

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

June 10, 2024 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, John Clifford, Ed Cotter, Sasha Ray.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

NVC: Novotny reported that the Overseers intend to apply for the upcoming Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund grant to help pay for the shoreline stabilization projects in Bayview Park and Auditorium Park. The Board suggested that the Town and NVC submit a joint application, and include the shoreline stabilization project in Kelly Cove as well. Kossuth reported that he has a phone call with Celine Bewsher, chair of the NVC Infrastructure Committee, scheduled for Tuesday the 11th, and they will discuss the joint grant application. Novotny reported that the NVC's Donuts and Dialog for July will feature infrastructure, and Will Gartley of Gartley & Dorsky will be there to answer questions about the shoreline stabilization projects.

Novotny reported that the NVC has been unable to hire a police officer for the summer. She had asked the Waldo County Sheriff's Office for a quote for what it would cost to contract a deputy, and was given an annual price of \$130,000 to do so. She also reported that residents have raised concerns about speeding on Bluff Road near the golf course.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that he has completed sweeping the Town's roads, and that he is currently trying to hire a grader to grade Pitcher Road and Knights Pond Road. There are not very many qualified grader operators in the area, and it is becoming more and more difficult to find one. Tucker asked whether it may be worth paving the Town's portions of Pitcher Road and Knights Pond Road to avoid this problem in the future. Morse reported that the Town had considered paving Pitcher Road several years ago, but had been unable to resolve issues regarding CMP pole placement and easements.

He also reported that he had cleared a tree from Shore Road, which had fallen and blocked the road.

Town Administrator:

Bluff Road speed concerns: Kossuth reported that he has heard concerns from a resident about speeding on Bluff Road since it was paved last fall. The Waldo County Sheriff's Office had conducted some speed details last fall and issued no warnings or tickets, but the resident is still concerned about speeding down the hill. Morse reported that he is working on mounting the speed feedback sign to the trailer, so that the Town could collect some speed data and encourage vehicles to drive slower. Tucker asked whether the Town could ask Maine DOT to conduct a speed study, and Kossuth said that he could

ask. Schaffler asked if the Town could also ask the DOT to check several roads where residents have raised concerns, including Route 1 near The Scone Goddess, Bluff Road near the golf course, as well as Shore Road near 500 Shore Road. Kossuth said that he would include those roads in the request to DOT.

Northport / Belfast Survey update: The Board discussed the emails that they had received over the past week about the survey and surveyor.

Congressionally Directed Spending / Town Office Project update- Kossuth reported that he had received official word from the offices of Sen. Collins and Sen. King that they would both be supporting the Town's CDS request. Kossuth also sent a copy of the CDS application to Rep. Pingree's office, to ask for her support, if the Town's application makes it that far.

The Board discussed the feedback from the June 3 informational session about the Town Office.

Climate Resilience Committee Community Workshop planning: Kossuth reported that the Committee has been working hard planning for the upcoming workshop.

Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund grant: Kossuth reported that Maine DOT is accepting applications for climate resilience infrastructure projects, with a deadline of July 1. Kossuth had also shared the information about the grant with Novotny for the Overseers to discuss. The Board and Novotny agreed that it would be best for the Town and the Village to work together on the grant application for the three outstanding shoreline stabilization projects – Kelly Cove, Bayview Park, and Auditorium Park.

Joint Letter to Maine DOT with Lincolnville: Kossuth provided the DOT's response to the Town's joint letter with Lincolnville, and the Board looks forward to working with the DOT as the project moves forward.

Transfer Station Demo Debris and Metals Fees: Kossuth provided the Board with a proposal for a new fee schedule for demo debris and metals, with an increase to match that in the Town's new disposal contracts. The Board approved the new fees, which will be effective August 1.

Butters Cottage (9 North Ave) update: Kossuth reported that he has heard nothing further from either of the Butterses, and their deadline to pay the demand passes on June 15. If they do not pay the demand, the outstanding amount will be added to their next property tax commitment on August 1.

Waldo County Hazard Mitigation Plan update: Kossuth reported that the group had met on June 5 to discuss each town's progress on the plan. Northport will have much more to report to the group after the June 12 community workshop. Kossuth reported that the goal is for Waldo EMA to have a county-wide plan to submit to FEMA by this fall.

Annual Town Meeting preparation: The Board discussed a proposal by Pinkham Bebb to publicly state and advocate for particular positions on two of the warrant articles. The Board decided not to publicize any position before the meeting, but to articulate at the Town Meeting itself the same points that Pinkham Bebb made in her proposal.

Midcoast Council of Governments General Assembly: MCOG is holding its general assembly on June 27. Kossuth and Clifford are planning to attend. Kossuth asked the Board if any of them would like to serve as the Town's alternate, but none could attend on the 27th.

Juneteenth observance: Kossuth reported that Juneteenth, June 19, is a state and federal holiday, and many town offices and all state offices are closed. The Board agreed that the Town should also observe Juneteenth (June 19) as a paid holiday.

Minutes: Kossuth provided minutes from the meetings of May 13 and May 28 for the Board to 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.

Eugley asked the Board to approve a transfer of funds from the Education MEPers Special Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the FY2024 Education Budget at the request of the School Board.

Tucker motioned to transfer \$148,000.00 from the Education MEPers Special Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the FY2024 Education Budget at the request of the School Board, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Old Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

Adjourn: ***Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator