

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

January 26, 2026 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse – excused absence

Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Present: Beanna Pinkham Bebb, Jeanine Tucker, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Janae Novotny

Citizen Concerns: Logging on Knights Pond Road: Kossuth reported that he had received several complaints from residents about the noise, timing, and speed of logging trucks on Knights Pond Road and Beech Hill Road. Kossuth asked the Sheriff's Office to conduct a speed detail and spoke with the logging company to ask their drivers to slow down and reduce the use of jake brakes before dawn. The logging company told Kossuth that they expect operations to be complete by the end of January. Kossuth also reported that he and Toupie Rooney, Code Enforcement Officer, spoke with the enforcement officer at the State Forestry Service, and the State is aware of problems with the logging operation, which they will be addressing separately.

The Board asked Kossuth to follow up with the State Department of Transportation regarding the 35mph speed limit on Beech Hill Road near the Town Office and to request a speed detail there as soon as the speed limit is confirmed.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the Overseers did not meet in January, and they recently held their first workshop for next year's budget.

Road Commissioner: No report.

Town Administrator: Draft RFPs: Kossuth presented the Board with draft proposals for road plowing, assessing services, demo debris, and metals. The Board discussed the drafts and approved them all.

Special Town Meeting recap: Kossuth reported that 61 voters attended the special town meeting on January 21 and voted unanimously to approve the solar array. The Board expressed gratitude for the turnout and result, and thanked Schauffler, Sue Conard, and Danny Piper from Sundog Solar in particular for their hard work.

Document Scanning Project cost estimate: Kossuth reported that he had received an estimate for scanning all of the Code Officer's files along with archival vital records. The total cost estimate was \$117,000, and the Town has approximately \$22,000 in the records preservation reserve fund. The Board suggested that they could consider setting aside some extra funds each year to fund this project and asked Kossuth to ask for a revised estimate to scan just the CEO's files.

Town Office Project update: Kossuth reported that Amanda Austin from 2a architects; Andrew Hedrich from Gartley & Dorsky; Max Johnstone from MCOG; and he met with USDA staff last week to talk about next steps for the project. USDA wants to review the construction drawings and specifications, and Maine DEP and Army Corps permits, to see how much additional review the project will require. Kossuth reported that the Build America requirements provide an exemption for up to 5% of the total project cost, and that "total project cost" means everything the Town has spent since the Town first started working on this project.

Health Officer Enforcement – 543 Atlantic Highway: Kossuth reported that Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney had received a copy of the notice of eviction sent to the tenant at 543 Atlantic Hwy, which requires the tenant to vacate the building by February 28. The building is apparently unoccupied right now: Rooney has not seen any footprints in the snow and the cars in the driveway are covered with snow. The expectation is that once the tenancy is terminated, the owner will clean it up. Rooney will continue to monitor the building for signs of occupancy and reports of vermin.

MMA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) update: Kossuth reported that the LPC met on January 15, and he provided the Board with a copy of the LPC's positions on the bills it reviewed. Kossuth also reported that he had submitted testimony on behalf of the Town in opposition to LD2042, which would remove the requirement that legal notices be published in the newspaper, and provided a copy of that testimony to the Board. Kossuth explained that the newspaper notice requirement is important for government transparency and the support of a healthy local press, which also aids government transparency. The Board thanked Kossuth for submitting that testimony.

Community Resilience Partnership Grant: Kossuth reported that he learned on Friday that the Town had been awarded a grant for \$70,000 from the Community Resilience Partnership for a Town-wide stormwater survey and a two-year pilot project with ScrapDogs for free compost drop-offs at the Transfer Station. The Board suggested that it might be helpful to combine the dormant Recycling Committee with the Resilience Committee, since the Resilience Committee is increasingly overlapping with what the Recycling Committee had worked on.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes for the Select Board meeting of January 12 and the Special Town Meeting of January 21. 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.

Unfinished Business: Waldo County Budget Committee update: Pinkham Bebb reported that the Budget Committee will be meeting on January 27 for the first time since the December 12 public hearing. The Commissioners and department heads have been editing the original proposed budget and have reduced the proposed budget increase from 36% to 17%.

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

Pinkham Bebb moved to enter Executive Session under 1 MRSA § 405(6)(C) to discuss or consider the use of real property or interests therein, at 7:32pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0 to enter executive session.

Pinkham Bebb closed the Executive Session at 7:57pm.

No action taken.

Adjourn: *Pinkham Bebb moved to adjourn at 7:58pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator