, the Lieutenant gets \$500.

Brian Cote: Assistant gets \$700.

David Pierce: The Assistant Chief gets \$900 and the chief gets \$3,500.

Danny Higgins: Back in '75 when my house burned, the fire truck came out, they ran out of water, there was a pond right across the road that they didn't know about. I took it upon myself, I cleaned all the fire ponds up to Dave Bolstridge's, which is up the road from my house, Teddy Condon's, and then down on Fox Hill. I did not ask the town for any money, I did it on my own for fire protection for Buffalo. When Herb brings that up, that hits a soft spot with me when the Fire Chief is getting paid as much as the guy up in Fort Kent. Do you follow me? I mean, if I can take it upon myself to do something for the Fire Dept. and not ask them for any money...

It is supposed to be a volunteer Fire Department, and I take it upon myself to volunteer my equipment and my services and I don't ask for anything.

Sue Rogers: Thank you. Any other discussion regarding raising and appropriating this \$30,000?

Judy Moreau: Yes. On the fire chief in Fort Kent, that's not our fault that he makes less money than our chief does. Now, in 2010, April of, we had a fire, and God bless the firemen that showed up because they saved our house, they saved my animals, and most probably they saved me. Anyone going through an experience like that wouldn't quiver about a certain amount that some other town's fire chief is getting. If he wants more money, let him go to his town and ask for it. As far as David not being here, well, that's up to him.

Herb McPherson: It is part of the responsibility as Chief.

Lisa Rubin: This is about how much is going to the fire dept., not who is getting what, correct?

Sue Rogers: Any other discussion regarding the \$30,000? And I understand Lisa, some of these people are trying to bring up a point, basically stating that they don't believe it is worth \$30,000.

Lisa Rubin: I wasn't hearing that, I was hearing who's getting what.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 37** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$539, in addition to the balance carried forward of \$196, for the Animal Control Account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$735

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: I would just like to say that the animal control officer does a tremendous job.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 38** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Public Works Equipment Reserve account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$10,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Hollie Umphrey: Again, this is the same as Article 35, you have already paid that in the original TIF articles, I would strongly suggest it have the same outcome as 35.

**Motion fails.**

**ART. 39** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Public Works account, in addition to any funds reimbursed to said account.



SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$80,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: What is this money going to be used for?

Hollie Umphrey: This covers everything from a small amount is salary, the rest is repair on equipment, contracted items in there like winter salt and sand, other materials we need for road work, ditching, and materials. I have a complete breakdown if you would like to see it at any point.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 40** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Road Project Reserve account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$25,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded:**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: **I make a motion for \$75,000.**

Judy Moreau: He cannot increase it.

Sue Rogers: It's an open-ended, so he can increase it. This is just a recommendation, it isn't written in the article.

Ray Cyr: Second.

*Discussion on motion to recommend \$75,000:*

Dave Farnum: Can I ask Brian why \$75,000 and not \$25,000?

Brian Cote: The roads are deteriorating pretty bad, and if we don't do something pretty soon with them we are going to lose them completely.

Dave Farnum: Isn't this the same account we just put \$70,000 into from the TIF?

Hollie Umphrey: Article 19.

Dave Farnum: Road Reserve Fund. Is there a difference between the Road Project Reserve Account and Road Reserve Account?

Brian Cote: I rescind my motion.

Sue Rogers: Actually we have to vote it down.

**Motion for the amount of \$75,000 fails.**

**Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$25,000.**

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 41** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$31,198 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$31,198

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: I know this was discussed at some of the selectmen's meeting, is there an update on this?

Danny Higgins: If he wants an update, let him go to the next Selectman's meeting.

Hollie Umphrey: I can do this really quick. If you see \$31,198 is down from last year's \$34,000. It is based upon the census of population in town. NASWA does not have a scale, so when the trash people pick up it's not Portage only, it is divided among the 5 communities in NASWA and it is based on tonnage. So with more people come into town, your fees go down. What I recommended and I went to the NASWA meeting, there is a possibility that NASWA in two years may withdraw from Tri-Community and look at possibly going to Edmunston where they are burning of their garbage and it is actually supplying electricity to the city of Edmunston. Should we withdraw from NASWA, hire our own contractors and go to Tri-Community, if NASWA withdraws in two years, your fees will triple going in because they will have lost the tonnage from NASWA.

Jim Dumond: You are talking about the Frenchville outfit?

Hollie Umphrey: Eagle Lake. There are 5 communities involved in NASWA.

Jim Dumond: Years ago they looked at getting into Ashland.

Hollie Umphrey: Correct, but Ashland has pulled out and are not even a part of our transfer station. They are on their own, they have their own facility.

Jim Dumond: So they don't want us?

Hollie Umphrey: No.

Dave Pierce: Also, if we were to join up with Ashland, we would be on the hook to pay a part of the cost of that facility. So we would have to pay a huge amount of money just to get into that facility. So it doesn't add up.

Hollie Umphrey: If you do withdraw from NASWA, you are in on a loan that they have built up to Eagle Lake to put a roof over the transfer station. It is only the second payment out of 18 years, so if you pull out you are still paying on the loan.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 42** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,275 for the operation of the Transfer Station.  
SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$3,275

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Jim Dumond: Last year, Darey said something about selling the metal instead of having it hauled away. And that was going to take away from some of the costs of operating the transfer station. Did that ever happen? Does anyone know anything about it?

Hollie Umphrey: Selling the metal? I know we take tires in, but we have not sold any metal that I am aware of.

Danny Higgins: I was the one that raised that at the last town meeting, and I spoke to Darey Gagnon about the how the program was going. He told me it has offset a lot of the cost now. I don't know if that, you know... I can only take him at his word. But the metal is being separated.

Dave Pierce: I believe it was set up and once there is a container full, then it will be sold, if I'm correct. It hasn't been sold yet, but it is accumulating.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 43** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$14,400 for contracted services for: mowing, roadside mowing, road sweeping, and grader work.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$14,400

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Herb McPherson: What is the mowing part? Overall mowing?

Hollie Umphrey: What we are looking at on here, is you have enlarged some of the lawns around here. What that encompasses would be the field out back here, plus the walking trail, in front of the Town Square...All of our lands including the cemetery. AS we mentioned, the roads are in such dire straits that if we have just Public Works doing it right now, you will need approximately 25 to 30 hours a week just to do our lawn care.

Herb McPherson: Yes, but he doesn't do our lawns anyway, he has a summer student who does the lawns, doesn't he?

Hollie Umphrey: It ended up being a part time person in the Highway Dept. that was doing it.

Herb McPherson: Vaughn doesn't do the lawns; he either has a school kid or part time summer help.

Hollie Umphrey: When we looked at averaging it out, which was the cheapest of cost whether to contract the entire thing out it is done in one day, instead of having excessive work piled up on wet work or what have you. We have a company who comes in one day a week, everything is done, cleaned up, and done.

Judy Moreau: So then the mowing wouldn't come out of the public works anymore. That's what you are saying here?

Hollie Umphrey: Correct.

Brian Cote: Mowing would come out of public works, you will use public works equipment.

Hollie Umphrey: If we out to contract, no, you would not.

Brian Cote: Well, I realize that, but this right here is stating we are going to hire somebody with a bush-hog to do the side of the road, we are going to hire a road sweeper in the spring to clean the road, and we will hire an individual to come in to mow.

Hollie Umphrey: A mowing company could come in and mow. You already contract for ditch mowing, roadside sweeping, grader work... equipment that we do not have. Mowing would be done by a company not utilizing the town...

Brian Cote: Is your zero-turn [mower] coming up for sale?

Hollie Umphrey: Good question.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 44** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$1,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: Would it be possible for the town to send a thank you card to John Gagnon for bush hogging he has been doing? And this spring when it is dry, I'll bring my bulldozer up there, and all those ruts that Vaughn had left, I will take care of that.

Judy Moreau: The maintenance, that isn't going to count for the lawn and the mowing up there anymore?

Hollie Umphrey: The contracted mowing would still be the cemetery up there, yes. That is a town owned cemetery.

Danny Higgins: Yes but John Gagnon hasn't been charging you for bush hogging.

Hollie Umphrey: John comes in and mows the field on the old dump site.

Danny Higgins: He has been doing it on a volunteer basis.

Hollie Umphrey: I don't believe so. We do pay him once a year.

Christy Dicker: He gets paid.

Danny Higgins: Oh, so we can forget the thank you card.

Judy Moreau: Back to my question: When you say "maintenance", does that include the mowing? The \$1500?

Hollie Umphrey: Mowing and flags. That would be part of a contract. We would use those monies simply for a line item to figure out where you would pull the money from that would go into also additional costs for above and beyond. It is more money than just \$1500 to mow, maintain, weed whack, and flagging, etc. for the cemetery.

Christy Dicker: There is also road work, the driveways in there.

Judy Moreau: What I was trying to find out is the mowing part, because it is supposed to be broken down. Did that not come out of 43?

Christy Dicker: Like Hollie said, that would be part of...

Judy Moreau: Do you see what I'm saying?

Hollie Umphrey: The regular maintenance for the portage Lake cemetery, given the state of some of the driveways up there and... You asked the question on the \$1,500, that would pretty much cover the maintenance on that property up on the hillside.

Judy Moreau: Are you including the mowing in that maintenance, that is what I want to know?

Hollie Umphrey: In the past it has been, and I'm saying it is not enough, so no. This year you need work done to your road and other items on the cemetery alone.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 45** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,155 for Portage Lake Beautification, in addition to the balance carried forward of \$345.

SELECTBOARD RECOMMENDS \$2,500

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS \$700

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: I would like to know why the Selectboard recommends \$2,500 when the budget committee recommended \$700.

Hollie Umphrey: The \$700 was the original amount that I put in for the recommendation to the Budget Committee. It was approved by the Budget Committee for \$700. It was asked at the budget committee "can this be higher", because in the past it was up to \$2,500 and it was brought back to the Selectmen. Because what you are looking at, your Christmas lights along Main Street, your electric bill is in excess of \$800 a year. What we are looking at and needing, not only just for Christmas, is to revamp some of the old town decorations around the town, the old lights. It costs more to put them up and bring them down, and the light bill, than you had in the line item. You were overdrawn every year in that account. So the Beautification Committee is now getting volunteers to come in to look at other means to decorate your community year round.

Judy Moreau: That is why you made your decision?

Christy Dicker: Correct.

Kathy Gagnon: We also need new flags.

Judy Moreau: Flags, what kind of flags?

Kathy Gagnon: American.

Brian Cote: Portage Lake Beautification, does this have anything to do with the beach?

Barb Pitcairn: The buffer, you mean? That is volunteer work.

Brian Cote: It is atrocious.

Barb Pitcairn: I know.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 46** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, in addition to anticipated income from Campground fees, for upkeep and maintenance of the public beach, boat landing, Seaplane Base, and parks.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$12,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

**Motion made and seconded for the amount of \$12,500.**

*Discussion:*

Hollie Umphrey: To clarify on that, there is an increase in here because of two major areas that need improvement. The public beach needs to have some work done to it, and the boat landing. If any of you have gone down there this spring with the ice coming through. I'm also looking at grants to come back in from the State. The State did help you put it in; it is the town's responsibility to maintain it. It was put in in 1996, it has heaved and a lot of bolts have broken off so a lot of the concrete blocking that you use to go down in there to put your boats in is odd shaped, so it is very dangerous. And we need also clean-up, we have permission by the State, to clean out the sediment pond, since that is also campground. That pond, as you come around the bend, is completely full. A dog or a kid could get in there right now and you would never find them.

**Motion carries to raise and appropriate \$12,500.**

**ART. 47** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 in matching funds as the Town's share of the Portage Lake Association's application for an Invasive Cost Share Grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 48** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1500 for the Portage Lake Tourism Committee.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$1,500

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: Can the Tourism Committee have our name, Portage Lake, Maine, put on something south of us here? In the Patten woods coming up, the signs say Ashland and Eagle Lake, but Portage is in the middle.

Danny Higgins: Do they plan on using the Seaplane base?

Sue Rogers: The Tourism Committee? Do they plan on using the Seaplane Base?

Hollie Umphrey: Tourism, no. Historical.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 49** To see if the Town will vote to expend all money received from the State reimbursement for snowmobile registrations to the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of maintaining and improving trails for use by the public.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 50** 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.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND YES  
**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** *Discussion: None.* **Motion carries.**

**ART. 51** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club for the purpose of aiding to maintain local snowmobile trails for public use.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$2,500  
**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** *Discussion: None.* **Motion carries.**

**ART. 52** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers ATV Club to help with costs of maintaining the ATV trail system in Portage Lake.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$2,500  
**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Danny Higgins: I'm a member of the Snowmobile Club, but I don't snowmobile, or golf, or do any of that. But I would like to thank the ATV Club, they went around and cleaned all the ditches that our public works guys were supposed to do. The ATV Club took it upon themselves, and I think they deserve, you know...

Barb Pitcairn: A thank you card.

Danny Higgins: Yes, but also one should go to the Nelson family for what they did down to the Veteran's Park. Thank you.

Wilza Robertson: I would like to say the ATV club has done a lot of work at the Pavilion, they refinished the surfaces of some of the picnic tables that are down there, and I frequently see someone down there picking up garbage that other groups have left behind during the weekend. I think they are a benefit to our community, and I think they need to support them.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 53** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Scholarships for Portage Lake students graduating in June of 2012.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$1,500  
**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Jim Dumond: There are three this year, right?

Barb Pitcairn: There is one; just one this year.

Judy Moreau: Do they get the full \$1,500?

Barb Pitcairn: I'm not quite sure how they are going to do that.

Christy Dicker: It is divided by however many...

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 54** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$9,000 for street lights.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$9,000  
**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Clayton DeMerchant: Will I get a street light down my way?

Hollie Umphrey: Pay for it yourself like I did.

[laughter]

Jim Dumond: Watch out for OSHA.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 55** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,634 to republish the original Centennial Book, "History & Hearsay".

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Brian Cote: This \$6,634, how many books is that going buy us?

Jim Dumond: 1,000 books.

Hollie Umphrey: And I meant to put in here, that is to be paid back as they sell them.

Jim Dumond: When they first did it, they borrowed money from the town and they paid it back. And we want to do the same thing.

Brian Cote: The books are all sold out; they have no more? The originals?

Hollie Umphrey: That is correct.

Jim Dumond: I have people calling me all the time, and when it hit the paper the calls have been coming in saying they want to buy one.

Barb Pitcairn: I think 1,000 books is an awful lot. We ordered 1,000 books when it first went into publication. So I would like to give this some serious thought. I think this should be reworded "to front the money that we are paid back and it is OK to make a profit". We didn't make a profit on the first "History and Hearsay", it is a valuable book. That is an excellent publication.

Angie Burton: Do they have any money from the previous sale to get more books.

Barb Pitcairn: No. They didn't make any money.

Christy Dicker: Yes, there is.

Kathy Gagnon: There is a mini-grant going on.

Jim Dumond: That was a different committee, that was the Centennial Committee, and they sold them for \$15.99. We will be selling them for \$19.99, and the first 330 will clear the bill and the rest will be the profit. We will pay the town back.

Angie Burton: I agree with Barb, though, 1000 books is a lot of books.

Jim Dumond: It is cheaper to print 1,000 than to print 500.

Barb Pitcairn: But you won't guarantee you are going to sell 1,000. One-thousand is a lot of books, Jim. That's three times our population.

Lisa Rubin: What happens if they don't sell them all?

Barb Pitcairn: Then you are going to eat it.

Angie Burton: Is this a new book?

Jim Dumond: No.

Angie Burton: It is the same book. So most everybody already has their book.

Jim Dumond: All of these other Historical Societies are selling books from all of the other towns, and they all want ours, but we don't have any. There are like 13 Historical Societies in the county and they all want to sell our book. The Acadian Archives in Fort Kent wants it. We don't have any. There is not a one in town.

Wilza Robertson: With the figure for 1,000 books, we have the Acadian Congress coming up in 2014, there will be a lot of people coming through here that are related to everybody from here to Madawaska, and that book was so popular when we first put it out that it didn't take long to sell every one that we had. And I think we can sell 1000 copies, the first 330 will pay the town back. Everything after that is profit, and if we have 100 left, so what? But I think we can sell 1,000 books.

Dave Farnum: Just out of curiosity, how many did you sell the first time?

Wilza Robertson: Every one of them.

Sue Rogers: How long did it take to sell them?

Wilza Robertson: Not very long. We have a list, now, of people who are waiting for the publication of the same book. And people are asking all the time that they want more books.

Judy Moreau: Even if you don't sell them all right off quick, there will always be some.

John Robertson: It is called a *history* book.

Judy Moreau: Yes, but you can still sell them 10 years from now.

Wilza Robertson: Yes we can. All we have to sell is the 330 to pay the town back, and I think we have probably about 100 of them sold already.

Dave Pierce: Where does the profit go after the 330 books are sold?

Wilza Robertson: The profit belongs to the Historical Society, and I would imagine that the Seaplane Base might see some of it, but I don't know that for sure.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 56** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for a Legal Fee Reserve Account.

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND

\$5,000

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** *Discussion: None.* **Motion carries.**

**ART. 57** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,311.97 for Ashland User Fees:

Ambulance Service	\$12,258.70
Library	\$1,440.70
Recreation	\$1,612.57

SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMEND \$15,311.97

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Anita Theriault: With all of the communications and technology, how many people actually use the Ashland library? Anybody here?

Brian Cote: I go in and use the computers once in a while.

Anita Theriault: Anyone else?

Brian Cote: It's costing you \$1,400.

Anita Theriault: And the recreation, when your kid goes to the Rec. Dept. in Ashland, doesn't the parent pay the fee?

Missy Boutot: No. The only fee is the swimming lessons, but you are paying that to Presque Isle.

John Robertson: Do we charge them when they use our lake?

Wilza Robertson: It isn't so much who in this room uses the Ashland library, it's how many have kids that use it? How many children that we have get the benefit from the library?

Lisa Rubin: Isn't it a public library? Why do we have to pay for it?

Anita Theriault: It is just coming to a time that we are going to have to start thinking of that. Kids and all their iPads and this and that, the schools aren't taking the kids to library like they used to.

Lisa Rubin: The schools all have libraries.

Anita Theriault: It is just something to consider in the future.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 58** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$78.20, based on 20 cents per capita, for the Aroostook County Action Program.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Dave Farnum: Can we read and move 58 through 63?

Sue Rogers: I believe because they are written separate, I have to do them separately. Maybe in the future, you might include them all in one. That might be something to entertain to your Board of Selectpersons to include it into one article next year.

Hollie Umphrey: I did have then all in one, but then I was asked to do it line item in case one of them wanted to be voted down, you don't have amend each one over and over again.

Dave Farnum: In days gone by, I know that in some town meetings we have done article blocks.

Hollie Umphrey: Maybe for next year. I assume put it in one....

Angie Burton: No. It is good to list them separately.

Hollie Umphrey: It goes quicker...

Angie Burton: We used to vote in a block.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 59** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.** *Discussion: None.* **Motion carries.**

**ART. 60** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District to support its conservation and education efforts in Aroostook County.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: Didn't it got up this year?

Hollie Umphrey: That is the price that they gave me in their letter. It was turned down last year.

**Motion fails.**

**ART. 61** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$295 for Aroostook Agency on Aging to assist with match requirements for state and federal grants and contracts.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 62** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$44 to St. John Aroostook RC&D for annual dues.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded.**

*Discussion:*

Judy Moreau: This is another one, what do they do for us?

Hollie Umphrey: They are a 501(c) 3, and if we want to look at other grants outside of what we do here, they can be the facilitator for numerous grants. They did a significant amount on the Fish River chain of lakes. It is a good organization for your watershed areas.

Judy Moreau: But what have they done for us?

Hollie Umphrey: They only do what you ask of them, if you don't ask for their services you won't get anything. I'm going to their meetings now. That is what I retired out of, as an RC&D coordinator, and I can speak in favor of it; \$44 is nothing for what you can get from them, but you have to be there.

**Motion carries.**

**ART. 63** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$150 for the Pine Tree Chapter of the American Red Cross.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 64** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$587 for the Homeless Services of Aroostook Inc.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 65** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$743 for the Central Aroostook Humane Society.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 66** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for VFW Memorial Day.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 67** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Catholic Charities.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 68** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Martha and Mary's Food Kitchen.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**ART. 69** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Maine Public Broadcasting.

**Motion made in the positive, seconded. Discussion: None. Motion carries.**

**Update on School Withdrawal:**

Missy Boutot: We have come to an agreement with SAD 32 on the withdrawal. The committee will be signing the agreement tonight after we finish here. SAD 32 officials will be signing the agreement on Monday night, and it will be mailed off to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will have 60 days to approve the agreement.

We are on a very tight timeline, we are about 30 days behind schedule and the Town needs 45 days for us to conduct the next referendum. So there is a timeline there, and we are not sure if it will be approved for the July 1 school year. The commissioner may come back and say it is only in effect next school year. So, we will be getting that mailed off and in the upcoming weeks there will be possibly two public hearings and a referendum vote before June 30. Keep your ears and eyes open, we will be posting all of that information, and it will be very important that you come vote.

Dave Farnum: When will the agreement be available to look at?

Missy Boutot: It will be available probably the middle of next week, once we have all the signatures on it, we will have copies available.



Jim Dumond: Does it look good? Everybody is jumping in on this band-wagon. We are the first.

Missy Boutot: Yes, it looks good as far as...we've done a favorable agreement between the two parties. That is a first. Usually when someone withdraws there is hard feelings, and so far there has been none. It is in the hands of the Commissioner.

Jim Dumond: I don't think it right that just one person makes that decision.

Barb Pitcairn: I would like to thank Missy for all of her hard work.

[applause]

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corrine Routhier