

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

March 13, 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 – Excused absence

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt

Present: Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, David Munson, Tim Parker (Waldo County Lawn and Order), and Matthew Eddy and Adi Philson (Midcoast Council of Governments).

Citizen Concerns: Munson is interested in buying a parcel at the intersection of Priest Road and Flanders Road, on a stretch that the Town has not maintained for many years. He wanted to know the status of those roads and the Town’s plans, if any, for maintaining them. Kossuth reported that the Town Attorney, Bill Kelly, had presented to the Board on this issue in January, and Kelly had explained to the Board that if the Town never accepted those portions of Priest Road and Flanders Road as town ways, then the Town does not have any obligation to maintain them. Kossuth also reported that the Town has not yet finished its research on whether the Town ever had accepted these segments as town ways. Munson asked if he would be allowed to plow the portion if the Town did not. The Board told Munson that they would have answers about the status of the roads at the next meeting, on March 27, and he should come back then.

Bid Openings:

Heating Fuel: Kossuth presented the Board with the bid for heating fuel for 2023-2024 from Maritime Energy. The Board reviewed and discussed the bid.

Patten motioned to award the heating fuel contract to Maritime Energy, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): Kossuth presented the Board with the bid for MSW for 2023-2025 from Pine Tree Waste, Inc. The Board reviewed and discussed the bid.

Patten motioned to award the MSW contract to Pine Tree Waste, Inc., seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Cemetery Mowing: Kossuth presented the Board with the three bids for cemetery mowing, from Knight’s Property Maintenance, Waldo County Lawn and Order, and Patriot Landscaping and Construction, for 2023-2024. The Board reviewed and discussed the bids.

Patten motioned to award the cemetery mowing contract to Waldo County Lawn and Order, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Recycling: Kossuth presented the Board with a proposed contract for recycling services from Josh Wellman at DM&J Waste, Inc., who was unable to attend. Given the size of the proposed increase to the contract price, Tucker wanted to put the contract out to bid, and the Board agreed. Kossuth will put out a request for bids in the paper, and the Board will open the bids at the April 10 Select Board meeting.

Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG): Matthew Eddy and Adi Philson presented to the Board on behalf of MCOG, which provides economic development and planning support, among other things, to communities from Brunswick to Bucksport. Their presentation highlighted some of MCOG's current and previous projects, and elements of MCOG's strategic plan. MCOG would like the Town to join as a member and take advantage of not just MCOG's services, but regional opportunities with other member communities as well. MCOG and the Board had a lively discussion, and the Board thanked Eddy and Philson for their time. Philson will follow up with Kossuth with the presentation materials and details about membership.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Novotny reported the new wastewater supervisor, Water Quality and Compliance Services, Inc., is planning to apply on behalf of the NVC for a grant for funds to improve sustainability of the wastewater treatment for the Village. She also reported that the Overseers have been working on revising the fee schedule and policies for Community Hall, and that Northport residents and Village residents would be given priority for using the hall. The Governance Committee has been working on a revision to a definition in the Zoning Ordinance for "impervious surfaces." The Overseers have begun their budget process for the next year. Some landowners on Bay Street are working with the Village to figure out how best to repair the seawall in front of their property.

Roads & Bridges: Morse asked about the status of FEMA reimbursement for the 2021 Halloween storm. Kossuth reported that he has received after-the-fact approval from Maine DEP for the culvert replacement and repair on Bog Road and Knights Pond Road, and is still awaiting approval from the Army Corps for the Bog Road culvert replacement. Morse reported that the dirt roads have been holding up well, but he is concerned about the upcoming storm, since plowing soft dirt roads can damage them. He is also preparing his work list for the FY24 budget.

Town Administrator:

Special Amusement Ordinance: Kossuth presented proposed revisions to the Special Amusement Ordinance to clarify the timeframe for the Board to act on an application, and remove duplicative language. The Board agreed with the proposed revisions, and Kossuth will post a notice for a public hearing on those changes so that they can be included in the Town Meeting warrant.

Waldo County Recognition of Municipal Officer: Kossuth presented a certificate to Patten from the Waldo County Commissioners, thanking her for her service to the Town. Patten is currently the longest-serving member of the Board.

MMA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) Update: Kossuth reported on the recent LPC meetings and the status of various bills, including the bill to share 12% of cannabis excise tax with the towns where the sales occurred, and other bills to fix the tax stabilization law (LD290) and the accessory-dwelling unit law (LD2003).

Longevity bonus: Kossuth reported that the Town's Employee Policies and Procedures award a longevity bonus only up to 25 years of service. Eugley has recently celebrated her 30th anniversary with the Town,

and Kossuth asked the Board to approve an additional \$250 to the \$1250 the Town had appropriated last year for her longevity. (\$1250 is the bonus for 25 years of service.)

Patten motioned to award an additional \$250 to Eugley for longevity, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Kossuth will be drafting revisions to the Employee Policies and Procedures to allow for increasing longevity bonuses for employees with 30 or more years of service.

Minutes: Kossuth provided the February 27 and March 6, 2023, minutes 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 approval. The Board approved and signed the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants.

Eugley provided the Board with the resolution that Fidelity requires from the Board for opening accounts. The Board chose not to act on the resolution now and will wait until Eldridge is present and able to sign them.

Eugley asked the Board for authority to transfer funds from The First to Camden National Bank, since Camden is currently paying a higher interest rate, by almost one percentage point.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to move \$1 million from The First to Camden National Bank, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Old Business:

New Business:

Town Charitable Funds: Pinkham Bebb would like to see the Town perform more outreach to residents about the various charitable fund accounts that the Town holds, such as Warm Neighbors and Wyman Needy. She would also like to see the Town be able to accept donations to those funds through the website. She suggested having the newsletter and the *Republican Journal* column carry information about them. The Board agreed that that would be a good idea.

The Board discussed the merits of joining MCOG as a member community. Pinkham Bebb suggested that she would like to see the Town take full advantage of the membership benefits if the Town were to join. Tucker was concerned about what exactly we would get for the Town's membership. Patten suggested that some of the MCOG programs could be a big help to small businesses in Town. The Board agreed that it could be worthwhile, but they will wait to see the materials MCOG sends.

Animal Control: Patten raised a concern about the responsiveness of the Town's Animal Control Officer (ACO), after an incident in which Patten had called the ACO for help in responding to a cat struck by a car, and the ACO never returned Patten's phone call.

Adjourn: Patten motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth