

Town of Northport

Public Hearings and Select Board Meeting

December 9, 2024 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler – approved absence

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse --
approved absence

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Janae Novotny, Ben Block, John Lorenz, Ploy Lorenz.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Public Hearing for Block Brothers Custom Cabinets Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):

Tucker opened the public hearing at 6:15pm. Ben Block, Block Brothers owner, updated the Board on his progress since the last public hearing. He has obtained a building permit from the Town for a corridor to connect two buildings, he has purchased his first machine, and he is currently interviewing new hires.

Tucker called for any comments. John Lorenz thanked Block for improving the property and congratulated him on winning the grant. Hearing no further comments, Tucker closed the public hearing at 6:19pm.

Pinkham Bebb moved that the Town accept the CDBG on behalf of Block Bros., seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Public Hearing for Sweet Relief Adult-Use Marijuana License Renewal:

Tucker opened the public hearing at 6:21pm. J. Lorenz, Sweet Relief owner, reported that business had been going well. He reported that there had been a recall on some product, which he had managed well, and he had been thanked by the State for his prompt response. He reported that his small shed, which he had previously used for medical marijuana, had been removed from the property, because he had closed his medical store. He also reported that he had hired new staff.

Tucker called for any questions or comments. Hearing none, Tucker closed the public hearing at 6:30pm.

Tucker moved to approve Sweet Relief's adult-use marijuana license renewal application, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that NVC had completed its FY2023 audit and would soon begin the FY2024 audit. The Overseers have scheduled a strategic planning meeting for January. The State's Public Utilities Commission approved the NVC's water rate increase, which will match the increase from the Belfast Water District. She reported that the NVC had received a draft license for its wastewater treatment plant from the Department of Environmental Protection, and the moratorium for new sewer connections was still in place, but may be lifted soon.

Road Commissioner: Kossuth and Tucker both reported that the Town's plowing contractor had received several compliments for the road conditions in Town after the snowstorm on Thanksgiving.

Town Administrator: New Town Office / Community Center update: Kossuth reported that he had met twice in the past week with Amanda Austin, the architect, and two different engineers, one fire suppression and one

civil. Kossuth reported that he is still trying to find out from the State's Fire Marshall's Office if the new Town Office will need as large a sprinkler system as is being designed.

Kossuth presented the Board with an updated construction cost estimate. He reported that he will be meeting with Austin and the cost estimator on Wednesday, December 11, to go over the estimate.

Kossuth reported that he and the Town Office staff had visited the Northport VFW on Friday, December 6, to assess its suitability as temporary office space. Kossuth has also made an appointment with Paul Crowley to visit his office space at 555 Atlantic Highway.

Kossuth reported that he has gotten several responses from his two calls for volunteers for the capital campaign committee, and that he will try to get the committee up and running in January. Pinkham Bebb suggested that Kossuth also contact Seth Thayer as a potential committee member.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with draft minutes for November 12 and November 25. The Board approved the minutes with corrections.

Tax Collector: Abatement Request (R8-50-1-ON): Kossuth presented the Board with an abatement request for the building owned by Michael Mullins at Point Lookout (R8-50-1-ON). Mullins has been dismantling the building and has never paid the taxes assessed on it. The Town foreclosed on the building in 2023, but it is essentially worthless to the Town, as it is mostly dismantled. Kossuth reported that the Town could enforce its foreclosure rights, issue a stop-work order, secure the building, and then address any legal challenges. Given the amount of money in dispute (just over \$7000), and Mullins's litigious history with the Town, the Board agreed that it would likely cost the Town more in legal fees than it could recover in taxes owed.

Tucker moved to abate the taxes for R8-50-1-ON as uncollectable, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Eugley asked the Board about R8-50-ON-6, which is a cabin that had been at Point Lookout and was moved out of Town two years ago. The Board agreed that it could not collect the outstanding property taxes owed (less than \$2000) and agreed that those taxes should be abated. Tucker instructed Kossuth to have the tax collector prepare an abatement request for R8-50-ON-6 for the Board to approve at an upcoming meeting.

Finance Director:

Wyman Needy Gift Cards: Eugley reported that the Town annually buys gift cards from the Wyman Needy Fund for struggling Northport residents. The Board approved the purchase of four \$50 gift cards to Wentworth's, one for each of four families.

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

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb moved to adjourn at 7:27pm, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator