

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

January 24, 2023 @ 6:06 pm

Chair: Shelly Patten

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Municipal Officer: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley- Approved absence

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt

Present: Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Hank Lang, Paul Rooney, Toupie Rooney, Jim Dorsky, Amanda Austin, Jeffrey Wilt.

Citizen Concerns: Jim Dorsky from Gartley & Dorsky introduced himself and explained a proposal on behalf of a client from Little River Lane. He asked the Town to change the minimum lot size and shore frontage in the Town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to match the State's minimums, which are less restrictive than the Town's. He provided the Board with copies of the relevant section of the Town Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, the State Department of Environmental Protection guidance, and a map of his client's property to review.

He would like to have an article with his proposed amendments put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney provided her comments to the Board on the reasons for the difference between the Town's requirements and the state minimums. Pinkham Bebb stated she would like to research the history of the Ordinance before providing a decision. The Board will look into it and have Kossuth be in touch with Dorsky.

Town Office/Fire Station/Community Center Project: Amanda Austin from 2A architects llc introduced herself and provided the Board with her knowledge of what she had discussed with the Town when she had last met with the Board in early 2020. The Board provided Austin with current concerns and new revisions to the old plan. Austin reported she had a full schedule and determined this fall would be a good timeframe to have a follow up discussion, and stated new designs would cost about \$12,000.00. The Board thanked Austin for her time and looked forward to her feedback in the fall.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt reported the Village is looking to hire an Office Manager. Wilt stated the Governance Committee is looking at changes needed on the Zoning Ordinance that defines lot coverage. He also reported Northport Village Corporation Utilities Department has hired Water Quality & Compliance Services, Inc., from Wiscasset, Maine, for wastewater and drinking water system management services. They will oversee the wastewater treatment plant for NVC.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported the overhead door broke at the salt and sand shed on Atlantic Highway. He has temporarily fixed the door but is waiting for PDQ Door company to repair it. He also spoke to Mike Alley from B & R Electric LLC about replacing the lights at the salt/sand shed. Further discussion about the lights is needed, but Morse will provide updates when available. Morse reported an area on Knights Pond Road had washed out. He provided the Board with options for future repairs to the area on Knights Pond Road.

Plowing Specification for 2023-2026: Morse provided the Board with feedback on updates to the plowing specifications. Tucker suggested having a priority road list for contractors to know the importance and frequency of plowing the roads in Northport. The Board agreed to have verbiage put into the specifications about the Road

Commissioner having the discretion to provide the contractor with a priority road list. Kossuth took the feedback from the Board and Road Commissioner and will update the specifications and advertise in the paper.

Morse also reported that parking on High Street is an issue. Plow trucks are unable to get through the road because cars are parked on the road. Morse suggested sending letters to property owners or having a parking ban during winter months.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney provided the Board with an update on the Butters Cottage in the Village. She sent a letter in April, 2022 notifying the owners that she considered the building potentially unsafe and in need of repair, and establishing a schedule for completing any necessary repairs within one year. Because the owners have not made any progress towards repairing the building, Rooney sent a letter to the owners stating that she intends to request a dangerous building hearing if they do not repair the building in the required timeframe. She would like to hire Gartley & Dorsky to perform a dangerous building investigation. The investigation will cost between \$700.00 and \$1,000.00. She has spoken to Town Attorney Bill Kelly about the process for the Board to determine the building to be dangerous.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to approve the expense to cover the cost up to \$1,000.00 for an investigation to be performed by Gartley and Dorsky, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Town Administrator:

Kossuth reported Thomas Stevens sent a proposal to reset and repair the stones for the Cemetery across from the Town Office for \$4,500.00. More details are needed in the proposal and Kossuth will follow up with Mr. Stevens.

Kossuth also stated the Town received the contract from Moore's Septic Inc. for 2 years of services at \$8,000.00 per year.

Kossuth reported House Representative Jan Dodge introduced a bill, LD153, that would allow the County Commissioners to send the proposed county budget by email or regular mail, instead of the current requirement that it be sent certified or hand-delivered. Kossuth presented the idea to Dodge about a year or so ago, and the bill was just introduced in the new legislative session. Kossuth asked the Board to sign a letter of support for the bill.

Great Works Internet (GWI) fiber optic internet update: GWI has been installing fiber optic cable in Town this week. They have offered the Town terms for a service contract. Kossuth spoke with Consolidated Communication about the Town contract. Kossuth provided the Board with options available from GWI and Consolidated Communication. The Board authorized Kossuth to change over to GWI

Transfer Station update: Kossuth reported speaking to a Northport resident about a proposal to work at the Transfer station while Tim is out. Kossuth provided the proposal to the Board and will follow up with Eugley about possible options to accomplish the proposal. A Get Well Card will be available at the Town Office for anyone to sign for Tim Patten.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the December 27, 2022 minutes to the Board for review. The Board approved the minutes with corrections.

Finance Director: Kossuth reported on behalf of Eugley and provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for review and Approval.

Tucker motioned to transfer \$12,000.00 from the Marine Special Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the Northport Village Corporation appropriation as approved under Article #10 of the June 6, 2022 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Old Business: Pinkham Bebb reported Mr. Martin the Edna Drinkwater School Principal, wanted to thank the Town for the new school signs.

New Business: The Board agreed that the Annual Town Meeting will be Tuesday June 19, 2023 outside on the basketball court at the Drinkwater School, and the Annual Town Election will be Saturday, June 17, 2023.

Adjourn: ***Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge