

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
October 11, 2022 @ 6:09 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-absent

Present: Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Earl Cushman, Basil Littlefield and Barb Littlefield (Lawns R Us), Jake Brown and Eric Brown (JBRH Excavation).

Bid Opening: Kossuth provided the Board with four bids for roadside brush cutting, and the Board discussed the merits of each of the bids.

Tucker motioned to accept the bid and award the contract for \$23,450.00 to JBRH, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Citizen Concerns: Earl Cushman is concerned about students crossing from Cross Street across Bayside Road to the Drinkwater School. He painted a crosswalk on Bayside Road near the school's driveway to give students a single place to cross Bayside Road. He knows that it does not meet Maine DOT standards, but he felt that something had to be done, and he was frustrated that the Town painted over the crosswalk.

Pinkham Bebb explained that the Town has added signage, and will be painting "School Ahead" and adding white stripes to the road along the bridge, and will be upgrading the flashing "School Zone" signs. Tucker expressed appreciation for Cushman's concern, but pointed out that a crosswalk done improperly could actually be more dangerous than none at all. Tucker asked Cushman to let the Board know if he finds any funding opportunities to pay for this or any additional work to the area.

NVC: Kossuth reported that the NVC is organizing trick-or-treating in the Village on Halloween, and Celine Bewsher, the Overseer who is spearheading the event, would like to advertise it at the Drinkwater School. The school can advertise only those events sponsored by the school itself or the Town. After discussion, the Board decided that it would rather not sponsor the event, but is happy to help spread the word about it, through the Town's website, Facebook page, and newsletter.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported he had been speaking with Brad Aitken about delivering the rest of the sand, and Aitken said he would deliver more next week. Morse reported that he spoke with the brush cutting contractor about the expected end date for the work, which can be in November.

Town Administrator:

Crest Street: Kossuth reported that he spoke with the Town Attorney about any potential liability for the Town because of culverts draining storm water runoff across a resident's property. Kossuth reported that the Town Attorney did not foresee any liability for the drainage of rainwater across private property. The resident has asked the Town to install a catch basin and culverts on his property to handle the runoff. The Board agreed that the Town need not take any action.

School Zone Signs: Kossuth reported that he received a quote for approximately \$6,500.00 for two school zone signs, with solar power, battery back-up, a single flashing beacon, and a programmable timer. The Board instructed Kossuth to purchase the signs.

Town Office/Fire Station Project: Kossuth reported that, under state law, the Town could borrow up to 7.5% of the Town's state valuation, which would be approximately \$30 million. The Town may qualify for a US Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant to fund part of the project. Before the Board meets with the architect again, Kossuth is collecting input from the Board and Town Office staff for any modifications to the most recent plans from 2019.

MMA Annual Convention: Kossuth provided the Board with a recap of the convention. One of the speakers had emphasized the importance of long-range planning for municipalities and communicating with residents. The Board discussed ideas for approaching both, and asked Kossuth to put together a handout for Election Day that includes the results of last year's survey on how to spend the American Rescue Plan Act funds and asks residents what they would like to see from the Town.

MMA Workers Compensation Safety Incentive Program: Kossuth reported that although the Town did not qualify for the discount this year, he met with a representative from MMA to discuss how the Town can qualify for the discount next year.

Maine Energy Oil Delivery: Although Maine Energy no longer has the Town's heating oil contract, they delivered oil last week. They delivered approximately 100 gallons at \$4.191 a gallon, which cost approximately \$50 more than the Town's current contract price with Maritime Energy. The Town still has a contract with Maine Energy for propane. Eugley spoke with Maine Energy, and they will not deliver any more heating oil.

Town Clerk:

Minutes: Kossuth provided the Board with the September 26 minutes. The Board provided feedback and approved the minutes with corrections.

Abatements: Eldridge provided the Board with an abatement request for Map U14, Lot 1-2, to correct a discrepancy between the property card on file and the entry in the TRIO system. The Board approved and signed the abatement. Eldridge also reported that she will be mailing 30-day foreclosure notices to delinquent taxpayers.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for review and signature. The Board approved and signed the Payroll and Accounts Payable warrants.

Old Business: Kossuth mentioned that GWI has laid conduit on Beech Hill Road for fiber optic cable, but he has not received any recent updates from GWI on its progress.

New Business: None at this time.

Adjourn: Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge

