

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
February 28, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

Chair: Shelly Patten

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker (arrived at 6:07)

Municipal Officer: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, Kevin Hall, Samantha Paige, Mark Lynch, Bob Patterson, Jessica Patterson-Dusoe.

Public Hearing: Kossuth opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 pm and provided the Application for an On-Premises Liquor License and the Special Amusement Permit Application, for The Stone Brick Oven Kitchen to the Board for review and approval. Samantha Paige, Manager of The Stone Brick Oven Kitchen, provided a verbal report to the Board on how the business is doing.

Kossuth closed the hearing at 6:05 pm.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to approve the On-Premises Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit for The Stone Brick Oven Kitchen, seconded by Patten, Board voted 2-0 (Tucker had not yet arrived)

Citizen Concerns: Kevin Hall stated he was presenting on behalf of James Butters, trustee of the Butters Bayside Family Camp Irrevocable Trust of 9 North Avenue, Northport. He provided history on past tax payments, asked how the Town releases a deed, and explained the ownership of the Butters property, with Sandra Butters a 50% owner and Butters Bayside Family Camp Irrevocable Trust a 50% owner. He also provided background information on James Butters. Hall asked the Board for a general feeling of a date when the parties would be able to pay the past taxes and retain the property.

Hall requested to see the notifications that were provided. Hall reported he will stop by the office to review and get copies on behalf of James Butters. Kossuth reported that Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney is concerned about the condition of the 9 North Avenue property. She wants the property brought into compliance. Patten thanked Mr. Hall for the information provided to the Board. The property is on the foreclosure list and the Town would consider conveying it back to the owners if the property owners paid the total amount due.

Jessica Patterson-Dusoe provided the Board, on behalf of Bob Patterson, a letter to review (See Appendix A). She informed the Board that Bob or she could answer any questions or concerns now or at the next meeting. Tucker expressed her thankfulness of the condition of the roads from the last storm. The Board thanked Patterson for the letter provided and acknowledged his knowledge of Town roads.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Janae Novotny reported on behalf of the Northport Village Corporation (NVC). NVC has started their budget workshops, and posted an ad for an Office Manager. NVC will be working with Road Commissioner Morse and Village Agent Paige for improvements on Broadway. She also stated NVC would like to set up a meeting with the Municipal Officer, NVC Overseers and representatives.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported the Town has some muddy roads. Upper Bluff Road and Knights Pond Road needed some stone put down. He dug out ditches on Upper Bluff Road to help with drainage. He had a tree removed on Beech Hill Road. Morse contacted Morton Salt and ordered 150 tons of salt. The sand pile is looking low but he is going to keep an eye on it. He's not worried about getting more sand if needed.

Kossuth asked Morse about septic trucks on posted roads. Morse stated if it's an emergency and the trucks need to travel the posted road, he needs to contact Morse first, but otherwise, no trucks will be allowed.

Lynch thanked Morse for what he has done for the bottom of Upper Bluff Road Hill. He did express that the condition of the road reinforces why the Town should pave Upper Bluff Road. Plowing and sanding has been good on Upper Bluff Road and he provided an update to Morse and the Board on the condition of the road.

Town Administrator:

Central Maine Power (CMP) tree removal cost share: Kossuth reported due to fiber optics being installed in Northport, CMP has taken down trees along the route on private properties. CMP called the Town for assistance with clean up on a tree they dropped. The Town was billed for the removal of the tree. Tucker would like for CMP to contact the Town prior to cutting down a tree that is in the Town right of way, and make arrangements with home owners of the property.

Tax Acquired Property: Kossuth reported the Town is going to be closing on the sale of 17 Oak Drive next week. The Town also received a call requesting a payoff amount for 175 Rocky Road.

Broadband Committee: Kossuth reported Karl Beiser, member of the Broadband Committee, prepared a letter for the Town to provide GWI for the Broadband grant application. The Board reviewed the letter and provided feedback and approval.

Management's Discussion and Analysis for auditors report: Kossuth updated the Board on the MDA, and requested feedback. Tucker stated that she sees the roads as financial concerns because of the unpredictability of the damage to the roads every winter.

Other: Kossuth reported that the Town has three expiring contracts: Heating Fuel, Winter clean-up and Mowing, and Assessing Services. Ads will be placed with a due date of March 11, 2022 so the Board can open, review and approve on March 14, 2022. Kossuth will reach out to all current contractors.

Town Clerk: Amy provided the minutes for January 10, 2022 and January 24, 2022 to the Board for review. The Board approved the minutes with corrections.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for review and signature. Eugley explained that funds were being transferred to the appropriate accounts for Fiscal Year 2021 for the Due to/Due from accounts, since the audit was completed and the amounts were confirmed. She also stated Sephone is working on the Town website. The Board approved the Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants.

Eugley requested the transfer of \$1,588.67 from Digital Mapping Special Reserve to the General Fund for mapping expenditures.

Tucker motioned to transfer \$1,588.67 from Digital Mapping Special Reserve to the General Fund for mapping expenditures, seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0

Old Business: Sand Pile- Kossuth provided the Board with the current status of the Aitken dispute, and further options. The Board agreed that the Town will pursue taking Brad Aitken to Small Claims Court for the possible shortage of approximately 500 yards of sand.

Pinkham Bebb motioned for the Town of Northport to file a Lawsuit against Brad Aitken, for 500 yards of undelivered Sand, seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0

Harbor Master Scott Munroe provided Kossuth with a formal request for “No Wake” buoys to be utilized in Bayside. The Board would like to know timing and costs of the buoys. Tucker asked Novotny if there are any Northport Village Corporation Ordinances or rules for the body of water where the signage would be used. Novotny reported the waters would fall under Town Ordinances.

March 7, 2022 and March 21, 2022 are the Town budget meeting dates.

Executive Session, Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C) to discuss disposition of publicly held property:
Under motioned of Patten, seconded by Tucker, the Board voted 3-0 to enter Executive Session at 7:39 pm per MRSA, Title 1, § 405 (6)(C).

Under motioned of Patten, seconded by Tucker, the Board voted 3-0 to return to regular Session at 8:02 pm.

Adjourn: Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge

Appendix A

Robert Patterson
148 Ryan Road
Northport ME 04849
207.338.4755
207.322.0555

Dear Town of Northport Selectboard Members,

During the last Selectboard meeting held on 02/14/22 discoveries and concerns were surfaced to me. As I had time to reflect on this, I wanted to ensure I was circling back with you all. Providing you a written response and additional insight into my approach to delivering on the Plowing and Sanding Contract that I have now held for 18+ years. I am a man of few words and want to make certain that my silence is not interpreted as a lack of concern or lack of priority for the safety of our residents. I hope that by taking the time to provide more details on this matter it will dispel any questions or doubt for the Selectboard on my approach in carrying out the contract.

1. Questions surrounding secondary roads were brought up. Specifically, an ask to alter our route and approach during a storm to address secondary roads sooner
 - Secondary can be defined as: a dead-end road or non-main route, but for the town of Northport most of these if not fall into the dead-end road category
 - I want to take the time to share a bit more on how myself and my crew approach the 32 miles of road in Northport. This is something that has become muscle memory you could say for myself and tenured drivers, so I may have overlooked that component in bringing you along

- Safety of our residents (my family included) is the utmost importance to me
 - When we get in the plow/sand truck, my drivers have designated routes
 - These routes are designed to take into consideration fuel capacity and sand capacity and mapped to ensure we are efficient
 - If a plow truck is seen passing a road without going down, it would not be accurate to assume they are choosing to skip, but more so, a) they are assessing the volume of sand left in order to efficiently address their route assigned or b) this road is not part of their designated route
 - We approach Primary roads (main arteries) first and then open secondary's and alter this repeatedly during a storm
 - All roads in the town are addressed before/during/after storms based on this plan
2. My pay was surfaced in the form of a daily average equaling "670.00 per day regardless of if it snows or not"
- While this is divided and averaged in the form of days, it would not be an accurate depiction of the contract in place and the expenses incurred to maintain the safety of our residents
 - The contract begins on 10/15 and ends by 4/30
 - This represents a 24 hour per day on call demand
 - In my experience, most towns break down a contract like this in the form of town miles
 - As part of the overall contract, I am responsible for salaries of my drivers, insurance, equipment, maintenance and ensuring I am prepared to execute on the contract in place
3. Safety of our residents continued to be verbalized in the last meeting "Stating roads were unacceptable and dangerous"
- During blizzard conditions, roads will be unsafe and dangerous, and it is my job to improve driving conditions to ensure the safety of the towns people and specifically those during a blizzard that are required to travel
 - As far as I am aware there were zero accidents within the storm mentioned or this winter season as a whole
 - This winter season has also been unique in ice to snow ratios, and Maine has received far more rain and ice conditions
 - We take this just as serious, and it has required my crew to be out even more to address rising and falling temperatures and prevent severe conditions in order to continue to maintain the safety of our residents

I take pride in the work that I do and take the comments/questions and concerns surfaced on 2/14/22 seriously. I want to ensure we are all aligned as I value the efforts and responsibilities of the Selectboard. I want to foster a partnership between myself and others serving our town. I hope through the detail above I have been able to put to rest any concerns and we can move forward with a mutual and shared understanding of the safety and need of our 1500+ residents.

Regards,
Robert Patterson

Current Contractor for the Town of Northport
Winter Road Maintenance (Plowing & Sanding) 2020-2023