

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

January 22, 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: Jeffrey Wilt-not present

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Toupie Rooney

Citizen Concerns: Nothing at this time.

NVC: Nothing at this time.

Road Commissioner: Morse had nothing to report at this time.

Town Administrator:

Speed Feedback sign trailer - Kossuth reported the Town has been offered a utility trailer to hold the new Town speed feedback sign. Doug Andersen, a resident of Northport, is donating his utility trailer to the Town.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to accept the Utility Trailer that Doug Andersen has offered to donate to the Town as a gift, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, motion passed. Schauffler abstained.

New Town Office/Community Center Revised Plans – Kossuth provided new drawings that included elevations of the Community Center/Town Office design received from 2A architects. Kossuth met with 2A architects and Andrew Hedrich from Gartley & Dorsky about the wetlands behind the existing Town Office. The Town may need to obtain permits from DEP and Army Corps of Engineers for the new Community Center/Town Office. Feedback from all in attendance was received by Kossuth, and he will forward the feedback to 2A architects.

Fire Department overflow meeting space – Kossuth reported that Paul Rooney, Fire Chief, would like to have the option to use the conference room at the Town Office for a meeting space if necessary. The Board agreed to allow the Fire Department to use the conference room as needed.

Draft Warm Neighbors Policy revisions – Kossuth provided the Board with an updated draft of the Warm Neighbors Fuel Assistance Fund policy to review and approve. The Board reviewed the draft copy and approved the change from the maximum award of \$300.00 to 100 gallons.

Assessor's Quarterly Review results – Kossuth provided the Board with the 2023 – 2024 Quarterly Review Results provided by RJD Appraisal. The review was completed on tax maps U1, U5 and U6. RJD Appraisal visited 249 parcels of which 66 parcels had value changes. There was a gain in valuation of \$109,500.

Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Grant – Kossuth provided the Board with information about the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Grant. Kossuth stated he spoke to the grant contact at the Maine Department of Transportation (MEDOT), and they confirmed that the grant can cover up to 30% of the total

construction costs, and the Town must have the remaining cost already in hand, or soon to be received. Upon review and discussion, the consensus was to not apply for the grant at this time due to its requirements and timing.

Northport Community Church – Kossuth reported he spoke to Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, about the Northport Community Church on Saturday Cove Road. Kelly read over the 1864 deed that states the church needs to be used as a meeting house. Kossuth reported what Kelly had explained as the options for the Town. The church’s Board of directors would need to execute a deed to the Town, and then the Town would need to vote on it at the Town Meeting. Pinkham Bebb would like to see the church kept for the community. Schaffler suggested forming a committee to research ways to raise funds for improvements on the church.

Temple Heights Shoreline – Kossuth reported he met with Bo Corey for a tour of the shore line beneath Shore Road at Temple Heights. The erosion there is substantial and getting worse with each storm. Kossuth reported that there are locations on Shore Road that will need to be fixed in the future to secure the banking. Kossuth stated where Shore road is a 4-rod road, some of that stabilization would be within the Town’s right of way. Corey suggested constructing a staircase in the Town right of way that runs down Mountain Street and extends to the bay to increase access to the shore. The Board discussed the possibility of constructing a stair case and determined at this time a stair case wouldn’t be in the best interest of the Town due to maintenance and liability constraints.

MMA Legislative Policy Committee report – Kossuth reported on bond bills that might provide useful funds to the Town if passed by the State of Maine Legislature. One bond bill is for culverts, one for road and bridge improvements, one for historic community building restoration, and one for trail design and maintenance. He will keep the Board updated on any further details.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the December 26, 2023 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the December 26, 2023 with corrections.

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.

Tucker motioned to transfer \$12,000.00 from the Marine Special Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the payment to the Northport Village Corporation for the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

The Board suggested starting Budget meetings as of Tuesday February 20, 2024.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Toupie Rooney, Code Enforcement Officer, reported she has spoken to Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, about next steps with the Butters cottage on North Avenue. Rooney examined the cottage on Monday, January 15, 2024, and it didn’t look in imminent danger of collapse. She observed that both chimneys and porches had been dismantled but the house still has problems after those removals. Rooney reported that Kelly suggested he attend the February 12, 2024, Select Board meeting to discuss a consent agreement describing what still needs to be done to stabilize the cottage. The Board is most concerned about the safety of the public, and agreed a consent agreement is needed. Rooney will contact Kelly to request his presence at the February 12, 2024, Select Board Meeting.

Executive Session:

Under motion of Pinkham Bebb, second by Tucker, the Board voted 3-0 to enter Executive Session at 7:47 pm per 1 M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405(6)(A) to discuss the dismissal of an employee.

Under motion of Tucker, second by Schauffler, the Board voted 3-0 to return to Regular Session at 8:03 pm.

Tucker motioned to have Kossuth draft a separation agreement for the affected employee, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Adjourn:

Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge