

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
March 11, 2024 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker
Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb – Approved Absence
Municipal Officer: Molly Schaffler
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley
Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse
NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Molly Schaffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Paul Bernacki, Janae Novotny, Michael Lannan, Toupie Rooney, Dan Ford, Donald Richards, David Losee, Kim Ervin Tucker, Tinsley Morrison, Bill Kelly.

Citizen Concerns:

John Burgess, re Outdoor Sportsman shooting range noise – On behalf of Burgess, Kossuth updated the Board on Burgess’s request that the Town research the Town’s legal options for mitigating the noise from the shooting range. Kossuth spoke with MMA Legal and reported that he had shared their advice with Burgess and the Board.

Kim Ervin Tucker, re Belfast – Northport boundary– Ervin Tucker introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief presentation about the location of the mouth of the Little River. Ervin Tucker stated there have been three surveys that show the mouth of the river at the same location, and feels that Northport shouldn’t have to help pay for a fourth survey.

Don Richards provided the Board with multiple surveys and historical documents for review, showing the Northport and Belfast boundary. The Board reviewed all of the surveys provided and asked Richards for more details on the wording of the boundary. Richards stated Northport description of the boundary is vague and doesn’t use precise words and locations of where the boundary is between Belfast and Northport. Richards stated Northport will need to retrace the boundaries and have clear markings that will last as reference markers going forward.

Bernacki reported that the City of Belfast had a survey done by Clark Staples. He has requested a copy of the survey, but it has not been released yet. As soon as the Staples survey is released Bernacki will make sure that the Town of Northport gets a copy.

Losee stated that he is a representative from Upstream Watch and he wanted the Board to be aware that the City of Belfast is going to pull the Town of Northport into their issue, and he said that the Town would be receiving a letter soon from the City of Belfast.

The Board thanked everyone for coming and providing all of their knowledge and information.

Bid Awards: Tucker reviewed requested information obtained from Josh Wellman of DM&J Waste, Inc. Dan Ford also answered questions from the Board about his bid for Demo Debris and Metals. \$33,735.00 was the bid amount from DM&J Waste, Inc. and \$28,760.00 from Dan Ford for Demo Debris & Metals.

Tucker motioned to accept the Demo Debris & Metals bid from DM&J Waste, Inc. in the amount of \$33,750.00, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 2-0, Motion passed.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Novotny stated the last storm moved boards on the docks and the shelter and loosened one of the pilings. The Village has an annual inspection on the dock which has helped keep the dock maintained. The Village will have to complete another cleanup of debris that washed up from this storm. Novotny also stated that shoreline erosion has gotten worse in the Village.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that the Town handled the recent storm pretty well. He stated Shore Road is starting to erode and will need to be stabilized. From Kelly Cove to Bayside Road as well as Saturday Cove he noticed a lot of debris along the roads. He also reported there isn't any frost in the roads and Pitcher Pond Road and Knights Pond Road will need to be graded. Knights Pond Road had had some stone added but will need more. He stated that overall the dirt roads are in pretty good shape.

Town Administrator:

Route 1 Intersections engineering grant – Kossuth reported he contacted a few engineers for an estimate for an engineering study for improving the intersections of Cross Street and Bayside Road with Route 1, and received only one estimate, for \$70,000.00. Kossuth said that there is a grant that will help with the cost, with a 30% Town match.

Assessing / Reval updates – Kossuth reported that he spoke with Rob Duplisea from RJD Appraisals to clarify questions about rate per parcel for properties over 100%. Duplisea stated that there would be no extra charge for additional parcels.

Draft Auditor RFP – Kossuth provided the Board with a draft RFP for a Town Auditor. The Board reviewed the RFP and provided feedback and dates for the legal notice.

Town Office / Community Center update – Kossuth reported that he spoke with Amanda Austin from 2A architects, llc, and she is working on estimated costs for the Town budget as well as working on a construction timeline for the next couple of years. Kossuth also stated there will be a warrant article this year that will ask to approve the plans for the new Town Office/ Community Center. He also provided suggestions for possible locations for a temporary Town Office to be used during construction.

Birchcrest stairs – Kossuth reported the Town owns the stairs on Birchcrest and needs to maintain them. The stairs are falling apart and erosion is happening around them. Rooney stated the posts to the stairs are dangling and are unsafe. She also stated the stairs need to be reinforcement because recent storms have taken about 2 feet of shoreline. Kossuth has spoken to Jeff Burgess about repairing them and he could fix the stairs. The Board discussed multiple repair options and provided Kossuth further direction.

Spring Cleanup date - Kossuth reported that May 4, 2024, will be the Town Cleanup. Kossuth will work on the details.

Town Clerk: The Board agreed to table the review of January 8, 2024, and January 22, 2024, minutes until a later date.

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for review and approval. The Board approved the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants. Eugley also provided the Board with an update on the Fidelity Investments and the Fire Department budget.

Old Business: Nothing at this time

New Business:

Under motion of Tucker, seconded by Schauffler, The Board voted 2-0 to enter executive session at 7:57 pm per 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), to consult with the Town attorney concerning the legal rights and duties of the Town.

Tucker motioned to return to regular session at 8:12 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Under motion of Tucker, seconded by Schauffler, the Board voted 2-0 to instruct Kelly to send a draft consent agreement to the owners of the Butters Cottage (9 North Ave).

Under motion of Tucker, seconded by Schauffler, The Board voted 2-0 to enter executive session at 8:14 pm per 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), to consult with the Town attorney concerning the legal rights and duties of the Town.

Tucker motioned to return to regular session at 8:41 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Under motion of Tucker, seconded by Schauffler, the Board voted 2-0 to instruct Kossuth to schedule a joint meeting between the Board and Belfast City Council.

Under motion of Tucker, seconded by Schauffler, The Board voted 2-0 to enter executive session at 8:43 pm per 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E), to discuss the employment of an individual.

Tucker motioned to return to regular session at 9:02 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

No action taken.

Adjourn:

Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge, Town Clerk