

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

July 14, 2025 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler – excused absence

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Jeanine Tucker, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, Paul Doody, Chris Maseychik.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Liquor License Renewal Application: Kossuth presented the Board with the Northport Golf Club's (NGC) application for renewing its liquor license. Kossuth reported that the Sheriff's Office had received no complaints in the past year. Doody reported that the NGC currently has approximately 260 members, a new course superintendent who is doing a great job, and the NGC golf pro will be renewing his contract. Pinkham Bebb asked for comments or questions from attendees and heard none.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to renew the liquor license for the Northport Golf Club, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, license renewal granted.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that NVC residents have been raising concerns about speeding in the Village, especially without a Village police officer this summer. Novotny and the Board discussed various options. She learned that the portable speed feedback sign needs a new battery, and asked about the Town's sign on Bayside Road near Route 1. The Board asked Kossuth to request a speed detail from the Sheriff's Office. Novotny also reported that the NVC needs to buy new woodchips for the playground, per the Village's insurer. Novotny and the Board rescheduled the upcoming Donuts & Dialog about the Town/Village relationship for Saturday, August 2, at 8am.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that street sweeping and roadside mowing were complete. The Board and Morse agreed to put the portable speed sign in Temple Heights, and then move it into the Village. Morse reported that the Town's speed feedback sign on Bayside Road needs a new battery and he will look into replacing it.

Town Administrator: Little River Dam engineering study grant letter of support: Kossuth reported that Coastal Mountain Land Trust had contacted him about a letter of support for the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN)'s application for an engineering study to investigate the feasibility of removing the two dams on the Little River (only the lower dam by Route 1 is in Northport). PIN had given Kossuth a draft letter of support, which Schauffler had edited. The Board approved Schauffler's edits, emphasizing that the Board supports only the study itself at this point.

Town Office project update: Kossuth reported that the Town learned on Friday that its request for \$2.35 million had been included in the Department of Agriculture appropriations bill for consideration by the full Senate. The Town had been included in the draft appropriations bill last year, as well.

Knights Pond drinking and camping concerns: Kossuth shared the article from the *Bangor Daily News* about the camping at Knights Pond. Since the article, there have been no further reports of camping at the pond.

Spirit of America resolution: Kossuth presented the Board with a draft resolution honoring Deb Riley for her service on the School Board. Pinkham Bebb had suggested some edits, which the Board approved. Kossuth will incorporate the edits for the Board's signature. The Board agreed to invite Riley to an upcoming meeting to present her with the award.

Hazard Mitigation Plan update: Kossuth reported that he had received the complete draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and that the next step is a public hearing, which is scheduled for July 28.

Community Resilience Partnership update: Kossuth reported that the Climate Resilience Committee met July 10 to talk about the Town's membership renewal in the state's Community Resilience Partnership. The renewal process does not require a community workshop, and the Committee will handle the renewal process.

Kossuth reported that the Committee also recommends that the Town apply for the upcoming round of Community Action Grants, and that the Town apply for funds for a Town-wide hydrological study (which should cost approximately \$50K). The State will let the Town combine two distinct projects into one application, and the Committee recommends applying the remaining funds (up to \$75K total) towards some of the energy-efficiency aspects of the Town Office (possibly including solar).

Maine Emergency Management Revolving Loan Fund: Kossuth reported that MEMA is accepting proposals for projects funded through a revolving loan fund now thru July 25. The Board agreed that Kossuth could submit some proposals, because it represents only a statement of interest, and not an actual loan application at this point. MEMA's plan is to set up a revolving loan fund based on the interest shown by communities in participating in it.

First Responder Rig request for bids: Kossuth presented the Board with a draft request for bids to sell the old First Responder rig. Kossuth had discussed the request with EMS Chief Hank Lang, who approved it. The Board approved it, and Kossuth will run the ad in the newspaper.

Hurricane Island Leadership Retreat recap: Kossuth reported on the leadership retreat he had attended, the lessons learned from it, and ideas to implement in Town.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes for the meeting of June 23. 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.

Eugley reported that the Fire Department had sent Engine 5 out for scheduled maintenance, to repair the tank cradle, and that the work will be more extensive than originally anticipated, and may cost over \$20-25,000, instead of the \$20,000 that the Fire Chief had budgeted.

Eugley reported that she will be meeting with the Town's assessing agent on July 17 to prepare for the real property tax commitment.

Unfinished Business: Waldo County Budget Committee: Pinkham Bebb reported that she had attended the budget caucus on July 10, and that there are two candidates for the committee spot.

New Business: UMaine Capstone projects: Kossuth presented the Board with draft statements of two civil engineering capstone projects for UMaine students: one for pedestrian and vehicle safety on Bayside Road and Cross Street, and one for shoreline stabilization and stormwater management in Temple Heights. The Board suggested some edits to the statements.

Executive Session under 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C) to discuss real property or interests therein:

Pinkham Bebb opened the Executive Session at 7:27pm.

Pinkham Bebb closed the Executive Session at 7:47pm.

The Board instructed Kossuth to set up a site visit for the potential temporary Town Office site.

Adjourn: Tucker moved to adjourn at 7:49pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator