

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
August 22, 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, Jeffrey Wilt

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt reported the NVC Annual Meeting took place on August 9 Celine Bewsher and Fred Lincoln were elected as an Overseer. He stated there were some changes of Overseers on various NVC Committees, and at the last Overseer's meeting, they passed the new NVC Zoning Ordinance. The Playground will be open between 8 am to 9 pm, August 21, 2022 was the life guards last day for the season.

Road Commissioner:

Cliff Road: Morse reported that Cliff Road repairs were insufficient and so the contractor will have to come back to fix it.

Road Work: Morse reported on the ditching and gravel work on Knights Pond Road. Kossuth reported that he has received multiple complaints about Knights Pond Road on the Atlantic Highway end. The entrance is being blocked by vehicles and people have been told that they cannot walk on that road. Kossuth sent a letter to David Hirschfeld, who owns the abutting property, about blocking the road and provided a picture of the truck blocking the road. Hirschfeld stated that he would have the truck moved, and he also asked if the Town would let him do some work on the pond side of Knights Pond Road. Kossuth reported that he told Hirschfeld to contact the Road Commissioner about that road work.

Kossuth also reported that Brad Aitken said that he will be delivering sand on August 23, 2022.

Town Administrator:

Maine Municipal Association (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC): Kossuth reported he will be serving on the LPC and MMA is asking for input from municipalities on what MMA should work on with the legislature in the upcoming session. MMA sent a two-question survey to complete, and provided the Town with examples of what they have worked on over the last several legislative sessions. Kossuth provided the Board with past ideas that MMA has supported that the Town may want to revisit.

Tax Stabilization Law: Kossuth reported to the Board about the new property tax stabilization law for seniors. Property owners who have had a homestead in Maine for 10 years will have to apply every year, and the taxes will freeze at the previous tax amount.

Belfast ambulance: Kossuth provided the Board with the Ambulance Contract between the Town and the City of Belfast for this year with Belfast ambulance. Upon review the Board signed the contract for services in the amount of \$18,196.00.

Waldo County Budget Committee: Kossuth reported on the candidates that are on the ballot for the Waldo County Budget Committee. Upon review the Board unanimously voted for Thomas Wagner.

Great Works Internet (GWI): Kossuth provided the Board with an update on what GWI has completed. They are still anticipating to have fiber laid and the first phase of the project completed by the end of Fall 2022.

Cannabis reimbursement: Kossuth reported the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP), a part of the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS), will reimburse municipalities up to \$20,000 for costs associated with opting in to Maine's Adult Use Cannabis Program. Qualifying expenses must have occurred in the previous three years, and must be associated with a municipality's process of opting in to the adult use cannabis market. Kossuth will submit a request for reimbursement for the Town.

Town Office: Kossuth reported that the Town did not get approved for funding assistance for a new Town Office. Kossuth will be talking with staff in Senator King's office to see what other options the Town may have to help with funding.

Investment Committee: Kossuth provided an update on members for the Investment Committee. Ovid Santoro, Ann Frenning Kossuth and Bart Calder have all volunteered to join the committee. The Board invited all three to the next Select Board meeting to be appointed.

Town Clerk: Due to the absence of Eldridge at the July 11 meeting, Kossuth provided the Board with minutes from July 11, 2022. The Board provided feedback and approved the minutes with corrections.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants to the Select Board for review, signature, and approval. The Board approved the Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants. She reported the Town's audit will be September 7th and 8th. Eugley presented the Municipal Officers' Policy and Disbursement of Education Costs, Treasurer's Disbursement for State of Maine Fees Policy and Treasurer's Disbursement for Employee Wages and Benefit Policy for approval and signatures. Eugley explained that these policies need to be approved annually. The Select Board approved and signed the policies.

Old Business: None at this time

New Business: None at this time

Adjourn: Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge