

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

January 10, 2022 @ 6:03 pm

Chair: Shelly Patten

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Municipal Officer: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt

**Present:** Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Mark Lynch, Jeffrey Wilt.

**Citizen Concerns:** Mark Lynch reported the condition of Bluff Road was good and no issues to report at this time.

**Bid Opening:** Kossuth reported the Town had not received any bids on the sale of 17 Oak Drive, Northport. Kossuth will contact Realtor Howard Sawyer to put the property on the market for the Town and confirm his pro bono offer.

**NVC:** Wilt confirmed with the Board that January 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the conference room at the Town office, will be the meeting of The Northport Village Corporation representatives and the Board. He reported the fundraiser for new playground equipment in Ruggles Park has raised \$ 25,000.00, and the merry-go-round in the park was repaired by a local resident. He stated the wharf in the Village has also been repaired.

**Road Commissioner:** Morse reported the road signs for the hill on Bluff Road hill have been installed. He will need to order one more "Down Hill" sign and some brackets to complete the job. He met with the owner of 459 Bluff Road, and found a new place for his mailbox. A temporary mailbox is in place until Spring when a permanent mailbox will be installed. Morse reported he put 12 yards of sand in the old sand shed for Northport residents to use.

Eugley confirmed with Morse an invoice from Ford Enterprises for work completed on Bluff Road and Prescott Hill Road.

**Town Administrator:** Kossuth provided the Board with his report of activity since the last Board Meeting on December 27, 2021 (see Appendix A)

**Sand Pile Update:** Kossuth explained that an Attorney is not needed to file a Small Claim Lawsuit and the approximate cost should be under \$100.00.

Kossuth provided a Pole Permit with Central Maine Power to add a new pole on Beech Hill Road. The Board approved the permit.

**Town Clerk:** Eldridge provided the November 8, 2021 and November 22, 2021 minutes to the Board for review and approval. The Board approved the minutes with corrections.

**Finance Director:** Eugley provided the payroll and accounts payable warrants to the Board for approval and signature. Eugley provided a reminder for the Board about budget meeting dates. The Board approved the payroll and accounts payable warrants.

**Old Business:** Kossuth provided information about a crossing guard for Cross Street and Bayside Road area. State law states that you can't have a crossing guard without a crosswalk and you can't have a crosswalk without a sidewalk. Kossuth provided the Board with information on the MaineDOT BikePed funding Program.

**New Business:** Kossuth reported on a suspected theft at the Transfer Station and a new lock is needed. The Board agreed to have the lock changed.

**Adjourn:** *Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge

## **Appendix A**

### **1. Bluff Road Mailbox Update**

Amon Morse, Bill Paige, and I met with Brady Brim-DeForest on January 4, 2022, at 459 Bluff Road to discuss a suitable location for his masonry mailbox. He had already removed the masonry mailbox and installed a mailbox on a 4"x4" wooden post until a permanent location could be identified. Pending approval of the new location by the Postal Service, he hopes to install the mailbox in the new location in the spring.

### **2. Mailbox Policy**

Maine DOT has a policy for mailbox placement and construction designed to protect the safety of motorists and snowplows. That policy applies only to state highways and state aid roads. Some towns have adopted that policy for town roads, and it would help us with any future issues over mailbox placement (or any other potentially dangerous objects) in the town right of way if we also adopted it. (See attachment.)

### **3. Broadband Committee Update**

The Committee received a "final final" feasibility study on January 3 from Axiom for wiring the rest of the town, and is meeting with Mark Ouellette of Axiom and Kerem Durdag of GWI on January 11 to discuss the report and Axiom's recommendations for how to proceed, and what role GWI could play in fully wiring the town. The Committee hopes to present a recommendation to the Select Board in February.

### **4. NVC Tax Memo (NVC = Northport Village Corporation)**

Updating the memorandum of agreement between the town and NVC regarding handling property taxes to reflect current practice.

**5. Sand Pile Update**

The letter to Brad Aitken went out on December 30, and we have not heard back from him. The letter asked that he get back to us in ten days, and that we may consider further action if we do not hear from him by then.

**6. OSHA Vaccination Mandate Update** (OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Administration)

The mandate applies to Maine cities and towns with 100+ employees, and Northport is just under that (94 employees, at last count). A federal court decision in December had lifted the stay imposed by another federal court in November, and MMA recommended that towns with 100 employees adopt vaccination policies. The Supreme Court is hearing arguments on the policy January 7, and will likely issue a decision soon.

I drafted a policy for the town, based on an OSHA template, which would apply once we hit 100 employees. After talking with Bill Kelly about it, I am recommending that we wait and see what the Supreme Court says before adopting a vaccination policy.

**7. CMP Pole Permits** (CMP = Central Maine Power)

CMP has submitted an application for a new pole near the corner of Beech Hill Road and Knights Pond Road, and to replace an existing pole with a new one across the street at the same intersection. The application requires Select Board approval.

**8. Browntail Moth Abatement**

We heard from the Maine Forest Service with its survey results of browntail moth (BTM) damage in 2021. Despite what everyone here experienced last year, the Forest Service showed no damage in Northport in its aerial surveys. The survey does show BTM's knocking on our door, however, with extensive damage in Lincolnville along Rte 52 and in Camden Hills.

Late winter and early spring is a good time to work on education and abatement for 2022, which the Forest Service promises will be another bad year. The Forest Service offered some recommendations for what we can do now and throughout the year.

**9. FEMA Update** (FEMA= Federal Emergency Management Agency)

I heard from Dale Rowley that Waldo County has not reached the dollar threshold for a disaster declaration from the Halloween storm. FEMA is working with some of the towns to try to get validation for expenses incurred. Northport is all set for now.

**10. Virtual Intern Update**

The student who applied withdrew her application, having committed to another project. I have not received any other applications.

**11. STACVA Award** (STACVA= Small Town American Civic Voluntary Award)

We received a participation award and a sticker.