

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
February 14, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

Chair: Shelly Patten	Finance Director: Vicki Eugley
Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker	Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge
Municipal Officer: Breanna Pinkham Bebb (approved absence)	Road Commissioner: Amon Morse
Town Administrator: James Kossuth	NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt

Present: Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Ann Frenning Kossuth, Karl Beiser, Janae Novotny, Bob Metcalf, Mark Lynch, Bobby Patterson, Andy Duso, Julian Sheffield, Bill Frysinger, Brady Brim DeForest.

Citizen Concerns: Mr. Metcalf wanted the Board to be aware of the conditions with Knights Pound Road. He asked the Board to have Knights Pond Road plowed and sanded all the way down to the pond. He reported he read the plowing contract and feels the road is not being maintained correctly. The Board thanked Mr. Metcalf for his comments and concerns. Mr. Metcalf left the meeting before the Town's road commissioner or the plowing contractor could respond to his concerns.

Broadband Committee: Ann Frenning Kossuth, Chair of the Northport Broadband Committee reported that the committee was working with GWI on a grant application to fund the wiring of the rest of the town. The Broadband Committee, with the assistance of Axiom, had developed a feasibility study to present to GWI and seek its support for wiring the rest of the Town.

The Broadband Committee stated Axiom had done the feasibility study with an eye to future expansion and potential growth for the Town. Frysinger stated that GWI assured the committee that adding more lines in the future would maximize the available data that could be transmitted.

The Broadband Communittee requested the Town commit the full amount of the American Rescue Plan Act funds, also known as ARPA, toward Broadband for the Town. The committee stated that designating the funds to Broadband would show GWI and ConnectMaine, the agency awarding the grants, that the Town of Northport is 100% committed to working with GWI and would also enhance GWI's grant application.

Public Hearing: (Mailbox Policy): Board Chair Patten opened the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m. Kossuth provided the Board with feedback he had received from the public. The Board listened to the feedback and thanked Kossuth for the comments and concerns. Brady Brim Deforest stated he was glad to see action being taken quickly and thanked the Board for their diligence.

Board Chair Patten asked for any further questions or comments. Hearing none the hearing was closed at 6:48 p.m.

Patten motioned to approve the mailbox policy, second by Tucker. Board voted 2-0

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Novotny reported that the Overseers approved a Public Access and Remote Meeting Policy. The Governance Committee is looking at updating the Zoning policy, and the Utilities Committee has a Public Hearing on March 26, 2022, to put into effect a moratorium on

sewer systems. She also reported NVC is increasing fees on small watercraft and dinghies. NVC is also fundraising for the new playground. NVC has raised a little over \$ 23,000.00 and they are applying for a grant and having a silent auction to help with the remaining amount needed.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported Bobby Patterson from MOPA was there to answer any questions about the plowing in Town. Patterson explained the first storm they had some vehicle break downs but there were no delays in service because he went and got another truck. Patterson stated he sands all the way down to the pond on Knights Pond Road. Tucker had Patterson explain his strategy for plowing Town roads. Patterson explained how the main routes have priority for fire and ambulance services and the secondary roads are plowed after. Tucker had concerns on the safety of other areas like Upper Bluff Road and feels those areas need to be plowed sooner in the storm. Lynch reported that he has not had any issues with Upper Bluff Road this year.

Morse provided the Board with documents showing an arch culvert that Brady Brim Deforest would like to install at his property on Bluff Road. Morse checked with Bill Paige (NVC Agent) to make sure there were no water lines to be concerned with. Morse doesn't have any problems with the request and the culvert should last for up to 100 years. Brim Deforest answered questions from the Board about the construction of the culvert. Morse asked for the Boards approval for Brady Brim Deforest to go ahead with the culvert. The Board approved the construction of the arch culverts at the property of 459 Bluff Road.

Morse reported that Allen's Environmental freed up a lot of culverts that had filled with ice on Beech Hill Road, Cross Street and Shore Road. Kossuth provided Morse with an area on Saturday Cove Road to take a look at.

Town Administrator: Kossuth provided the Board with RFPs for new contracts for winter clean-up/mowing, assessing, and heating fuel. Tucker provided Kossuth with some corrections to make on the RFPs. The Board approved the new RFPs with corrections.

Kossuth reported that he spoke with Brad Aitken and he stated he would deliver to the Town 150 yards of sand and not 500 yards. Kossuth provided the Board with possible options. The Board agreed to table the discussion of next steps until the next meeting.

Tax acquired properties: Kossuth reported that 12 Wood Lane and 174 Rocky Road paid their taxes to date and the Town is requesting to execute a Quit Claim Deed for the properties. The Board approved the Quit Claim Deeds for 12 Wood Lane and 174 Rocky Road.

Kossuth reported on quarterly property reviews performed by RJD Appraisals. They reviewed 336 parcels of which 80 of the parcels had net gains of \$ 208,900.00.

He also reported Islesboro sent a press release informing the Town that Islesboro supports the off shore wind port at Mack Point over Sears Island. The Board appreciated the information.

Town Clerk: Nothing to report at this time.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants to the Board for review and signature. The Board approved the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants. Eugley reported the Town should be receiving the school audit soon.

Executive Session 1:

Under motion of Shelly Patten, seconded by Jeanine Tucker, the Board voted 2-0 to enter executive session at 7:56 pm per M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(C) for disposition of publicly held property.

Under motion of Shelly Patten, Seconded by Jeanine Tucker, the Board voted 2-0 to return to Regular Session at 8:07 p.m.

Patten motion to accept the offer from Brady Brim DeForest in the amount of \$16,200.00, for the property of 17 Oak Drive, Map U15 Lot 18-3, seconded by Tucker, Board voted 2-0

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Kossuth provided an updated draft of the warrant articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting. The Board reviewed the warrant articles and provided feedback on areas to update. The Northport Special Town meeting will be February 26, at 2:00 pm at the Northport Community Church.

Executive Session 2:

Under motion of Shelly Patten, seconded by Jeanine Tucker, the Board voted 2-0 to enter executive session at 8:26 pm per M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(A) for evaluation of a Town employee.

Under motion of Shelly Patten, Seconded by Jeanine Tucker, the Board voted 2-0 to return to Regular Session at 9:28 p.m.

Adjourn:

Patten motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge