

2018

2018 Town of Portage Lake Annual Town Meeting Minutes

Portage, Me.

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2018 Annual Town Meeting
Record of Meeting
March 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm.
Portage Lake Town Hall

AROOSTOOK, s.s.

STATE OF MAINE

The secret ballot election portion of the meeting was called to order at 3 pm by Town Clerk.

ART. 1 To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting
Motion was made and seconded to nomination Sheila Kelley as moderator. Two written votes were cast electing Sheila Kelley as moderator.

ART. 2 To elect by secret ballot the following Officer(s):
One (1) Selectperson for a term of three (3) years
Barry Kenney 59 votes

One (1) Portage Lake Schoolboard member for a term of three (3) years
Melissa Boutot 60 votes
Michelle Eastman 2 votes

ART. 3 To vote by secret ballot the following:
Lease agreement between the Town of Portage Lake and Portage Hills Country Club
Yes 49
No 13

The secret ballot election portion of the meeting was recessed at 7 pm and reconvened Friday March 23, 2018 at 6:30 pm to act on the remainder of the Articles. There were 62 votes cast.

At this time, Sheila Kelley announces she is unable to continue her duties at Moderator, and she deputizes Joel Hall to become Deputy Moderator and perform the Moderator duties for the remainder of the meeting.

There were 30 resident voters and 0 non-voters in attendance.

ART. 4 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to appoint all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 5 It was moved and seconded 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's annual budget during the period from January 1, 2019 to the annual March Town Meeting.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 6 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to accept any gifts, donations, grants and State funding or reimbursements on behalf of the Town, and exercise such authority as needed to implement grants.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 7 It was moved and seconded 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%, per 36 M.R.S.A. sec 505.4, on unpaid taxes 60 days after the date of tax commitment.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 8 It was moved and seconded 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.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried**

ART. 9 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to bring writs of entry for recovery of any parcels of land that have been

acquired by the Town by reason of non-payment of taxes, the time of redemption having expired; to sell or dispose of any property acquired by tax lien foreclosure for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest, after first offering the property to the previous owners; and if they decline, advertising for sealed bids on the same, stating the lowest bid acceptable; and to allow the Selectboard to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosure when it is in the best interest of the Town.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 10 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town, to publish the proposed sale of any Town acquired property and Town owned personal property over \$500, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 11 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectpersons to appropriate \$25,000 from surplus, as they deem advisable, to meet emergencies that occur during the calendar year.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 12 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to deposit into the Public Works Road Reserve account all monies received from the Maine Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 13 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from anticipated revenue sources for the purpose of reducing the 2017 tax commitment.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 14 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the Revaluation Account on the Town books in anticipation of the next 10 year total town property revaluation.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Does anybody know how much we have in that account?

Larry Duchette: \$20,000

Judy Moreau: Twenty? Thank you

Motion carried.

ART. 15 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$70,000 from anticipated motor vehicle excise revenue for the Road Reserve account.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 16 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for the following reserve accounts:

Portage Lake Fire Department Reserve Account	\$10,000
Public Works Equipment Reserve Account	\$10,000

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 17 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,500 for Vital & Municipal record preservation and to allow all fees collected from vital record transactions to be used for the same.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 18 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$25,881 in addition to \$8,119 carried forward for a total budget of \$34,000 for the General Administration operating account, and to allow any reimbursements and fees to be used for the same.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 19 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$81,006 in addition to \$2,494 carried forward for a total budget of \$83,500 for Town Selectpersons, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Treasurer.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

- ART. 20 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,089 in addition to \$1,411 carried forward for a total budget of \$7,500 for real & personal property assessing and registry fees.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 21 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$21,215 in addition to \$4,785 carried forward for a total budget of \$26,000 for Municipal Building operating expenses and to allow the rental fees and any reimbursements to be used for the same.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried**
- ART. 22 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balance of \$11,252 for Town Hall Improvements to repair the Municipal Building roof.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried**
- ART. 23 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$420 in addition to \$580 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,000 carried forward for the Planning & Appeals Boards.
Discussion: none. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 24 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$6,111 in addition to \$4,889 carried forward for a total budget of \$11,000 for Code Enforcement activities, and to allow plumbing & building permit fees, fines received in the calendar year, and any other reimbursements to be used for the same.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 25 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,796 in addition to \$1,204 carried forward for a total budget of \$13,000 for discounts on taxes paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of tax bills, and to raise and appropriate \$152 in addition to \$3,848 carried forward for a total budget of \$4,000 for abatements.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 26 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,275 for approximate annual membership dues for Maine Municipal Assn., NMDC, Maine Tourism Assn., and Maine Acadian Heritage Council.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 27 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$3,616 for the General Assistance Program and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 28 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$49,908 in addition to \$5,792 carried forward for a total budget of \$55,700 for the Insurance & Social Security accounts, and to allow any reimbursements or dividends to be used for the same.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 29 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,113 in addition to \$8,887 carried forward for a total budget of \$27,000 for the Portage Lake Fire Department operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 30 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$2,068 for specific Police Patrol for the coming year.
Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**
- ART. 31 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,443 in addition to \$757 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,200 for the Animal Control operating account, and to allow any dog license fees and fines to be used for the same.
Discussion:
Judy Moreau: Do we have a dog catcher?
Larry Duchette: We do.
Judy Moreau: We do have a dog catcher?
Larry Duchette: Deanna Clark. She goes to training, I think, next month.

Judy Moreau: Wait a minute. Is that all she's going to catch is just the dogs?

Larry Duchette: No cats.

Judy Moreau: No wild animals, though.

Larry Duchette: No. Not allowed to.

Motion carried.

ART. 32 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$77,579 in addition to \$8,421 carried forward for a total budget of \$86,000 for the Public Works operating account, and to allow any reimbursements to be used for the same.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 33 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$40,000 for Northern Aroostook Solid Waste Association.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 34 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,828 in addition to \$2,172 carried forward for a total budget \$5,000 for the operation of the Transfer Station, and to allow any revenue from tire disposal fees and the sale of scrap metal to be used for the same.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 35 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,875 in addition to \$2,125 carried forward for a total budget of \$7,000 for contracted services for road side mowing, grader work, special culvert work and miscellaneous expenses related to this account.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 36 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,132 in addition \$1,118 carried forward for a total budget of \$3,250 for the maintenance of the Portage Lake Municipal Cemetery, and to allow lot sale revenue to be used for the same.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 37 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1,535 in addition to \$465 carried forward for a total budget of \$2,000 for Portage Lake Beautification.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Yeah, does this...The beautification money, does that go for Christmas also?

Larry Duchette: Yes.

Motion carried.

ART. 38 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$762 in addition to \$338 carried forward for a total budget of \$1,100 for the Portage Lake Recreation Department.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: The Recreation Department, what are they going to do with the money? Because we send our kids to Ashland, I thought.

Larry Duchette: We do, but we have been buying equipment for around here. We've bought soccer balls, basketballs, nets, softball equipment. And we are trying to recruit someone to run a summer program for us.

Judy Moreau: Maybe you can get one of those big gliders for some old people to set on.

Larry Duchette: That's not recreation.

Judy Moreau: Well at least I tried.

Motion carried.

ART. 39 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$11,298 in addition to \$4,702 carried forward for a total budget of \$16,000 for upkeep and maintenance of the Campground, Public Beach, Boat Landing, Seaplane Base, Pavillon and Parks, and allow revenues from camping permits, donations and other reimbursements to be used for the same.

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: Is Otis going to take over the Seaplane Base?

Larry Duchette: Otis is right here, you can ask him.

Otis Nelson: We'll look at it in the spring. Yup. We'll do something with it.

Judy Moreau: Good. Thank you.

Motion carried.

ART. 40 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to carry forward \$5,000 for continued restorations and improvements to the Seaplane Base.

Discussion:

Otis Nelson: You can make that check right out to me. We'll put it in the building.

(laughter from audience)

Motion carried.

ART. 41 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,819 in addition to \$181 carried forward for a total budget of \$8,250 for street lights.

Discussion:

Otis Nelson: Are they going up to the new LED lights, Larry?

Larry Duchette: We looked into it, but we have to have everything that is up there removed and disposed of ourselves. And we have to hire someone to put the new stuff up and we have to hire someone to maintain it. I think if we look at all of the costs associated with it, none of us would live long enough to make up the difference.

Otis Nelson: Right. Just maintaining what's there.

Motion carried.

ART. 42 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$18,284 Ashland User Fees:

Ambulance Service	\$14,637.53
Library	\$1,720.28
Recreation	\$1,925.50

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 43 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$3,100 for the following requested financial social services assistance:

American Red Cross	\$500
Aroostook Agency on Aging	\$295
Aroostook County Action Program	\$78.20
Ashland Food Pantry	\$300
Catholic Charities of Maine	\$100
Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce	\$130
Homeless Services of Aroostook	\$587
Life Flight Foundation	\$391
Maine Families Aroostook	\$200
Martha & Mary's Soup Kitchen	\$100
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.	\$100
Northern Maine Veteran's Cemetery	\$200
VFW Post #9699	\$100

Discussion:

Judy Moreau: The Red Cross, has that gone up?

Larry Duchette: Yes it has.

Judy Moreau: I thought so. Are they on a...for so many people like the...

Larry Duchette: No. That was their request this year; you can approve it or deny it. You can lower it, but cannot raise it.

Judy Moreau: I know that.

Unidentified: What was it last year Larry?

Larry Duchette: It was \$200 last year. This was a major increase from what they had before. They didn't give any reasoning for it, but other than the fact that I think they do quite a job for us overall. That was their request.

Motion carried.

ART. 44 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$500 from anticipated boat excise revenue for the Town's share of matching funds for the Portage Lake Association's cost share grant to aid in the identification and education of invasive aquatic plants in, or on, Portage Lake.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 45 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for the Portage Lake Historical Society.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 46 It was moved and seconded to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lake Snowmobile Club for the purpose of aiding in the maintenance of local snowmobile trails for public use.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 47 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,500 for the Portage Lakers ATV Club for aiding in the maintenance of the local ATV trail system for public use.

Discussion: None. **Motion carried.**

ART. 48 It was moved and seconded to see if the Town will vote to adopt the updated 2015 Maine DEP Shore Land Zoning Ordinance, to remain in effect until repealed or amended.

Discussion:

Jim Dumond: I'd like to know if the Shore Land Zoning and FEMA are together. Can anybody answer that question?

Maggie Pierce: I can answer that, Jim. No they are not. Shore land Zoning is the State of Maine, FEMA is federal.

Jim Dumond: So, somebody from out of Town is gonna say whether you're in the flood zone or you're not. It doesn't make sense.

Maggie Pierce: It's a Federal thing. I can tell you FEMA is being pushed hard to re-do all of these lakes. They've started in southern Maine and are making their way up. They are coming to the highly populated areas; you're more improved areas. Sue Baker in Augusta said that Portage Lake is on the list because they continue to get people that are saying they are not in the flood zone, and they pay the money to have the certificate of elevation, then they find out that they had never even been in the flood zone. So we are on the list.

Jim Dumond: I was just wondering if they were on board together or now.

Maggie: It would make life so much easier if NRPA and FEMA and Shore Land Zoning would come together and put their things in one, we wouldn't have to go to all of these different agencies to get an answer. But unfortunately it isn't.

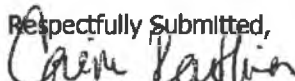
Jim Dumond: One problem is the flood insurance. Some people are way up high and they claim you have to have flood insurance. It doesn't make sense.

Maggie: Correct. But we are on the list because we are a highly populated area that has many errors.

Motion carried.

Barry "Beech" Kenney is sworn in as a Selectboard member at this time.

Adjourned at 6:59.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corinne Routhier