

Town of Northport  
Select Board Meeting  
February 13, 2023 @ 6:06 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, Kelley Dufflemeyer, Sandy Wallace, Ann Frenning Kossuth, Ovid Santoro, Bart Calder, and Janae Novotny.

**Citizen Concerns:** Dufflemeyer, from Knights Pond Road, expressed her concerns to the Board about paving part of Knights Pond Road. She provided the Board with multiple observations from years past. Her concern is about the speed on Knights Pond Road, and how paving the entire road might lead to more speeding. Morse reported that the plan is to extend the pavement to the bottom of the hill after the cemetery. He stated that the Department of Transportation (DOT) could conduct a speed study on Knights Pond Road to see about lowering the speed limit, because the DOT establishes speed limits. Wallace, who also lives on Knights Pond Road, stated the road in the summer is very busy and the corner by the farm is always dangerous. The Board discussed making changes to the road to make it look narrower to slow traffic. Pinkham Bebb suggested Dufflemeyer get neighborhood support and send letters to the DOT to ask for a speed study. The Board thanked Dufflemeyer and Wallace for their knowledge and concerns with Knights Pond Road.

**Investment Committee:** Kossuth provided the Board with a draft of an Investment Policy, developed by the Investment Committee, for feedback. Santoro stated the Investment Committee has spoken with many towns and cities to learn about their investment practices. The Board asked the Investment Committee about any risks. Committee members stated the risk is doing nothing, because very low-risk investments like CDs and US Treasury bonds will almost always provide better returns than checking accounts, and can better keep pace with inflation. The Board reviewed financial reports provided by Eugley to determine how much the Town could invest, and for how long. Eugley reported the Town has a CD with The First Bank maturing on February 23, 2023. The Board agreed not to reinvest in another CD just yet and to research other options for investing the funds. The Investment Committee spoke about who would monitor the Towns portfolio once established. The Investment Committee noted the suggestions provided by the Board on the Investment Policy, and will provide an updated draft at a future meeting. The Board thanked the Investment Committee for all they have done for the Town, and was very appreciative of their time and knowledge.

**School Board:**

**Potential for Warming Center at Drinkwater School:** Wallace, from the School Board, was available to discuss options for opening the Drinkwater School as a Warming Center or in other emergencies. Wallace stated that because the school doesn't have air conditioning, it might not be suitable as a Cooling Center. Discussion was had about what areas of the school would be available if the Town needed to use it for a Warming Center. Wallace stated the School Board is meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at which time she will report on the Warming Center proposal. The Board reviewed a draft of a Warming Center Agreement provided by

Kossuth. The Board and Wallace provided feedback to Kossuth, and he will update the draft agreement and provide a new version to the Board at a future meeting.

**Northport Village Corporation (NVC):** Novotny reported on the new utility firm that will be handling the utilities. She mentioned that utility rates will be going up again for the third time in the last few years. She also reported a Village resident gifted to the Village a strip of land between Shore Road and Bluff Road that can be turned into a walking path. Some residents of the Village have volunteered to make the path. Novotny reported the temporary Office Manager and the Village have parted ways and they are on the search for a new Office Manager. The Village is also getting ready for summer-time entertainment. Bayside Arts is looking to utilize the Community Hall for this year's performances.

**Road Commissioner:**

**Road sand and salt amounts for 2023-24:** Morse reported mud season is starting early, and he is planning to post Town roads soon. Morse reported that he expects the sand and salt order for next year to be 1500 yards of sand to 450 tons of salt. He mentioned they are still waiting for PDQ Door to come fix the door at the salt and sand garage. The Board recommended contacting another company to come look at the door.

**Town Administrator:**

**Proposed Shoreland Zoning Ordinance amendments:** Kossuth reported that Code Enforcement Officer Rooney and he have reviewed the 1992 version of the ordinance and minutes from multiple meetings and determined that the frontage and lot coverage minimums have not changed. The Board agreed that they will not be recommending any changes to the ordinance at this time. Kossuth will provide Gartley and Dorsky with the Board's feedback.

**Summer intern:** Kossuth reported the Town can hire a summer intern through the Margaret Chase Smith Center at the University of Maine to help with projects in the Town. It pays \$15.00 an hour for 16 weeks at 40 hours a week. Kossuth provided the Board with multiple projects that the intern could perform. For example, Code Officer Rooney would like to digitize her records so she could bring them into the field with her for inspections. Funds to pay the intern in July and August could be appropriated at the Town Meeting, and the Board asked Eugley if contingency fund from the current budget could be made available to pay for June. Kossuth described how the program worked. The Board was in agreement to continue with the summer intern process.

**Draft specifications for cemetery mowing:** Kossuth provided the Board with the specifications for cemetery mowing to review. Upon review the Board provided Kossuth with their feedback. Kossuth will update the draft specifications as needed and submit an ad to the paper.

**Draft specifications for heating fuel:** Kossuth provided the Board with the specifications for heating fuel to review. Upon review the Board provided Kossuth with their feedback. Kossuth will update the draft specifications as needed and submit an ad to the paper.

**Draft specifications for municipal solid waste:** Kossuth provided the Board with the specifications for municipal solid waste to review. Upon review the Board provided Kossuth with their feedback. Kossuth will update the specifications as needed and submit an ad to the paper.

Kossuth presented the Board with a thank you note provided to the Town employees from the Schaufflers.

**Town Clerk:** Eldridge provided the January 9, 2023 and January 24, 2023 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the January 9, 2023 and January 24, 2023 minutes with corrections.

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

**Establish budget meeting schedule:** Eugley would like to start the budget process on March 6, and meet every Monday when there is not a Board meeting. She reported the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is 8.7 % this year and the Town should have the final budget figures by the end of April, 2023.

**Old Business:** The 2023 Town Meeting will be June 19, 2023 at the Edna Drinkwater School.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Adjourn:** Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge