

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
April 11, 2022 @ 6:04 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, Robert Metcalf, Tonya Carver, John Carver & Josh Carver.

Citizen Concerns: Metcalf reported to the Board that Knights Pond Road needs to be fixed. He stated that ditching is the biggest concern but it also needs good gravel and a culvert on the left side to help with the water. Josh Carver stated a fire truck would not make it down Knights Pond Road in the Winter and Spring months. He doesn't want the road to be paved but it needs to be fixed. Knights Pond Road has had years of grading but has not had any gravel added to it. Tonya Carver stated she is concerned about the kids that live on Knights Pond Road and how they have to get on the bus up where the pavement ends because the bus can't get down the road in the Winter and Spring months. John Carver stated he built roads for the State back in the 1960's, and the gravel that's on Knights Pond Road is no good. The road needs 12 to 18 inches of new gravel. He also stated the road needs to be ditched and the back slope needs to be stabilized.

Morse stated that ditching needed to happen again on Knights Pond Road. He provided options and answered questions from the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Metcalf and the Carvers for providing the Board with their concerns.

Bid Opening: Kossuth provided the Winter Sand Bid from Frank Feener to the Board for review.

Patten motioned to accept Frank Feener's bid for Winter Sand in the amount of \$45,000.00 (\$15.00 a cubic yard). Seconded by Pinkham Bebb, Board Voted 3-0, Motion passed.

Kossuth provided the Board with the Heating Fuel Bid from Maritime Energy to review.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to accept the bid from Maritime Energy @ \$3.699 per gallon. Seconded by Tucker, Board voted 3-0, Motion passed.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt reported the NVC Overseers voted to apply for the Federal Congressionally Directed Spending Opportunity. The Village would appreciate a letter of support from the Town of Northport to submit with the application. The Utilities Department for NVC is issuing a moratorium, effective March 26, 2022 thru September, 1 2022 for new Sewer applications. Research is needed to see if the plant is at maximum capacity.

Northport School Board: Mark Lynch reported that the School Budget is almost completed for 2022-2023. He stated the budget would be increasing approximately 3.30 %, due to fuel costs, tuition costs and special education cost. Lynch explained the School Board is having a budget meeting April 12, 2022,

and final numbers would be determined then. Tucker asked if any of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MEPERS) funds would be used to lower the school budget. Lynch stated they are proposing to use \$100,000.00.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported the dirt roads in Northport are holding up, and there are a couple of bad spots around Town, but overall the roads are doing well. Morse provided the Board with an update on the washout on Bog Road. He stated there is a lot more water appearing on Bog Road in the last few years. He spoke with F.C. Works and they provided multiple options for repair of the road. The recommended repair from F.C. Works would cost approximately \$40,000.00, which would include paving. F.C. Works is able to complete the repairs immediately. Kossuth stated he could look into grants for climate change and mitigations, to assist with the cost.

Town Administrator:

Sand Pile Complaint – Kossuth reported he sent the settlement agreement with the update of the July 1, 2022 timeline to Mr. Aitken. He reported that he has not heard back from Mr. Aitken but would keep the Board updated to any changes.

Administrative Ordinance – Kossuth asked the Board about possible revisions to the Administrative Ordinance. He explained that Section 4.06B requires that all members of any Committee be a registered voter of Northport. He would like the revision to say “live or own property in the Town of Northport”, which would take away the restriction of being a registered voter. He stated an article would need to be on the warrant for approval at the Annual Town Meeting. The Board provided Kossuth with feedback and decided to keep the ordinance as is.

Code Enforcement - Kossuth explained to the Board about LD2003, “An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions,” and the impacts that the law, if passed, could have on the Town and Code Enforcement. After discussion, the Board decided to send a letter to the State Representative and Senator from the Town of Northport stating the Town’s questions and concerns about the bill.

Kossuth also reported that Toupie Rooney, the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO), would like to discuss the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and updates needed on the ordinance at the next Board Meeting. He stated that she would like to increase the stipends for Planning Board members.

Fee Schedule - Kossuth provided the Board with a copy of the Transfer Station fees. The Board reviewed and discussed the fee schedule. The Board agreed that feedback from Tim Patten, Transfer Station Manager, was needed before further changes were made. Kossuth will provide his research on the Fee Schedule, at the April 25, 2022 meeting.

Website update - Kossuth provided the Board with the new design on the new Town website. The Board reviewed the changes and provided feedback and suggestions.

Congressionally Directed Spending Opportunity - Kossuth provided the Board with the application for the Congressionally Directed Spending Opportunity to review. The Board provided their suggestions and agreed for Kossuth to go ahead and submit the application with edits for the Congressionally Directed Spending Opportunity.

Town Clerk: Amy provided the Board with the February 12, 2022 and February 26, 2022 Selectboard Meeting Minutes for review. The Board provided feedback and approved the minutes with correction.

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.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Kossuth reported that he received 5 permits applications from Great Works Internet (GWI), for 31 poles on Beech Hill Road, Shore Road, and Upper Bluff Road. GWI will be placing the poles in line with current Central Maine Power (CMP) poles. Discussion was had and due to additional research needed, the Board postponed approval of the permits until additional information was received.

Adjourn: Tucker *motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm, seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0, Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge