

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

December 8, 2025 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse – excused absence

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Beanna Pinkham Bebb, Jeanine Tucker, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Janae Novotny, Sue Conard, Tinsley Morrison, Tom Gilmore, Angela Maniak, Tom Maniak, John Piotti, Susan Piotti

Citizen Concerns: GWI Poles: Several residents expressed their concern over the placement of utility poles by GWI along Prescott Hill Road, between Route 52 and Cobb Meadow Road. Among the concerns cited included the poles' proximity to the road, the poles running through previously unspoiled views of preserved farmland and wetland, and the seeming redundancy of the poles, since all properties on Prescott Hill Road are already served by GWI fiber.

Tom Gilmore, a fiber engineer at GWI, apologized for GWI's mistake in setting the poles without first obtaining permission from the Town. He then explained the reason for the poles, which is to create a loop of fiber around Northport that will reduce downtime to customers should the fiber be disconnected at any point on the loop.

Gilmore and the Board discussed options for reducing the impact of the poles, including removing them entirely and replacing them with underground conduit. Gilmore asked for permission to string fiber now, with the promise that GWI will look into options for running the fiber underground once the ground thaws. Gilmore also assured the Board that GWI would not cut or remove any trees. The Board thanked Gilmore and GWI for accepting responsibility for the mistake and for promising the look into alternatives.

GWI Pole Permit Application: The Board reviewed GWI's post-hoc application for eight (8) utility poles on Prescott Hill Road between Route 52 and Cobb Meadow Road. With GWI's promise to look into burying the fiber and not removing any trees, the Board approved the permit.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that there had been some concerns over the weekend with the plowing and sanding on George, Maine, and Griffin Streets. However, all of those streets have since been cleared and sanded. Kossuth had spoken to Morse about the problem earlier in the day, and Morse will make sure that those streets are cleared appropriately in the future.

Road Commissioner: No report.

Town Administrator: Town Office Project update: Kossuth reported that he had asked some other towns about using a construction manager and had received mixed replies. Some highly recommended using one, and others felt it was unnecessary. Kossuth will continue to look into it. Kossuth also reported that the Town will need to have its audits up to date when the Town seeks to borrow money for the project. The School is still working on its 2024 audit, which prevents the Town from finalizing its 2024 audit. Kossuth has asked Peter Gallace, the superintendent, to make sure the School finishes its 2024 and 2025 audits as soon as possible, so that the project is not delayed by the School's tardy audits. Kossuth and Eugley asked the Board to contact the School Board with the same message.

Hazard Mitigation Plan update: Kossuth reported that he and other participating towns will be meeting on December 11 to discuss their responses to FEMA's feedback on the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Health Officer Enforcement – 543 Atlantic Highway: Kossuth reported that CEO Toupie Rooney has spoken with the owner of 543 Atlantic Highway, and the owner has promised to clean up the property. The owner intends to serve a 30-day notice of eviction on the tenant very soon. Bill Kelly, the Town attorney, advised Rooney that it could be legally problematic for the Town if the Town removed the trash without the tenant's permission.

Shared Contracted Law Enforcement: Kossuth reported that he had spoken with David Kinney, the Lincolnville Town Administrator, about several issues, and the Lincolnville Select Board asked if the Town would be interested in sharing a contracted sheriff's deputy with Lincolnville. The Board decided that they are satisfied with the services the Town currently receives from the Sheriff's Department.

Logging on Knights Pond Road / Nebraska Road: Kossuth reported that he had spoken with Coastal Mountain Land Trust, the landowner abutting the logging road, and the State Forester is looking into whether the logging violated any environmental rules regarding runoff and erosion control. The Board asked Kossuth to check whether the landowner received a driveway permit, and to ensure that the landowner repairs Knights Pond Road when they have finished their work.

Administrator vacation coverage: Kossuth reported that the City of Belfast would handle any applications for General Assistance in Kossuth's absence, December 23 – January 2.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes for the Select Board meeting of November 24. The Board approved the minutes with edits.

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

Wyman Needy Gift Cards: The Board authorized Eugley to purchase four \$50 gift cards from the Wyman Needy Fund. The Board also authorized Eugley to purchase a \$100 gift card from the Northport Needy Families Fund for a family in need.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: Waldo County Budget Committee update: Kossuth had presented the Board with a copy of the draft Waldo County Budget for 2026. The Board discussed the budget. The public hearing on the budget is Friday, December 12.

Solar Array discussion: Kossuth presented the Board with the proposed contract with Sundog Solar for the array, which Kossuth had discussed with Billy Kelly, Town counsel. The Board authorized Kossuth to sign the contract with Kelly's edits.

Executive Session under 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C) to discuss or consider the use of real property or interests therein.

Pinkham Bebb opened the Executive Session at 7:37pm.

Pinkham Bebb closed the Executive Session at 7:59pm.

No action taken.

Adjourn: Tucker moved to adjourn at 8:00pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator