

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

August 11, 2025 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb  
Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker  
Municipal Officer: Molly Schaufler  
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley  
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse – excused absence  
NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

**Present:** Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Jeanine Tucker, Molly Schaufler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Janae Novotny, Bill Kelly.

**New Business:** Executive Session under 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C) to discuss real property or interests therein.

***Pinkham Bebb opened the Executive Session at 6:15pm.***

***Pinkham Bebb closed the Executive Session at 7:05pm.***

No action taken.

**Citizen Concerns:** None at this time.

**Bid Opening: First Responder Rig:** Kossuth presented the Board with the sole bid that the Town received for the first responder rig. The Board discussed the bid.

***Schaufler motioned to sell the first responder rig to Michael Alley for his bid price of \$500, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

**Northport Village Corporation:** Novotny reported that the Donuts & Dialogue with Town officials on August 2 was well-received. Novotny reported that she has received a request for the Village and Town to take some steps to improve pedestrian safety and calm traffic in the Village. The Board discussed what those steps might be. Kossuth reported that he had spoken to Morse about it, and Morse would like to be part of any future conversations. The Board agreed that pedestrian safety is an important issue.

Novotny asked Kossuth about the status of the permitting for the work in Bayview Park, and Kossuth will check on it.

**Road Commissioner:** Kossuth reported that he had heard from Ford Enterprises about extending the date of performance for widening the culvert at Schoolhouse Brook. Because the new culvert sections must be custom-made, and the fabricator warns of substantial lead-time, Ford has asked that the Town extend the completion date beyond October 15. The Board agreed that the date could be extended if completing the project by October 15 is prevented by supply-chain forces beyond Ford's control. Kossuth will update the contract accordingly.

**Town Administrator: Town Office Project update:** Kossuth reported that he spoke with Amanda Austin about the Town's various options for temporary town office space and some potential options for the new building design. She will look into the feasibility of putting an addition onto the back of the fire station and storing the 15000 gal tank inside, so that it wouldn't need a heater and it would stay above freezing by being inside the fire station. Kossuth also asked her for more details about the anticipated electrical usage of the new building for purposes of planning a solar installation.

**Fundraising Committee update:** Kossuth reported that he had been shown a demonstration of a software program called iWave, which Jeffrey Wilt, who is a professional fundraiser and former Village liaison, had recommended to help with the fundraising. iWave's product is a tool to help identify and quantify the giving capacity of potential donors. Kossuth reported that he had negotiated the price for a year's subscription down to \$3859.50, and that its insight should help the product pay for itself. The Board agreed to purchase the subscription.

Kossuth reported that the Fundraising Committee is considering trying to hold an event in the fall to raise awareness about the project. The Board discussed the idea and offered suggestions and considerations to ensure a successful event.

**Kelly Cove Shore Road stabilization project update:** Kossuth reported that he has been trying unsuccessfully since July to set up a meeting with Jay McCrum and Will Gartley to talk about the portion of the seawall that would be on McCrum's property. Kossuth has asked Gartley to create a revised design that includes only that portion of the project that would be entirely within the Town's right of way on Shore Road. (The original plan included about 60' of wall that would be entirely on the McCrum's property.) Kossuth recommended that, if he is unable to schedule a meeting with McCrum in September, the Board put the project out to bid and stabilize only that portion in the Town's right of way. The Board agreed with that approach.

**2026 MMA Executive Committee ballot:** Kossuth presented the Board with the ballot for the 2026 MMA Executive Committee. The Board voted for the slate as presented.

**MMA Annual Convention:** Kossuth presented the Board with the agenda for the 2025 MMA Annual Convention in Bangor in October. The Board agreed that Kossuth should attend.

**Waldo EMA "Storm of Record" Tabletop Exercise:** Kossuth presented the Board with an invitation from Waldo County Emergency Management to participate in a tabletop exercise regarding severe storm preparedness on Tuesday evening, September 23.

**UMaine Capstone projects:** Kossuth reported that he had submitted all of the necessary materials for the capstone projects, and the Town will find out in the coming weeks if any students chose one of the projects in Northport.

**Community Resilience Partnership update:** Kossuth reported that he and Schauffler have been working on a grant application for the next round of Community Resilience Partnership grants, this one to look at stormwater management town-wide. Celine Bewsher had been in contact with a civil engineering firm that does these studies, and the firm drafted a scope of work for us, which makes this process much easier. Because the Town can combine unrelated projects into one grant, the Resilience Committee thought that it might make sense to add a few thousand dollars to the grant request to fund ScrapDogs compost collection at the transfer station for everyone, not just subscribers. It would be a no-cost way for the Town to try it for a couple of years to see if the Town should pay for it going forward. The Board agreed that these projects would be worthwhile to pursue.

**Cash Management Policy:** Kossuth presented the Board with the Town's cash management policy and recommended changes to it based on a recent incident in a nearby town where a resident paid a large fine entirely in loose change. The Board asked Kossuth to finalize the edits and present them at the next meeting.

**Minutes:** Kossuth presented the Board with minutes for the Select Board meeting of July 28. The Board approved the minutes with edits.

**Finance Director: Warrants:** Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for review and approval. The Board approved and signed the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants.

**Payroll Agreements:** Eugley presented the Board with payroll agreements for FY2026. The Board reviewed and signed the payroll agreements.

**School Funding Formula:** Eugley reported to the Board that although the State's school funding formula is supposed to fund 55% of the Town's education costs, it currently funds only 15%. She asked the Board for permission to investigate and contact officials about it. The Board agreed.

**Computershare:** Pinkham Bebb asked Eugley to investigate transferring the Town's stock holdings from Computershare to the Town's existing brokerage account at Fidelity to consolidate accounts.

**Unfinished Business:** None at this time.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Adjourn:** *Schauffler moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator