

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

February 12, 2024 @ 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: Janae Novotny

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, Tinsley Morrison, John Krueger, Vicky Mathews, Sid Block, Toupie Rooney (by telephone), Bill Kelly.

Citizen Concerns: John Krueger, re intertidal lands eminent domain issue – Krueger provided the Board with three documents: a letter from him to the Board dated January 28, 2024, regarding intertidal lands near the mouth of the Little River; a copy of a court order from September 29, 2023, regarding Belfast’s eminent domain taking of some of those lands; and an affidavit of Donald Richards about the location of the mouth of the Little River. Krueger asked the Board not to spend any Town funds to help Belfast use eminent domain to take land in Northport.

Krueger mentioned that the boundary has been set, and there is no need for another survey. Krueger suggested that the Town hire a different attorney due to Attorney Bill Kelly having worked as attorney for Belfast during the eminent domain proceedings. The Board thanked Krueger for the information and will review it and determine the best plan for the Town.

Special Amusement Permit:

Tucker opened the public hearing at 6:39 pm. Kossuth reported The Scone Goddess is holding their first Annual Scone Festival, in August 2024 at Point Lookout. There will be music and dancing, so Veronica Stubbs (Scone Goddess owner) has applied for a Special Amusement Permit. She has permission from the owners of Point Lookout. Tucker asked for public comment, and hearing none, closed the public hearing at 6:42 pm.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to approve the Special Amusement Permit application from Veronica Stubbs for the Scone Goddess, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Bid Opening: The Town received 1 bid for the revaluation project from RJD Appraisals in the amount of \$115,000.00, to be completed by April 2026.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to accept the bid from RJD Appraisals contingent upon their answers to the proposed public relations plan, rate per parcel for those over the expected number, and being funded at the Town meeting, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Novotny reported that the NVC is getting ready to do their budgeting and are planning to review the policy on usage of NVC property.

Novotny also reported the Utility Department had an emergency need for funds because an NVC water meter failed. NVC will need a new meter and the pipe size will be increasing from 4” to a 6”. A 6” pipe will help the flow for times when the fire department uses the hydrants in the Village. Novotny asked the Board if the Town

Fire Department could help with funding toward the approximate repair cost of \$8,000.00. Tucker mentioned that there aren't any immediate funds available in the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget, but mentioned possible fund assistance for 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Novotny also asked the Board if a public meeting could be scheduled, to talk about how to approach grants that the Town and Village are working on together. The Board suggested the middle of March. Novotny will check with the Overseers on possible dates in March.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported he posted heavy load signs on Knights Pond Road and Pitcher Road because the warm weather has softened the dirt roads.

Novotny asked Morse about Shore Road, at Kelly Cove when it washed out in the last storm. Many people have asked about future maintenance in that area. Morse reported he is going to be addressing that area.

Morse reported on budget ideas for 2024 - 2025. Kossuth is trying to get an estimate from an engineering firm to redesign the intersections of Cross Street and Bayside Road with Route 1. The Board discussed other possible project areas.

Town Administrator:

Climate Resilience Committee update-Morrison reported that the Committee is gathering information about infrastructure and energy efficiency and putting it into a spreadsheet.

Website policy for posting community links and events – Kossuth provided the Board with a draft policy for posting links and events for third parties on the Town's website. The Board reviewed the policy and provided feedback.

Northport Community Church update – Kossuth reported he spoke with Judy Simpson about the Community Church. She gave Kossuth some paperwork which he shared with Town Attorney Bill Kelly, who feels that the mechanics of the transfer of the property appear relatively straightforward. The Board mentioned that accepting the property would need to be approved by a vote on a warrant at the Town Meeting.

The Board also mentioned that the Town might want to have the property surveyed to see where the property lines are.

The Board asked Kossuth to invite Judy Simpson to a future meeting to talk about more specifics, because the Board would like to move forward on this.

Workfare program – Kossuth reported he had researched setting up a workfare program to help General Assistance (GA) recipients get some work experience. The Board provided Kossuth with feedback on the proposed program and approved setting up a workfare program and using it when appropriate.

Internship job description - Kossuth provided the Board with a draft job description for a summer intern and reported to the Board on the cost of a summer intern and available grants that could pay some of the intern's salary. The deadline to submit a request for an intern is March 2, 2024. The Board approved the job description for the intern.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the January 11, 2024, Special Select Board Meeting minutes and Special Town Meeting minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the January 11, 2024, Special Select Board Meeting minutes and Special Town Meeting minutes with corrections.

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

update on the Fire Department budget, reporting that the Fire Department has approximately \$20,000.00 available for the rest of the year.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

Pinkham Bebb motioned to enter executive session at 7:58 pm, under 1 M RSA §405(6)(E), to meet with the Town Attorney concerning the Town's legal rights and duties regarding a dangerous building, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Tucker motioned to return to regular session at 8:26 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

The Select Board instructed Rooney to provide Kelly with a list of items that still need to be fixed on the Butters Cottage (9 North Ave) and authorized Kelly to draft a consent agreement regarding the completion of those outstanding items.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to enter executive session at 8:27 pm, under 1 M RSA § 405(6)(E), to meet with the Town Attorney concerning the Town's legal rights and duties regarding its municipal boundaries, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Tucker motioned to return to regular session at 9:07 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

The Select Board instructed Kossuth to research the Town's historical records for the reports of any prior boundary perambulations with Belfast.

Adjourn: *Schauffler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge