

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
April 25, 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, Ann Frenning Kossuth, William Larry Wagner, Bryan Field, Kenneth Kornfield, Pegi Miller, Jeffrey Wilt, Toupie Rooney, Chris McCoy from Great Works Internet (GWI).

Citizen Concerns: Chris McCoy from GWI zoomed in to the meeting. Kossuth reported that the Town received the Pole Permit applications from GWI to fill “pole gaps” on Upper Bluff Road, Shore Road, and Beech Hill Road. McCoy answered questions from the Board and attendees. He stated the Permits were to run fiber optic cable for high-speed internet. He also explained that there were about 200 residents without high speed internet on Beech Hill Road. Ann Frenning Kossuth inquired about a portion of Beech Hill Road that has no homes, and would it be possible to stop the poles at that area. McCoy stated that it would be a violation of the grant that GWI received.

Larry Wagner (482 Beech Hill Road) asked if other residents beyond him on Beech Hill Road toward Belfast Road (Route 52) would be served. GWI stated if they stopped at his property, then the residents heading toward Belfast Road would not be served at this time. Wagner asked if there was a short term way to avoid running fiber optic cable through his property, and he would be willing to pay to have it underground. Kossuth mentioned it would be 8 poles for about a mile near Wagner’s property. Wagner stated he would accept whatever decision the Board decided, but he wants to preserve that area and the beauty of Northport, and by putting in power lines, the beauty is lost. Frenning Kossuth asked GWI if they could double check to see if there are any other options. Frenning Kossuth also suggested approving 4 of the Pole Permits, and hold off on the 5th Pole Permit until the Town hears back from McCoy. McCoy reported the intention is to stay in the right of way, and there would be an additional cost to burying the fiber in conduit for that mile.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to approve the 4 Pole Permits received from GWI. Discussion was had.

GWI stated they will amend the Pole Permit application to include underground conduit for that one area. Pinkham Bebb asked if the extra funding for underground fiber optics would need to be paid by the Town of Northport. McCoy stated the grant would pay for the extra cost for underground fiber optics in that one area.

Pinkham Bebb amended the motion to include all 5 Pole Permits with an amendment of one permit to include underground from pole CCI 77 to pole CCI 1, seconded by Tucker, Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

NVC: Wilt reported changes on the Northport Village Corporation Zoning Ordinance. Wilt reported the updated NVC Zoning Ordinance includes having to go through a Review Committee if a building is within

the Historical District in the Village. Wilt will give Toupie Rooney, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town, a draft of the Ordinance to review once they have the final draft.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported FC Works completed the repair and replacement of the culvert on Bog Road with a cement culvert. He also asked the Board when they want to put the roadwork out for bid. The Board stated as soon as possible. The bids will be due back Friday, May 20, 2022, for opening at the meeting on May 23, 2022.

Town Administrator: Kossuth reported the Town has three residents willing to be members on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Bryan Field, Kenneth Kornfield, and Pegi Miller all introduced themselves and provided their backgrounds and qualifications.

Tucker motioned to appoint all three residents to the ZBA, seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Transfer Station: Kossuth reported to the Board the Town's need for new Transfer Station stickers. Discussion was had about pricing. The Board agreed to increase the price of the stickers from \$2.00 to \$3.00 starting July 1, 2022, which will give time for communicating the increase to the residents.

Spring cleanup: Kossuth reported on the details of the Town Cleanup, which will be on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The Town could provide free trash bags and stickers, while offering coffee/water and snacks at the Town Office. Tucker will check with Hammond Lumber to see if they would be able to donate some trash bags. Kossuth will get information out to the residents of Northport.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Kossuth provided the Board with the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. The Board reviewed the warrant and provided feedback.

Patten motioned to approve the Annual Town Meeting warrant with corrections, seconded by Tucker, Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the minutes for February 28, 2022, March 07, 2022 and March 14, 2022 to the Board to review. The Board approved the minutes with corrections.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants to the Board for review and signatures. The Board approved and signed the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants.

Old Business: None at this time

New Business: Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney reported on the responsibilities of the Planning Board. Rooney also reported on current building fees and changes she would like to see to the fee schedule and Building Permit and Shoreland Zoning ordinances. She spoke with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who provided clarification on the law for Shoreland Zoning projects. She provided the Board with the following areas and updates that need to be made to the Building Permit and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances.

- Pictures need to be taken before and after the project.
- Setbacks need to be 100' and we currently have 75'.
- The Building Permit verbiage on Septic Systems for people living in a camper as a residence.
- Clarification on what a residence is.
- Dwelling units

Miller asked Rooney what the penalties are and how it's handled. Rooney reported on the current process for penalties.

Rooney will make the updates to the Ordinances and provide final draft to the Board for a future public hearing date. The Board agreed May 9, 2022 would be the public hearing date for the proposed Ordinances revisions.

Fee schedule: Tucker mentioned that some of the fees could be updated. Rooney stated the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals fees should be increased. Wilt stated people that want to do a project will pay a fee because they want to get it done. He stated the fees should be high enough so people will take it seriously. Fees can be re-evaluated by the Board from time to time. Patten stated the Town needs to be open to increasing fees. Pinkham Bebb asked Rooney if she would be able to provide the Board with proposed fees changes for the next Board meeting. Rooney suggested increasing the Planning Board fees from \$125.00 to \$150.00. The Board thanked Rooney for providing her knowledge and feedback.

Adjourn: Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge