

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

December 11, 2023 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Municipal Officer: Molly Schaufler

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 Schaufler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Bill Paige, Veronica & Jason Stubbs, Andersen Pinckney, John Lorenz, Jeffrey Wilt, Celine Bewsher, William Gartley from Gartley & Dorsky.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Public Hearings:

Adult Use Marijuana: Tucker opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 pm. John Lorenz, owner of Sweet Relief, submitted his renewal application for an Adult Use Marijuana license. Kossuth reported that he spoke to the Waldo County Sheriff's Department, and they had received no complaints about Sweet Relief.

Tucker expressed gratitude to Lorenz for complying with the Board's request to install the "Do Not Enter" signs last year. Lorenz confirmed that there haven't been any issues, and he highlighted that this marked his sixth year in business.

Tucker then invited any further questions; hearing none, she officially closed the public hearing at 6:18 pm.

Tucker motioned to approve John Lorenz's Adult Use Marijuana license renewal application for Sweet Relief, seconded by Schaufler. Board Voted 3-0, motion passed.

Community Development Block Grant: Tucker commenced the Public Hearing at 6:20 pm. Stubbs shared exciting developments, highlighting the recent addition of three new hires. She provided the Board with updates on production, noting that her son, Andersen, had taken on the role of Operations Manager and successfully added the Scone Goddess to Amazon Marketplace. Stubbs reported overall positive progress and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming steps.

Schaufler presented Stubbs with a suggestion for winter storage for her business trailer. Attendees also contributed suggestions for future scone mix ideas.

Tucker then invited any further questions; hearing none, she officially closed the public hearing at 6:27 pm.

Schaufler motioned to accept the Community Development Block Grant on behalf of the Scone Goddess, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Bid Opening: Kossuth presented the Board with four proposals for an Engineering Assessment, Survey, and Design for Shoreline Stabilization. The applications submitted were:

- Gartley & Dorsky: \$40,800.00
- DuBois & King, Inc.: \$82,260.00
- GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.: \$50,000.00
- Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.: \$120,000.00

After a thorough review, the Board reached a consensus to accept the proposal from Gartley & Dorsky at the amount of \$40,800.00. Gartley informed the Board that Gartley & Dorsky had successfully completed 20 similar projects this year, demonstrating their experience in engineering assessment and survey.

Schauffler motioned to approve the bid of \$40,800.00 from Gartley & Dorsky for the engineering assessment, survey, and design for shoreline stabilization, Tucker seconded the motion. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Wilt provided the Board the following updates for NVC. He noted the aesthetic appeal of the Christmas tree in Merithew Square, describing it as very pretty. The Overseers, in their meeting on December 10, approved Sandra Butters' application for the use of Merithew Square. Wilt mentioned that December Overseers meetings are not the norm, resulting in a relatively uneventful session. Wilt reported that the Utilities Department has submitted applications for two grants and elaborated on the specific purposes of these grants. An additional announcement was made regarding the Toys for Tots event scheduled at Bayside Store on December 19, 2023.

Road Commissioner: Morse provided the Board an update during the meeting, noting that the town experienced approximately 4 inches of rain in the last storm. He expressed that the Town's roads and ditches handled the rain well. While one culvert was inspected and found to need repairs, Morse assured the Board that the necessary repairs are scheduled to be completed tomorrow.

Morse updated the Board on winter preparedness, mentioning that efforts are underway to order salt in anticipation of the winter season. He emphasized the importance of stocking up to ensure the Town is well-prepared. Morse acknowledged a few complaints following the last snowstorm, where the snow didn't melt off as quickly as desired. In response, Morse collaborated with Patterson to address the issue by sanding the roads after the rain, aiming to prevent the formation of black ice and improve overall road safety.

Morse and Kossuth are scheduled to attend a training session on speed feedback signs in the coming week. Morse highlighted that the current speed sign lacks a trailer. He suggested that the Town invest in a one-axle trailer for the new sign, which would provide the flexibility to move the sign as needed.

Schauffler reported on the recent meeting that Morse and Paige had with Tinsley Morrison to identify road areas in the Town that are potential problems spots that will require maintenance, as high volume storms become more frequent. This is part of the Climate Resilience Committee's effort to map road maintenance vulnerabilities across the Town.

Town Administrator:

Department of Transportation (DOT) Stream Crossing Grant: Kossuth reported on the DOT Stream Crossing Grant. The grant in question covers funding ranging from \$5,000 to \$200,000 for culvert work. The application deadline is January 19, 2024. Kossuth plans to collaborate with Morse on the grant application for funding to widen the culvert on Bayside Road near the school to make room for a sidewalk.

Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant articles: Kossuth presented to the Board draft warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting on January 11, 2024. Eugley recommended adding an article to cover an increase in legal expenses. The Town appropriated \$10,000.00 for legal fees for the current fiscal year, and has spent more than half of that. Following discussion, the Board proposed that an article be added to the warrant to allocate an additional \$5,000.00 for legal fees from the Town’s Undesignated Funds Balance. Kossuth will revise the articles accordingly.

Recent Fire Department grant award: Kossuth reported that Mark Trenholm submitted a donation request to Stanley Black & Decker Tool Co. through that company’s Volunteer Fire Departments Program. The Fire Department received donations, including a tool kit containing a cordless chain saw, cordless grinder, cordless blower, and a cordless skill-saw by DeWalt. The donation also included an axe, two sets of pry bars, a couple of hacksaws, and some utility knives, with an approximate total value of \$2,500.00. Chief Paul Rooney and his crew expressed sincere gratitude for these valuable contributions.

Town Clerk: Eldridge presented the minutes from November 13, 2023, and November 27, 2023, for the Board's review and approval. The Board approved both sets of minutes with the necessary corrections.

Finance Director: Eugley presented the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for their review, approval, and signatures. The Board duly approved and signed the Payroll & Accounts Payable Warrants. Additionally, Eugley reported on the Wyman Needy Fund, noting that there was \$199.07 available as of November 30, 2023. Eugley sought guidance from the Board on how to allocate the funds. The decision was made to purchase four \$50.00 gift certificates, which will be provided as part of the assistance from the Wyman Needy Fund.

Unfinished Business:

Butters Cottage (9 North Avenue) update: Kossuth reported that he heard from Bill Kelly, the Town attorney, that a buyer’s Realtor had contacted Kelly about purchasing the cottage. Kelly told the Realtor that any purchase would have to be completed quickly and a plan for repairs submitted as soon as possible. Kossuth reported that the current owners have not begun any repairs.

New Business: John Burgess had asked Kossuth for the Board’s priorities for 2024, to include in an upcoming Town column in the Republican Journal. The Board highlighted changes related to school zone safety, improving Internet accessibility, focusing on shoreline and climate change initiatives, improving our recycling programs, and working towards the new Town Office and Community Center. Pinkham Bebb suggested disseminating information about volunteer opportunities and recruiting volunteers to help with community projects.

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

This is a True Attested copy

By: _____

Title: _____