

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

November 27, 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 – Approved absence

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse – Approved absence

NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt- absent

**Present:** Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Paul Rooney, Janae Novotny, Tinsley Morrison, Toupie Rooney.

**Citizen Concerns:** None at this time.

**Fire Department:** Paul Rooney, the Fire Chief, reported that the Fire Department recently received a \$20,000 unrestricted donation from the Dixon Family Trust. Chief Rooney would like to use the funds to purchase a high-capacity washing machine to wash firefighter turnout gear for approximately \$8000, and a drying cabinet for drying the turnout gear, for approximately \$9000. The Board agreed that those would be worthwhile purchases for the Fire Department and authorized Chief Rooney to purchase those items with the donated funds.

**Northport Village Corporation (NVC):** Novotny reported that the Village held a Christmas tree lighting celebration in Merithew Square on November 24. The Utilities Committee is continuing to address issues related to the capacity of the wastewater treatment facility.

**Road Commissioner:** In Morse's absence, Kossuth reported that Morse had not seen any problems with the roads or culverts during the rain and wind storm overnight, and that the newly paved portions of Bluff Road and Upper Bluff Road handled all the water well. Kossuth reported that Morse is expecting the final bill soon from FC Work & Sons for the ditching and shoulder work.

Novotny asked when Morse would be picking up the discarded culvert on Bayside Road, and Kossuth said he would find out.

**Town Administrator:**

**GWJ Horse Jockey Lane ground lease** - Kossuth presented a draft ground lease to the Board for GWJ to install and maintain an equipment shed on Town-owned property next to the cemetery on Horse Jockey Lane. Bill Kelly, the Town's attorney, had drafted the lease. Kossuth also presented the Board with updated sketches and plans for the site. The Board approved the terms of the lease, which will be subject to approval at an upcoming Special Town Meeting.

**Town Office / Fire Station / Community Center update** – Kossuth presented the Board with the latest drawings for the new Town Office / Fire Station / Community Center. Tucker suggested adding some additional space next to the vestibule and in front of the meeting area for computers and possibly a small lending library. Kossuth reviewed the comments and suggestions that the office staff had had, and

the Board agreed with the additional suggestions. Kossuth reported that Amanda Austin, the architect, will have an updated set of plans before the end of December.

**Recycling Committee update** – Kossuth reported that the committee will be meeting again on Thursday, November 30, and hopes to present its recommendations to the Select Board at one of the January meetings. Tucker reported that she has been trying to get information about the Town of Thorndike’s curbside trash and recycling program and will pass it along when she receives it.

**Scone Goddess Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) update** – Kossuth reported Veronica Stubbs won the \$100,000 CDBG, but there are still a few steps left, including another public hearing, which is scheduled for December 11. The second public hearing is to provide updates on any changes to her plan since the first hearing and for the Board to formally accept the grant on her behalf.

**Draft revaluation request for proposals (RFP)** – Kossuth provided the Board with an updated draft RFP for the revaluation to review. The Board reviewed and approved the RFP. Kossuth will finalize it and publicize it, with a bid submission deadline of February 9, 2024.

**December 25 Select Board meeting** - Kossuth asked the Board to reschedule the Select Board meeting currently scheduled for December 25. The Board agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday, December 26, at 6:15pm.

**Special Town Meeting scheduling** – Kossuth reported that Bill Kelly, the Town’s attorney, has advised that both the GWI ground lease and spending money to demolish the Butters cottage (9 North Ave), if necessary, will require votes at a Town Meeting. The Board decided to hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:30pm, at the Edna Drinkwater School, with a weather date of Friday, January 12.

**Investment Policy signatures** – Kossuth provided the Board with a new copy of the Town’s Investment Policy, with a new signature block, to the Board for signing. The Board signed the policy.

**Town Clerk:** Absent; nothing to report at this time.

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

**Old Business:** Kossuth provided an update on the status of the Butters cottage. James Butters has decided that the cost to repair is too high, and intends to sell the property. Sandra Butters still intends to repair the property before December 31, 2023.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Adjourn:** *Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth