

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

April 14, 2025 @ 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, Peter Gallace, Mark Lynch, Sandy Wallace, Deb Riley, Kim Tucker.

Citizen Concerns: Kim Tucker, on behalf of the Friends of the Harriet L. Hartley Conservation Area, asked the Board for a letter of support for a grant application to remove the two dams on the Little River. Kossuth reported that he had spoken with two of the abutting landowners in Northport, and both of them are in favor of removing the dams. The Board asked about property rights to the submerged lands and possible impacts to the Route 1 bridge from the free flow of the river. The Board thanked K. Tucker for her interest and took the request under advisement.

Bid Opening: Kossuth presented the Board with two bids for winter road sand. The Board discussed the two bids.

Pinkham Bebb moved to accept the low bid of Feener's Tractor Service of \$18.00 per yard, for a total contract price of \$45,000.00, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, contract awarded to Feener's Tractor Service.

Northport School District (NSD) Budget: Gallace presented the Board with the proposed NSD budget for FY2026. The Board asked whether the NSD had enough funds in reserve if state or federal funding were eliminated, and Gallace said that it does. The Board discussed various line items in the budget, and thanked Gallace and the School Board (Lynch, Riley, and Wallace) for their time and service to the Town.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the Village Overseers had met on April 13. Bayside Arts has scheduled several events at the Community Hall for the summer, the contract for mowing and grounds maintenance had been put out to bid, and the Village had received the report for the structural evaluation of Community Hall.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that he had unposted most of the roads in Town, but he was leaving the posting in place for some of the roads in the Village until the ground dries out some more. Lynch asked about some driveway culverts on Bluff Road, and Morse expects to replace some of them this year. Novotny asked if paving Broadway was on the work plan for this year, and Morse said that it is. Kossuth shared a compliment that he had received from a resident about the quality of the paving throughout Town.

Town Administrator: Belfast Public Safety Complex letter of support: Kossuth presented the Board with a request from Patrick Richards, fire chief for the City of Belfast, for a letter of support for Belfast's grant application for funding for a new public safety complex. The Board authorized Kossuth to submit a letter of support substantially in the form presented to the Board.

PAWS Contract renewal: Kossuth presented the Board with a proposed contract for the next two years with PAWS for animal shelter services. The Board approved the contract renewal for two years at \$3250.00 per year.

Foreclosed Property updates: Kossuth reported that certified mail notices had been sent to two of the former owners of tax-foreclosed properties informing them of the Town's intent to sell the foreclosed properties and giving the former owners 90 days to buy them back.

Town Office project update: Kossuth and the Board discussed plans for the April 30 informational session about the Town Office project.

Town Office Fundraising Committee update: Kossuth reported that the committee has been working on outreach. Kossuth also reported that applications for Congressionally Directed Spending and Northern Border Regional Commission are due this week, and both require signatures from the Board. Kossuth presented a letter of support to the Board for its signature, and a resolution authorizing Kossuth to apply for the grant, and the Board approved and signed both.

Town Meeting Warrant draft: Kossuth presented the Board with a draft of the warrant for Town Meeting. The Board had some suggestions for edits. The final warrant will have to wait until the Board approves the budget.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes for the meetings of March 24, March 31, and April 7. The Board approved the minutes with edits.

Finance Director: 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: Maine Power Options (MPO) Energy Intelligence Suite discussion: Schaffler described the reasons for the Town to join the MPO Energy Intelligence Suite, which costs \$0 to join and will help the Town monitor its energy usage. The Board agreed to join.

State Budget Citizens' Veto Petition discussion: Schaffler presented the Board with a draft letter to Sen. Curry and Rep. Dodge regarding the proposed citizens' veto. The Board agreed with the letter in principle and asked Kossuth to make some edits.

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb moved to adjourn at 8:37pm, seconded by Schaffler. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator