

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

January 09, 2023 @ 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, Bill Kelly, Jeffrey Wilt, Mark Lynch.

Citizen Concerns: Lynch provided an update on the condition of Upper Bluff Road. His hope is Upper Bluff Road will be a part of the 2024 budget to be paved.

He also reported the School Board has been in contract discussions with teachers. Due to inflation, an increase in teacher salaries may be a part of the 2024 budget.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt reported the Overseers approved the tax collection invoice from the Town. Their utilities superintendent, Dick McElhane, is retiring and they are looking at hiring Water Quality & Compliance Services Inc. (WQCSI) for management services of Village wastewater and drinking water operations. The Governance Committee has been talking about the new zoning ordinance. There is language about paved driveways that they need to clarify and update. Eugley reported that the Town has not received the 2022 NVC funds request. Wilt thanked Eugley and will pass this information along to the appropriate person.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported on a pole permit for Upper Bluff Road and the new school zone signs for Bayside Road. A discussion was had about who will maintain the school zone signs. Lynch said he will check with the school and find the appropriate person to operate and maintain the school signs.

Morse also stated the door on the salt/sand shed needs maintenance and the lights need to be replaced with more cost effective lights. There is sand at the shed on Beech Hill Road for residents to use.

Plowing Specifications for 2023-2026: Kossuth provided the Board with a draft of the Winter Road Maintenance Specifications for 2023-2026. The Board and Morse reviewed the specifications and provided Kossuth with suggested edits. Kossuth will research suggestions provided and have updates for the plowing specifications at a later Board meeting.

Town Counsel: Town Attorney Bill Kelly reported on statutory abandonment, rights of way, and public easements of roads. He explained that statutory abandonment just changes the status of the road, and public use over time changes to a public easement, where the width of the road is determined based on how the road was used. He also spoke about the Town's authority to remove obstructions for roads, public easement and woods roads.

Kelly described the multiple step process that the Town would have to follow to declare a road abandoned, which would include notice to abutters, a public hearing, and written findings by the Select Board.

The Board asked Kelly about multiple scenarios. Discussion was had and Kelly provided the Board with appropriate handling of each scenario. He stated if the Town wanted to discontinue a road, which is different than abandonment, which would require a different process, and would include a Town Meeting vote.

Kelly suggested the Town have an inventory of all the town roads and schedule a review every few years. The DOT should have a list of roads for the Town of Northport and suggested going to the County Commissioner Office to see what records they have for Northport.

Town Administrator:

GWI Broadband: Kossuth reported GWI has started taking orders from customers and stated February as a possible completion date for Phase 1.

Investment Committee: Kossuth reported the Investment Committee is going to provide the Board with a draft investment policy. The Committee has reached out to multiple Towns to research multiple investment strategies. The Committee will be at the February 13 Board meeting.

Transfer Station: Kossuth spoke to Richie Taylor about temporarily decreasing the Transfer Station days from 3 to 2 days. Taylor suggested having the Transfer Station open Thursday, Friday and Saturday when it returns to three days. Discussion was had and the Board agreed to temporarily close the Transfer Station on Tuesdays and be open Thursdays and Saturdays. Kossuth suggested having the “GoFundMe” link and information for Tim Patten on the Town web page and in the Town newsletter and the Board agreed.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the December 12, 2022 and December 19, 2022 minutes to the Board for review. The Board approved the December 12, 2022 and December 19 2022 minutes with corrections.

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

Old Business: None

New Business: Gartley and Dorsky will be at the January 23 meeting to discuss changing the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. 2A architects will also be at the meeting to discuss the design of a new Town Office.

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge