

Town of Northport  
Special Select Board Meeting  
January 29, 2024 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker  
Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb – approved absence  
Municipal Officer: Molly Schaffler  
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley  
Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge – approved absence  
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse - approved absence  
NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt-not present

**Present:** Jeanine Tucker, Molly Schaffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Paul Rooney, Henry Lang, Dave Lindahl, Toupie Rooney

**First Responders:** Lang, EMS Chief, reported that the First Responder rescue rig needs to be replaced. The Town purchased it in 2012, and it is a 2007 model with over 100,000 miles on it. There are problems with its engine, which will need to be addressed soon, and it will be better in the long run to replace the rig with a new one. Lang, Lindahl, and T. Rooney are searching for a suitable rig, which will ideally be 5-7 years old, have four-wheel drive, and be on a pickup-style chassis. The First Responders Equipment and Operating Reserve Fund has a current balance of approximately \$91,000, but Lang believes that they can find a suitable vehicle for less than \$50,000.

***Tucker motioned to authorize Lang to enter into an agreement to purchase a new rescue vehicle with the total cost not to exceed the present balance of the First Responders Equipment and Operating Reserve Fund, with the total cost to include transportation, refitting, third-party inspection, and any other necessary expenses for putting the new vehicle into service, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.***

**Fire Department:** P. Rooney, Fire Chief, reported that the Fire Department’s utility vehicle suffered a fuel leak from a rotted fuel tank. He was able to find a used fuel tank for \$1800 but has learned that the utility also needs new fuel lines and new fuel sending line, and the parts and labor for the whole project may exceed \$3000. He would like to use funds from the Fire Truck Replacement Reserve Fund. Eugley reported that the Town has not used those reserve funds for repairs in the past, and Kossuth reported legal advice from the Maine Municipal Association that it is illegal to use reserve funds for anything other than their stated use. T. Rooney asked whether it is a matter of changing the name of the fund, and Kossuth responded that a Town Meeting vote could change the name and purpose of the fund. Tucker asked Eugley if the Town is allowed to overspend the Fire Department budget line based on emergency need. Eugley would look into that. T. Rooney asked whether the Fire Department could delay some major purchases until after July 1, and use previously committed funds for the repairs, and P. Rooney will see if he can. Lang suggested using the First Responders Equipment and Operating Reserve Fund to pay for some operating expenses at the Fire Station that the Fire Department has always paid, but which are also part of the operating expenses of the First Responders, such as heating fuel and utilities. P. Rooney will investigate these options and find out what the final bill for the repairs will be.

**Adjourn:**

***Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth