

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
April 24, 2023 @ 6:02 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-not present

Present: Shelly Patten, Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Toupie Rooney, Stephen Hemenway, William Kelly.

Citizen Concerns: Mr. Hemenway asked the Board if they have heard of any progress on LD214 (An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with a Population of More than 10,000). The Board provided Mr. Hemenway with their knowledge of LD214.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney reported that she has spoken to Sandra Butters and James Butters about their cottage in the Village at 9 North Avenue. Rooney hired Gartley & Dorsky Engineering & Surveying to complete a Dangerous Building report. She provided the Dangerous Building report to the Board for review. Rooney stated that Sandra Butters has spoken with Scott Pellerin about picking up the building and repairing the foundation. Rooney also spoke with James Butters, who stated that he would like to sell the cottage. Rooney provided the owners on record a year to fix the cottage and with no actions taken, the cottage is in worse condition. Rooney would like move to forward with a Dangerous Building proceeding.

Town Attorney William Kelly explained what the Town would need to do to start a Dangerous Building proceeding. He also stated the Town could complete a Consent Agreement with the property owners, and explained how it is another way to work with the property owners. Kelly answered questions from the Board on both options. The Board thanked Rooney and Kelly for all of their work.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to have Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney move forward with a Dangerous Building proceeding, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Kossuth reported that a parcel of land on Upper Bluff Road has a well that was placed in the Town right of-way. The owners are asking for an easement and Kossuth read a letter explaining what the owners are proposing to do to the well to make it safe. Kossuth reported that, in the past, the Town has entered into a Revocable License Agreement with the property owner in similar situations. Tucker stated if the owners could confirm their plan in writing, she would agree to a license. Kossuth agreed to talk with the owners about the license and the conditions.

NVC: Not present

Road Commissioner: Morse reported about 5 loads of salt have been ordered and will be delivered soon. The grading on dirt roads is being completed by Wellman Paving. They are working on Pitcher Pond Road, Upper Bluff Road and at the Transfer Station. Morse is planning to get the sweeper to sweep the roads. He also talked to GWI about setting up a shed down at the salt/sand shed on Route One for GWI's switching equipment.

Town Administrator:

Municipal Clerk's Week Proclamation: Kossuth read the 54th Annual Municipal Clerk's Week Proclamation to the Board, and then provided the Board with the Proclamation to sign. The Board thanked Eldridge and Deputy Clerk Robin Coombs for all their work.

Transfer Station hours: Kossuth reported he talked to Richie Taylor at the Transfer Station about resuming 3 days a week schedule. Kossuth tried to contact Tim Patten but was unable to speak with him. The Board suggested getting a third person for the summer months to cover the Transfer Station, which would help with coverage while Patten is still out.

Town Meeting Warrant articles: Kossuth provided the full warrant to the Board to review. The Board reviewed and provided edits to the warrant. Kossuth updated the Town warrant and provided the revised warrant to the Board for signatures.

VFW flags agreement: Kossuth provided the Board with a waiver to review regarding volunteers installing of flags on utility poles. The Board reviewed the waiver and approved Kossuth providing volunteers with the waiver to sign before attaching flags to utility poles in Northport.

Roadside Clean-up planning: Kossuth reported plans are going well. May 6, 2023, is the clean-up date from 8am to noon. Old transfer stickers will be used for the trash, Hammond Lumber is donating trash bags and gloves and The Scone Goddess is donating scones.

MCOG Waldo County Planning Coordination Meeting: Kossuth reported he and Celine Bewsher from the NVC recently attended a meeting hosted by the Midcoast Council of Governments to learn about funding opportunities for municipalities such as business grants, climate mitigation grants, and housing opportunities.

Regional coordination with Lincolnville: Kossuth reported that he heard from Lincolnville's Town Administrator David Kinney that the Lincolnville Select Board would be interested in meeting with the Northport Select Board after the two towns' upcoming annual meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

MMA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) update: Kossuth reported the committee talked about some of the bills coming through the legislature. Of particular interest for Northport are bills that are supposed to correct problems with LD 2003 (an act to implement the recommendations of the commission to increase housing opportunities in Maine by studying zoning and land use restrictions), and LD 290 (an act to stabilize property taxes for individuals 65 years of age or older who own a homestead for at least 10 years). The LPC meets again on May 25.

Town Clerk: Nothing to report at this time.

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 at this time

New Business: None at this time

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Amy Eldridge