

Town of Northport
Select Board Meeting
March 25, 2024 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler

Town Administrator: James Kossuth- Approved absence

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Tinsley Morrison, Judy Simpson, John Krueger, Janae Novotny, Marie Jainchill, Sid Block, Martha Block, Janiece Fazio, Rob MacDowell, Christopher Hyid.

Citizen Concerns: S. Block thanked the Board for deciding not to participate in the perambulation with the City of Belfast. Tucker informed Mr. Block that the Town has not received a request from Belfast to be part of a perambulation. She reported that April 16, 2024, is a possible date for a public meeting between Belfast and Northport. S. Block asked the Board to hire an independent attorney because he feels there is a conflict of interest if Bill Kelly represents the Town of Northport. S. Block reported there are Northport residents that are concerned that Kelly will be biased due to his previous involvement with Belfast. Tucker reported he would have to file a request to have Kelly removed, and she would need to get back in touch with him after researching the process.

Bid Opening: Tucker opened one bid the Town received for winter sand from Frank Feener. The Board reviewed and discussed the bid.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to award the Winter Sand contract to Frank Feener in the amount of \$16,000.00, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Public Hearing: Tucker opened the public Hearing at 6:35 pm for the application from A Couple of Koi, LLC, for on-premises liquor license for The Hoot. Janiece Fazio and Robert MacDowell introduced themselves as the new owners of The Hoot, and provided the Board with their background. They stressed their intention to be a part of this community and help this community in any way they can. The Board welcomed them to Northport and looked forward to seeing the restaurant when it reopens. Tucker asked for any further questions and heard none.

Tucker motioned to close the Public Hearing at 6:39 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Schauffler motioned to approve the On-Premises Liquor License Application for A COUPLE of Koi LLC, for The Hoot, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Northport Community Church: Judy Simpson, the Church caretaker, was available to answer questions. She stated the church has been closed for 2 or 3 years. The Ladies' Auxiliary wanted it to remain a church, but she suggested that it could also be a wonderful historic place for the Town. Schauffler asked Simpson for her feedback on possible usage for the church. Simpson would like to see it be available for weddings, funerals and Town events.

Pinkham Bebb asked what yearly expenses the church has. Simpson stated there is no water for the property. The reservoir out back is the property of the Wales estate. The only expense is Central Maine Power which is about \$40.00 a month. There are 2 monitor heaters with an outside propane tank. The Board also asked what maintenance has been completed on the church. Simpson reported one side of the roof was replaced 5 years ago, and the other side was done about 15 years ago. She also stated the fire escape and two small rooms have been blocked off. Schaffler asked how much land the church occupies. Simpson stated the parking lot was deeded over to church about 15 years ago and the church sits on about a half-acre lot.

Jainchill stated that the Town needs to determine a vision for the church. She has done a lot of volunteer work and would be willing to help with anything needed to improve the church. Pinkham Bebb would like to invite the public to provide ideas of what they would like to see the church used for in the future.

Tucker asked Simpson about a proposal for the Town. Simpson reported she is in the process of completing the proposal. The Board thanked Simpson for the care she has given to the Church. Krueger stated a picture and a little information about the church would be good to put out for the public.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Novotny reported the Village made it through the last storm wonderfully. She thanked the Board for the Joint meeting last week at the Community Hall.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported the ice storm made a lot of trees come down and he is still cleaning up. The majority of the power in the Town of Northport is back on and Ryan Road is currently being worked on. He stated Mountain Street needs to be cleaned up due to a tree down, but all the roads in Northport except Ryan Road are passable.

Town Administrator:

Butters Cottage (9 North Avenue) update – Tucker provided an overview of the current status of the Butters Cottage. She reported that Kossuth heard from Paul Dillon (James Butter’s Lawyer) and Sandra Butters, and both promised to get back to him about the Consent Agreement by 03/22/2024 . Kossuth has yet to hear back from either of them.

Summer intern update – John Clifford has accepted the offer to be an intern for the Town and will start the last week in May.

Belfast pre-perambulation meeting scheduling – On behalf of Kossuth, Tucker reported Northport heard from the City of Belfast and they’re offering Tuesday, April 16 at 6 pm for a joint City Council – Select Board meeting. The Board discussed prospective dates for the meeting and will provide feedback to Kossuth.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the January 8, January 22, and February 12, 2024 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the January 8, January 22, and February 12, 2024 minutes with corrections.

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

Old Business: Nothing at this time

New Business:

Tucker motioned to enter executive session under 1 MRSA §405(6) (A), to discuss employment of an individual at 7:45 pm, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Tucker motioned to return to regular session at 8:20 pm, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

No action taken.

Adjourn: Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge