

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
April 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 – not present
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse
NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt – not present

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Tinsley Morrison, Toupie Rooney, Susan Conard, Robin Dow, Arnold Oulton.

Citizen Concerns: Conard presented to the Board regarding a proposed resolution from the Town in support of a national carbon fee and dividend. The resolution is intended to encourage Congress to enact a law that would tax producers of carbon dioxide and pay a dividend to residents. The Board agreed that the proposal sounded promising, but decided that the resolution would be more powerful if put to a vote at a Town Meeting. Rather than rush to include a warrant article for the upcoming Town Meeting in June, the Board decided to draft an article that could be considered for some future Town Meeting.

Executive Session: *Tucker motioned to enter Executive Session under 1 MRSA § 405(6)(A) to discuss the employment of an individual, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed to enter Executive Session at 6:38 pm.*

Tucker motioned to end Executive Session, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed to end Executive Session at 7:10 pm.

No action taken.

NVC: No representative present.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that the roads are no longer posted. He reported that FC Work hopes to begin the emergency shoreline stabilization work in the area of 591 Shore Road this week. Morse reported that he hopes to replace the driveway culvert at 328 Beech Hill Road on Wednesday this week.

Town Administrator:

Butters Cottage (9 North Ave) update: Rooney reported that she inspected the building on Friday, April 19, with Rick Fischer. She confirmed that he had done all the work that she had asked him to do, and that she no longer considers the building dangerous. She also reported that both Sandra Butters and James Butters had signed and notarized the consent agreement. Rooney will discuss with Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, on Friday, how to conclude the matter. The Board thanked Rooney for her work on this years-long matter.

Waldo County Hazard Mitigation Plan update: Morrison attended the most recent meeting on April 17. She reported that the Town needs to show resident involvement as the Town tries to address the question, “What hazards does the Town need to prepare for?” Outreach can be by surveys, newsletters, public meetings, flyers, or similar. The next planning meeting is May 15, and the Climate Resilience Committee will be discussing it at its next meeting on May 1.

Scheduling: Kossuth reported that he received a request from Lincolnville for a joint meeting of the Select Boards to discuss the upcoming work on Route 1. The Board agreed that either May 6 or May 20 would work. Kossuth will try to schedule for one of those dates.

Kossuth reported that he had received several requests from residents to visit the Northport Community Church property before the Town Meeting vote. The Board agreed that May 4, the day of the Town clean-up, would be a good day to have an open house. Kossuth will schedule that.

Kossuth asked to schedule an informational session about the new Town Office / Community Center project with the architect ahead of the Town Meeting vote. The Board chose June 3, and Kossuth will schedule that.

Kossuth asked to reschedule the May 27 Select Board meeting, which would be on Memorial Day. The Board agreed to reschedule that meeting to Tuesday, May 28.

Summer Intern update: Kossuth reported that the intern has accepted the Town’s offer, and he will start on Tuesday, May 28. His work will be largely with the Climate Resilience Committee, and the Committee will work at its next meeting on a list of projects for him to take on.

Congressionally Directed Spending update- Kossuth provided the Board with a final draft of the application. The Board reviewed and approved the draft, with corrections. The Board reviewed and approved a letter of support, with corrections.

Boundary Surveyor due diligence: Kossuth reported that he had spoken with Cassandra Quintal, President of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors; Mike Cummons, a surveyor in Lincolnville; and Knud Hermansen, a retired professor of surveying technology at UMaine and collaborator with Robert Yarumian. All had reported that Yarumian is a capable and meticulous surveyor. Kossuth also reviewed all of the published court cases he could find in which a Yarumian survey had been used, and reported that none of those cases raised any concerns. The Board agreed that Yarumian would be a suitable surveyor for the boundary with Belfast. Kossuth will contact Belfast to let them know.

Islesboro Select Board wind farm request: Kossuth presented a request from the Islesboro Select Board regarding its opposition to the construction of a wind port on Sears Island. The Board reviewed the materials and the arguments for and against the proposed Sears Island location, and decided that it would not be appropriate to take a position on either side at this time.

Final Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Kossuth presented the final articles to the Board for review. Kossuth reported that he and Eugley had made some revisions to the proposed budget. The Board reviewed those proposed revisions and agreed with them. The Board approved and signed the Warrant as revised.

Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Grant resolution: Kossuth presented the Board with a draft resolution authorizing him to sign documents on behalf of the Town and to accept any funds awarded. The Board approved and signed the resolution.

Town Clerk: Kossuth provided the February 26, 2024 minutes to the Board for review. The Board approved the minutes with corrections.

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

Old Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Pinkham Bebb reported that she had spoken with a resident of Horse Jockey Lane who was concerned about visitors to the cemetery damaging the private road beyond the cemetery. Kossuth will look into the issue.

Adjourn: *Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm, seconded by Schaufler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator