

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

March 28, 2022 @ 6:02 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, Jason & Veronica Stubbs, Tammy Maseychik, Josh Wellman from DM&J, Heidi Blood, Jeffrey Wilt, Liz Lane.

Citizen Concerns: Veronica Stubbs, owner of The Scone Goddess, spoke to the Board about the speed limit on Atlantic Highway. She reported business owners on Atlantic Highway in Northport have discussed the speed limit and would like to submit a proposal to the board. V. Stubbs stated that the speed limit in Belfast to the Town Line of Northport is 40 MPH. Many businesses would like 40 MPH continued into Northport. They would like to have a traffic study completed, and V. Stubbs has spoken to the Maine Department of Transportation (MEDOT) to let them know about a survey she is conducting. Tammy Maseychick, owner of Sunflower Farmacy LLC, 1367 Atlantic Highway, stated she has seen many traffic accidents from her business. V. Stubbs stated she has spoken to Sarah Tomalty from Little River Veterinary Hospital, 1447 Atlantic Highway, and she reported many people have to slam on their brakes because of turning vehicles. Liz Lane from Bayside Store, 1336 Atlantic Highway has seen many incidences where accidents could have happened at her location. J. Stubbs stated that there are a lot more vehicles turning left heading south and a lower speed would help.

V. Stubbs suggested the Town put up a business sign letting people know that they are coming into the business district of Northport. Maseychick asked about little campaign yard signs being used to possibly help along that stretch.

Patten stated that if the Town had letters from businesses and residents in Town, about their concerns and experiences with the speed limit along their stretch of Atlantic Highway, it would help to show the concerns to the Department of Transportation (DOT). Kossuth said he would ask the DOT to do a traffic study for the Town. V. Stubbs stated she would speak with the businesses to get letters explaining traffic issues and concerns.

Animal Control: Town of Northport Animal Control Officer (ACO) Heidi Blood stated that about 3 years ago, she found out from the State Animal Welfare Program, that the ACO could assess fines for barking dogs and the fines would be paid at the Town Office without requiring a court appearance. She provided history and answered questions from the Board on her proposed revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance. She also explained the report that she sends to the Town every month.

Tucker asked Blood whether a barking dog would be considered a “nuisance dog” and if the ACO would make a decision on the fine. Blood clarified the fines and will update the Ordinance with feedback provided by the Board. Pinkham Bebb asked to see the updates completed before moving forward with the revised Animal Control Ordinance to be approved at the Annual Town Meeting.

Contracts: Josh Wellman from DM&J reported that the cost for everything has gone up. He provided the Transportation and Disposal Contract to the Board for metals and demo debris. He explained to the Board the prices and the reasoning for the increase. Tucker asked about the 2% Consumer Price Index (CPI). Wellman will let the Town know in January what the cpi index would be for the second year.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt reported The Utilities Department for NVC is issuing a moratorium for Sewer Applications effective March 26, 2022 through to September 2022. NVC will perform research to determine if the waste water plant is at max capacity.

Wilt reported The NVC has raised \$50,000.00 for a new playground in Ruggles Park. He stated the new playground should be installed as of July 1, 2022. Cedar Works will be installing the new playground.

Wilt reported NVC is moving to a (.gov) web address from (.org), and NVC is in the process of budgeting for 2023.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported the dirt roads in Northport are holding up and except for a couple of bad spots around Town, the roads are doing well.

Town Administrator:

Halloween Storm Update - Kossuth reported President Biden approved the Maine request for reimbursement for the Halloween 2021 storm. He stated the government will be setting up a portal the Town will use to submit approximately \$45,000.00 for reimbursement.

Sand Pile complaint – Kossuth reported that the Town served the complaint to Brad Aitken and he offered to give the Town 300 of the 500 yards the Town is disputing. The Board would accept his offer of 300 yards with conditions that the sand be received before July 1, 2022. Kossuth will contact Aitken and then send him a settlement agreement that he would need to sign and send back to the Town.

Congressionally Directed spending opportunity – Kossuth reported that he had learned from Senator Angus King’s office that federal grant funding may be available for infrastructure projects. He explained what other towns have received in funding in the past and mentioned he informed the Northport Village Corporation President Janae Novotny about the opportunity. He stated there was a deadline of April 15, 2022. The Board agreed for Kossuth to go ahead and submit an application for the Congressionally Directed Spending Opportunity for the Town Office/ Fire Station project.

Bayside “no-wake zone” buoys – Kossuth spoke to Harbor Master Scott Munroe about the “no-wake zone” buoys. Munroe stated he is confident that he received the lowest price.

Acceptable Use Cyber Security Policy - Kossuth reported that as part of our Property and Casualty Insurance from Maine Municipal Association (MMA), we receive “cyber security” coverage. It requires the Town to have a Computer Use Policy in place. Kossuth has been in contact with AngelCom IT Services, to assist the Town with technical concerns on Cyber Security.

Website update - Kossuth reported on the progress of the Town website.

MaineDOT Pedestrian Safety Workshop - Kossuth provided the Board with information from the MaineDOT about a pedestrian safety workshop they will be conducting at the Hutchinson Center on April 27, 2022 from 8 a.m. to Noon. The Board reviewed and discussed the information. Tucker, Morse, and Kossuth will be attending.

Tax Acquired Property Updates (1246 Atlantic Highway) - Dan Small withdrew his offer due to the results of a soil test. Kossuth provided the Board with options for the property, and Realtor Howard Sawyer mentioned taking it off the market. Kossuth will have Sawyer speak with other bidders to see if they're still interested.

Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Executive Committee - Kossuth reported MMA is looking for Executive Committee members. If anyone is interested in running for the committee, they can contact MMA.

Town Clerk: Amy provided the Board with information from Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney about the need for Zoning Board of Appeals members and a possible upcoming ZBA hearing.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants to the Board for review and signature. Eugley reported to the Board what Budget items still require review and discussion. The Board approved the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Executive Session:

Under motion of Shelly Patten, seconded by Pinkham Bebb, the Board voted 3-0 to enter Executive Session Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) at 7:31 pm to discuss the employment, appointment, duties, promotion, or evaluation of Town employee.

Under motion of Shelly Patten, seconded by Tucker, the Board voted 3-0 to return to regular session at 7:55 pm

No action taken

Adjourn: ***Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 pm, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge