

Town of Northport  
Select Board Meeting  
December 26, 2023 @ 6:19 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker - Via Zoom	Finance Director: Vicki Eugley
Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb	Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge
Municipal Officer: Molly Schaffler	Road Commissioner: Amon Morse- Approved Absence
Town Administrator: James Kossuth- Approved Absence	NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

**Present:** Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schaffler, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Ashley Landry, Janae Novotny, Jeanine Tucker via Zoom.

**Citizen Concerns:** Ashley Landry reported that he purchased Copper Pine Café, located on the property of Point Lookout. He reported that he has since sold the property, but is still responsible for taxes for the last 3 years. He received a foreclosure notice for 2021 taxes but he did not pay the taxes before the foreclosure date of December 19, 2023. He proposed to the Board a payment arrangement of \$400.00 a month for the next 10 months, starting in February of 2024. Tucker appreciated Landry's offer but reported payment arrangements after tax foreclosure are against the state statute. Tucker reported that after foreclosure the property owner has 30 days to reclaim the property. Landry stated if he had 30 days he could pay the total amount off in full. Tucker recommended delaying a decision until the return of Kossuth and communication with Town Attorney Bill Kelly.

**Northport Village Corporation (NVC):** Novotny provided the Board with an update on the Butters Cottage at 9 North Avenue. She confirmed the information about the current status, which Jeffrey Wilt had emailed to the Board. Novotny reported on the tree lighting and carol singing that occurred in the Village. She also reported that the Village didn't have a lot of damage from the December 18, 2024 storm.

**Road Commissioner:** On behalf of Morse, Kossuth provided an update via email to the Board about the new Speed Feedback Sign. Morse and Kossuth picked up the new Speed Feedback Sign in Augusta on December 18. Kossuth stated the Town will need to buy a trailer to mount the sign on to the Town can move it around.

**Town Administrator:**

**Special Town Meeting warrant articles** – On behalf of Kossuth, Pinkham Bebb discussed the warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting with the Board. The Board reviewed, slightly edited, and signed the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

**Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) Stream Crossing Grant** - Pinkham Bebb reported on behalf of Kossuth, that the DOT suggested the Town seek funding from another source for the school bridge project. The DOT prefers to emphasize habitat restoration with this round of grant funding. The Board discussed other possible funding options for the school bridge project.

**Final Scone Goddess CDBG paperwork** – On behalf of Kossuth, Pinkham Bebb presented the paperwork related to the Community Development Block Grant from the State of Maine that required the Board's signatures. After reviewing the Board approved and signed all the necessary documents.

***Pinkham Bebb motioned to adopt the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement for the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant Program, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

***Schauffler motioned to adopt the Northport Select Board Resolution for the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant Program, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

***Tucker motioned to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution for the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant Program, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

***Pinkham Bebb motioned to adopt the Residential Antidisplacement & Relocation Assistance Plan for the State of Maine Community Development Block Grant Program, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

**Butters Cottage (9 North Avenue) request for extension and update** – On behalf of Kossuth, Pinkham Bebb reported on a request submitted from Mailloux & Marden on behalf of Sandra Butters for a 90 day extension to complete the necessary work on the cottage. The Board agreed that there would need to be more evidence of progress and another public hearing in order to change the terms of the order signed in August. The Board expressed sadness about the situation and hopes the work can be completed before the town has to take further action. The Board acknowledged the request from Mailloux & Marden on behalf of Sandra Butters and agreed to take no action on the request for an extension of 90 days.

**Waldo Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Plan MOA** – On behalf of Kossuth, Pinkham Bebb provided the Memorandum of Agreement to the Board that explains the Town's and Waldo EMA's respective obligations for the project. Upon review, the Board discussed and signed the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Updated Town Office / Community Center Plans** – Previously provided by Kossuth, the Board reviewed the updated draft design for the new Town Office/Community Center plans. The Board reviewed the design and offered their feedback. They expressed satisfaction with the updates and conveyed appreciation to 2A architects, llc. for incorporating the previous feedback provided. Schauffler suggested utilizing local artists to decorate the new Community Center. Pinkham Bebb agreed with a suggestion Kossuth provided, of getting ideas from the other Towns on ways to utilize the Community Center.

**Transfer Station personnel update and Winter Hours** – On behalf of Kossuth, Pinkham Bebb provided an update on Tim Pattens medical leave and suggested winter hours of Thursdays and Saturdays 8 am to 4 pm. Tucker expressed a big thank you to Richie Taylor for his dependability and flexibility while Patten is on Medical leave.

***Pinkham Bebb motioned to reduce winter hours at the Transfer Station to Thursday and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting January 8, 2024, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Eugley discussed with the Board employee pay options for the Transfer Station attendants affected by the winter hours. Tucker also offered a few ideas to the Board for ways to hire staff for the Transfer Station.

**Town Clerk:** Eldridge provided the December 11, 2023 minutes to the Board for review and approval. The Board approved the December 11, 2023, minutes with corrections. Eldridge reported on properties affected by the foreclosure process, which was completed on December 19, 2023. Because the discussion was complicated the Board decided to table the discussion until the January 8, 2024, Select Board meeting. The Board also deliberated on a tax payment request from Meklins for U15-36-A. After discussion, due to state statute the Board decided to decline the offer, which was in the amount of \$500.00. Eldridge also read to the

Board a thank-you letter from Spectrum Generations for the donation of \$600.00. The Board appreciated hearing from spectrum Generations and for the thank-you letter.

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

**Wyman Needy/Warm Neighbors:** Eugley reported on the disbursement of \$200.00 from the Wyman Needy Fund. The Board discussed action needed for the Wyman Needy Fund.

***Pinkham Bebb motioned to move \$200.00 from the Wyman Needy Fund to the General Fund for the disbursement of 4 gift cards, as noted on the December 10, 2023, meeting, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Eugley reported on behalf of Kossuth regarding the Warm Neighbors policy. The policy currently has a cap of \$300.00 worth of fuel. Given the Town's fuel contract, there is a 100-gallon minimum for General Assistance (GA) requests, and with the current fuel cost of at \$4.99 a gallon, a 100-gallon supply cost \$199.00 more than the policy allows.

The Board collectively agreed that the cap needs to be revised for future requests, and they authorized additional funds for both past and future requests until a revision of the policy can be completed. This adjustment ensures that the Warm Neighbors program can effectively meet the needs of residents within the confines of the current fuel cost and contract requirements.

**Old Business:** None at this time

**New Business:** None at this time

**Adjourn:** Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge