

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
July 24, 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

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Jeffrey Wilt, Amon Morse, Jeffrey Yacoe, Marina Yacoe, Richard Ford.

Citizen Concerns:

Richard Ford, Upper Bluff Rd, re license for electrical service under Upper Bluff Road – Jeffrey Yacoe, on behalf of Aluna Yacoe and Peter Kazickas, who own a lot on Upper Bluff Road, provided a letter to the Board in support of Ford’s request. Kossuth read the letter aloud to the Board. The letter from Yacoe and Kazickas stated that they supported placing power lines beneath Upper Bluff Road because it would eliminate the dangers created by downed power lines, minimize power outages during storms, and preserve the views of the Penobscot Bay from Upper Bluff Road. Tucker asked Ford if he had any further information about the other options that had been discussed at the prior Select Board meeting. He mentioned that his contractor has looked at the project and feels confident the conduit would be out of the way of any future Town construction. He stated that the Town of Camden allows underground electrical, and feels that his case is a reasonable request for the Town of Northport. Kossuth reported that the Town of Camden recently passed an ordinance allowing property owners to install electrical service under town roads.

Morse reported there are other Towns that don’t allow underground electrical and he would like to hear from those Towns. Pinkham Bebb agreed she would like to hear from rural communities to see what they do. Schauffler questioned the long term implications and the cost of granting this license. Tucker reported that she has looked at the property and she has a concern about safety. She stated there is an option to go above ground while preserving the views. Tucker stated until the Town of Northport has in place an ordinance that has Dig Safe in mind she would like to deny the approval for underground and Pinkham Bebb agreed. Morse stated where the Town doesn’t have any monitoring system in place for underground wires. If the Town wants to address future underground wiring requests an ordinance would need to be established. Kossuth reported that he spoke with Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, and Kelly suggested the Town could add a provision to the Administrative Ordinance that would cover underground construction in Town rights of way.

Liquor License Renewals: Kossuth provided the Board with applications from the Northport Golf Club and The Hoot for the renewal of their On-Premises Liquor Licenses. Kossuth spoke to the Waldo County Sheriff’s Department to see if there had been any complaints about either business, and there have

been none. Kossuth reported both businesses have had liquor licenses for over 5 years so a public hearing is not required.

Tucker reported that she noticed at The Hoot, from the entrance to the stop sign on Route 1, was full of parked cars along the shoulder of Bayside Road. Tucker would like to have the No Parking signs installed as soon as possible in order to address safety concerns. The Board provided Morse with the locations for the No Parking signs.

The Board approved and signed the Applications for renewal of an On-Premises Liquor License from Northport Golf Club and The Hoot.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt reported that speeding is a concern in the Village and has been over the years. The NVC has put up speed signs in multiple areas which has helped slow motorists down. He also reported the Northport Yacht Club had their Annual Yard Sale and raised about \$2,500.00 to support the sailing school. He also reported that NVC has a new Office Manager, Trish Nickerson, and stated she is a wonderful addition to the team. Wilt reported the Annual Meeting for NVC is scheduled for August 8, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Community Hall. He stated Michael Tirrell and himself are Overseers that are looking to be reelected. The Board stated that Wilt has been a wonderful Village Representative at the Select Board Meetings and looks forward to him being reelected. Wilt also stated NVC is having a Donuts and Dialog on August 12, 2023, that will be discussing the NVC Utilities Department.

Wilt reported there has been discussion in the Village about the mooring field around the wharf, and the NVC Waterfront Committee has received suggestions that no more moorings should be allowed. He stated that the Waterfront Committee believes that there is room for more moorings.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported he is meeting with Mike Grant (arborist). Morse is going to have Grant check several trees in the Town and the Village; a tree at the corner of Broadway and Clinton Street, one on George Street by the library, two trees on Summit Avenue, and a tree on Cliff Street. All need to be looked at and taken down if necessary. Morse also stated a crane will be needed to take down some of the trees. Tucker would like a list of trees that will be taken down and the reason why. Wilt reported there is a willow tree in the Village that is in the Town right of way. He stated there has been discussion in the Village about saving the willow tree, but recognizes that it is ultimately the Town's decision what to do with that tree. Morse stated the review of trees with Grant will be happening July 25, 2023 and Morse will be able to let concerned residents know what actions will be taken with the trees.

Town Administrator:

The Hoot: Special Amusement Permit Application - Kossuth reported that The Hoot had submitted an application for a Special Amusement Permit, but it was incomplete, so Kossuth returned the application with instructions for completing it.

Ampion Community Solar Proposal – Kossuth reported that Ampion Community Solar had approached him to see if the Town would be interested in participating in Ampion's community solar plan. Kossuth summarized Ampion's business model and proposal for the Board. The Board and Eugley expressed some concerns over the automatic payment requirement, the contract length (five years) and

termination period (180 days). Pinkham Bebb would like the Town to look into Revision to see how another proposal would compare.

Mission Square Retirement Plan resolution – Kossuth reported on the meetings he and Eugley have had with Mission Square about setting up the Town’s deferred compensation 457 plan. Kossuth presented the Board with a resolution that would allow the Town to create the plan with Mission Square.

Tucker motioned to approve the resolution. Seconded by Schauffler, Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Tax Bill Insert draft – Kossuth provided the Board with a draft insert for the 2023 taxes. The Board provided Kossuth with feedback on information for the insert.

Recycling Committee update – Kossuth reported that Karen Gleeson, Shelley Fein, Marnie Reeve, Bo Corey, Trish Gardner, and Stephen Hemenway have all volunteered to be on the recycling committee. He would like to invite them to the August 28, 2023, Board meeting to introduce them to the Board and go over the Board’s plan for the committee.

MMA Executive Committee ballot – Kossuth reported on the candidates running for the open positions on the committee. The Board agreed to vote for those candidates.

Lincolnvile Joint Meeting scheduling – Kossuth reported that he spoke with Dave Kinney, the administrator in Lincolnvile, about possible dates for the meeting and agenda items. The Lincolnvile Board would like to meet on September 18, 2023, if that works for Northport. The Board agreed with September 18th.

Belfast Ambulance Contract – Kossuth report that the Town received the contract with Belfast for ambulance services for the upcoming year. Kossuth provided the Belfast Ambulance Contract to the Board to review and sign.

Scone Goddess Community Development Block Grant letter of intent – Kossuth reported he has been working with Veronica Stubbs on The Scone Goddess Community Development Block Grant letter of intent. The deadline to submit the letter of intent is August 1, 2023, and the letter should be complete this week.

Town Clerk:

Eldridge provided the Board with the proposed Mil Rates for the 2023 commitment of Town of Northport property taxes and for the Northport Village Corporation property taxes.

Schauffler provided a graph on Mil Rates to the Board for review. Eugley provided figures to the Board and stated the Town is waiting on an update from Trio software before taxes can be committed.

The Board approved a 16.25 Mil Rate for the 2023 Town of Northport property taxes.

Eldridge provided minutes of the June 26, 2023, to the Board to review. The Board approved the June 26, 2023, Select Board 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 provided the Board with a list of the largest revenue and expense accounts for the Town for the last ten years. The largest expense accounts were School, County, Roads & Bridges, Snow Removal/Sanding, and the Transfer Station. She stated that the school budget in 2014, the last year that the Town was part of the RSU, was \$3,364,953.07, and in 2015, the first year as a municipal school, it was \$2,664,807.00, and the Town has been below the 2014 budget every year since. She also reported that on August 4, 2023, Schaffler and Eugley will be meeting to discuss budget figures and the budgeting process. Pinkham Bebb suggested inviting State Senator Chip Curry to the meeting.

Eugley reported the Town's Treasury bond is maturing soon, and she asked the Board if they wanted to roll it over for another 3 months. The Board agreed to roll the Treasury investment over into the highest-yielding short-term instrument available.

Old Business: None at this time

New Business: None at this time

Adjourn: *Schaffler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge