

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
July 10, 2023 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker
Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb
Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley
Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse
NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt-absent

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Mark Lynch, Jason Stubbs, Veronica Stubbs, Christopher Maseychick, Richard Ford, Jennifer Work and John Work.

Bid Opening: The Board reviewed 4 bids for Paving, Ditching, Culvert Replacement & Blasting. Wellman Paving Inc., Dan Ford, F.C. Work & Sons, Inc. and Northeast Paving all submitted bids. The Board asked Jennifer Work from F.C. Work & Sons, Inc. when she felt the work would be started, if they were awarded the bid. Jennifer Work reported that they are looking at a September timeframe. The Board asked Morse about other projects F. C. Work & Sons, Inc. has completed for the Town.

Tucker motioned to award the contract for Paving, Ditching, Culvert Replacement & Blasting to F.C. Work & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$576,750.40, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Citizen Concerns: Veronica Stubbs, of The Scone Goddess, re Community Development Block Grant - V. Stubbs provided the Board with details of the Community Development Block Grant that she would like to apply for with the Town's support. Coming out the pandemic, she reported that she is growing so fast that she needs more employees and equipment to meet customer demand. The grant specifies that for every \$30,000.00 awarded, 1 full time job or 2 part time jobs need to be created. The grant application has several stages, and V. Stubbs explained the details involved in each stage, including the Town's role in the process. She asked the Town to support her in this grant application via a letter of intent.

Tucker asked about current employee benefits offered at The Scone Goddess. V. Stubbs provided details on some employee benefits. She stated the business doesn't have any full time employees at this time, but with this grant she would have the opportunity to offer full time positions. She also reported the business received a grant for digital marketing which will help her expand the brand outside of Maine.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to write a letter of intent to support Veronica Stubbs, from The Scone Goddess, for the Community Development Block Grant, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Richard Ford request – Mr. Ford (156 Upper Bluff Road) would like permission from the Board to run electricity under Upper Bluff Road from existing poles to the new home he is building. Tucker explained some of the long-term hazards the Town would face if the Board allowed private electrical service under Town roads. The Board asked Ford whether he knew if there is any ledge in the area where he wanted to run the wires. Ford stated that his plan was to dig some test holes and abandon the idea if he found

ledge. Schauffler asked if he could see about using ground penetrative radar instead of digging. Tucker provided the option of putting a pole from CMP across the road and running a line over the road to the corner of his property. Tucker also stated that if the Board were to grant Ford's request, he would have to finish before the end of October, before the road is paved.

Morse stated that, if approved by the Board, the electrical wires would have to be encased in concrete to protect against any future Town construction in the road or ditches. John Work from F.C. Work and Sons Inc. explained how Dig Safe works and provided his professional knowledge and experience with underground wires. Ford stated it's not uncommon in Maine, America and the world to run wires underground. Tucker asked Kossuth to speak with Town Attorney Kelly about Mr. Ford's request and asked Ford to provide additional information to the Board about his plan. Tucker stated that she hoped that the Board could reach a decision at its next meeting, on July 24.

NVC: No representative present.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported there is a tree at 780 Shore Road and another on the corner of Maple Street and George Street that are concerns. He has looked at the trees to see if they are in the Town's right of way. He stated that residents have also raised concerns about the bushes at the corner of Cobe Road and Shore Road, which are obstructing the view of traffic when you pull out of Cobe Road.

Kossuth reported that he received an email from the Department of Transportation (DOT) about a new portable speed sign. The Town would need to receive training from the DOT prior to the Town receiving the portable speed sign.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to approve Morse and Kossuth to go to the programming training class with the DOT for the portable speed sign. Seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Town Administrator:

County Budget Committee Caucus – Kossuth reported that the caucus for the 2024 Waldo County Budget Committee would be July 20, 2023, and any or all Board members are welcome to attend. The Board reported that none of them could attend this year. Kossuth will let the Commissioners know.

Community Resilience Partnership grants application – Kossuth reported the application for the Community Resilience Partnership Grant was submitted on Friday, July 7, and the Town should know in September whether it will be awarded the grant. Kossuth stated there are things the Town will need to do in the meantime as part of the grant, and he will be working on them.

Investment Committee Update – Kossuth reported the Investment Committee met and Ovid Santoro would like to speak to the Town contacts at Fidelity and Vanguard about other investments options for the Town. The Board requested that a Town official be a part of any calls regarding the Town's accounts. The Board appreciates everything the Investment Committee has done.

Kossuth reported he spoke to James Knight about the lack of trash barrels at Knights Pond. Kossuth authorized Knight to pick up some trash barrels.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the June 12, 2023 and June 19, 2023 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the June 12, 2023 and June 19, 2023 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. Eugley confirmed with Morse

that the cleaning of the catch basins in the Village have been completed. Eugley also reported the Ambulance Contract with Belfast should be available at the next SB meeting. Also the Board will be reviewing and setting the Mil Rate for the 2023 Tax Commitment. Eugley provided the Board with the Municipal Office Policy on Disbursement of Education Costs, Treasurer's Disbursement for State of Maine Fees Policy and the Treasurer's Disbursement for Employees Wages and Benefits Policy for approval. The Board approved and signed the State of Maine Fees Policy and the Employee Wages and Benefits Policy, and authorized Eldridge to sign the renewal of the Municipal Education Costs Policy.

Old Business: The Board confirmed with Morse that the Town is still 200 yards short of receiving road sand from Brad Aitken & Sons from 2021.

New Business: Kossuth confirmed that August 14, 2023, would be the new hearing date for the Butters Dangerous Building.

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge