

Town of Northport  
Special Select Board Meeting  
March 20, 2023 @ 6:11 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, Paul Rooney, and Janae Novotny.

**Fire Department:** Under the Town’s Administrative Ordinance, the Fire Department is a separate organization, and the Board asked for Chief Rooney’s input on amending the ordinance to make the Fire Department a Town department, like the First Responders. Rooney agreed that that amendment made sense, and he also suggested that the ordinance be amended to have the chief’s salary set by the Select Board, rather than the firefighters, and to also specify that firefighters are paid hourly. Pinkham Bebb asked Eugley about the paid time off (PTO) accrual for firefighters under state law and Town policy. Eugley explained that under state law, firefighters accrue one hour of PTO for each 40 hours worked, but there is currently no provision in the Town policy for firefighters to cash out their accrued PTO, and most firefighters only accrue an hour or so each year. The Board decided to make no changes to the PTO accrual or cash-out policy at this time, given how small the amounts are. Rooney reported that Engine 1 may be nearing the end of its service and would likely need to be replaced in five years or so. Rooney reported that a new truck may cost upwards of \$400,000, and the Town currently has approximately \$60,000 in the Fire Truck Replacement Special Reserve Fund. Pinkham Bebb asked whether some of the Fire Truck Replacement Special Reserve Fund could be invested in CDs or Treasuries to generate better returns. Eugley agreed that that would be possible. The Board thanked Rooney for his time and service.

**Finance Director:** Eugley presented the Board with some updated pages for the FY24 budget workbooks.

Eugley and the Board reviewed each account in the workbook, and the Board made some recommendations for Eugley to update for the next budget meeting.

Eugley recommended that an article be added to the warrant for the Town Meeting to change the name of the First Responders Equipment Fund to the First Responders Equipment and Operating Fund, to give the First Responders more flexibility in where those reserve funds are spent. The Board agreed that that made sense and asked Kossuth to draft a warrant article.

The Board discussed the Transfer Station at length, including ways to make recycling cost the Town less than it currently does, possibly by adding some fee for residents to recycle, either a pay-as-you-throw program for recycling, or an annual fee for unlimited recycling, or by introducing bins for sorting recyclables. Patten suggested that the Board continue to think about possible solutions for discussion at the next meeting.

**Adjourn: Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, seconded by Patten. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth