

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

November 25, 2024 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker – approved absence

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb – approved absence

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Present: Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the Overseers have adopted the same office holidays for the Village Office that the Town has. She also reported that Bayside Arts has offered to donate new stage lighting for Community Hall.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that he had fixed two potholes on Shore Road. Novotny asked him to inspect an area near the corner of George Street and Sea Street where a resident appears to be encroaching on the Town's right of way.

Schauffler asked if there had been any feedback after the announcement of the new 25mph speed limits on Bluff Road, Upper Bluff Road, George Street, and Shore Road. Kossuth reported that he had heard a few comments, and Novotny reported that she had seen a Sheriff's deputy having pulled a car over.

Town Administrator:

MMA Legislative Policy Committee update: Kossuth reported that the LPC met on November 20 to finalize a legislative platform for the upcoming legislative session. MMA staff will find sponsors for those bills, and the LPC will next meet at the end of January to begin to consider all the bills that will have been introduced that would affect municipalities.

Kossuth reported that he has been working with MMA staff on draft language to establish a reasonable limit to the number of excise tax exemptions that 100% disabled veterans can claim, which is something that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles also supports.

Kossuth reported that he has found that every county has its own statute governing its budget committee. Kossuth reported that other counties do not limit budget committee membership to municipal officers, as it is in Waldo County, and that it might help increase public participation in the county budgeting process if the eligibility for budget committee membership were expanded.

Belfast – Northport Boundary Survey update: Kossuth reported that the Belfast City Council had approved the memorandum of understanding between Northport and Belfast at its November 19 meeting.

Maine DOT Route 1 project update: Kossuth reported that he and David Kinney, Lincolnville Town Administrator, met with representatives from the DOT on November 14 about the Route 1 project, which is still in the earliest planning stages. Kossuth proposed that the Northport and Lincolnville Select Boards meet with the DOT on Monday, January 6.

New Town Office / Community Center update: Kossuth reported that the hazmat/lead testing team had visited the Town Office to check for lead paint, asbestos, and other hazardous materials. The Town should receive the results from the testing in a week or so.

Kossuth reported that he had received a set of 50% construction drawings, which he had shared with the Select Board. Schaufler had reviewed the drawings and had started a list of questions for Kossuth for his next meeting with the architect and engineers on December 3.

Kossuth reported that he had received Carmen Bombeke's structural engineering report on the Town Office and her recommendations for temporary stabilization measures. The Board discussed the merits of the options in Bombeke's report.

Waldo County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update: Kossuth reported that the Waldo HMP participating towns met, and that they hope to submit the draft HMP to FEMA in January or February.

Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG) General Assembly report: Kossuth reported that he attended the MCOG General Assembly on November 21. The theme was dealing with "change" in any form, such as climate, demographic, or economic.

Community Action Grant application: Kossuth reported that he met with Celine Bewsher to work on the grant application for shoreline stabilization work in Bayview Park, and they seem to be on track for the December 17 deadline.

Minutes: None at this time.

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

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Adjourn: *Schaufler adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator