

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

March 9, 2026 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Molly Schauffler

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

Municipal Officer: [vacant]

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Present: Molly Schauffler, Jeanine Tucker, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, Tinsley Morrison, Bill Laurita, Robert Patterson, Rebecca Patterson, Andy Duso, Josh Wellman

Citizen Concerns: Bill Laurita, Swans Island Blankets, re Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):

Kossuth explained that Bill Laurita from Swans Island Blankets had contacted him to ask about the Town's support for a CDBG application. Laurita learned that the State has money available in the current fiscal year for CDBG applications, and Laurita would like to apply now. Laurita explained that the CDBG money would allow him to purchase two additional looms, which would allow him to expand his business and meet additional customer demand. Laurita would ask the State for \$100,000 and Swans Island would contribute \$335,000. The Board expressed concern over potential impact that the grant money might have on the Town's audit process because of the federal money for the Town Office project, which will require a more extensive audit than usual. Eugley will ask the Town's auditors for guidance. The Board agreed to submit the letter of inquiry to the State now, and invited Laurita to return on March 23 so that Eugley can report what she learned from the Town's auditors.

Transfer Station: Josh Wellman, DM&J, was present to negotiate an extension to DM&J's current demo debris and metals contracts. Wellman presented the Board with a proposed contract for the next two years and answered the Board's questions about it.

Schauffler moved to renew DM&J's contract for demo debris and metals hauling for two years at the terms specified in DM&J's proposal for disposal, transportation, and container rental, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Bid Opening: Road Plowing and Sanding: Kossuth presented the Board with two bids for road plowing and sanding. The Board reviewed the bids and asked questions of representatives from PaMo Plowing and Sanding, the only bidder present.

Schauffler moved to award the bid to the low bidder, PaMo Plowing and Sanding, for \$208,000 per year for three years, totaling \$624,000, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Assessing Services: Kossuth presented the Board with the only bid received for Assessing Service, from RJD Appraisal. The Board reviewed the bid and asked Kossuth to ask if RJD would be willing to enter a two-year contract instead of the one-year that RJD proposed.

Schauffler moved to award the bid to RJD Appraisal, pending RJD agreeing to a two-year contract, at \$31,000, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the Overseers had met on March 8 and unanimously approved the plan for Bayview Park with the steps at the northern end of the park. The abutters had dropped their objection to the steps at that location. Novotny reported that Gary Elwell had sought and received

permission from the Overseers to access Village property for seawall work in Birchcrest. Novotny also reported that Bayside Arts had released its summer programming schedule.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that the culvert and sidewalk project on Bayside Road is ongoing and making good progress. He reported that he has posted the roads, and he is preparing his budget for FY2027. Novotny asked about the speed feedback sign on Bayside Road near The Hoot, and Morse reported that he has ordered a new battery for it. Morse reported that he is still waiting for the overhead door motor at the sand garage on Route 1. Kossuth will follow up with Bangor Overhead Door Company.

Town Administrator: Special Town Meeting recap: The Board discussed the results of the March 2 special town meeting.

Bond Anticipation Note Closing Paperwork: Kossuth presented the Board with various documents to sign for the Bond Anticipation Note. The Board signed the paperwork.

FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending: Kossuth reported that Maine's congressional delegation is accepting CDS requests for FY2027. The Board decided that the Town does not currently have any projects sufficiently advanced to make good candidates for funding.

543 Atlantic Highway update: Kossuth reported that Toupie Rooney, the Code Enforcement Officer, had heard from the owner of 543 Atlantic Hwy, and, now that the tenant has been evicted (and who had not been living there for several months), the owner will be sending a clean-up crew there in the next week or so.

Draft RFPs for Town Office / Fire Station and School Plowing and for Road Sand: Kossuth shared draft RFPs for Town Office, Fire Station, and School Plowing and for Road Sand. The plowing contract will be for the temporary Town Office location and includes a requirement to clear the new sidewalks near the Drinkwater School. The Board approved both sets of RFPs.

Town Office Project Update: Kossuth reported that he and Town Office staff had met with Amanda Austin of 2a architects to talk about finishes -- siding, roofing, furniture, walls, flooring, etc. He reported that Gartley & Dorsky is still completing its environmental review for the USDA. Kossuth reported that he asked Austin for an estimated cost to maintain the outdoor sprinkler tank so that the Board can compare long-term costs between an indoor and outdoor sprinkler tank.

The Board asked about holding the November 2026 election at the Drinkwater School, since the temporary office will not have space. Kossuth will have the Clerk ask the School.

Kossuth reported that Fox & Ginn Movers had offered to combine moving costs with scanning costs, since the scanning would be done by the same company, and give a substantial discount for the work. The Board agreed that the scanning should be done, but has concerns about the timing. The Board asked Kossuth to work with Fox & Ginn and the Code Enforcement Officer to make sure that her files get scanned first and that the payments for the project can be split over two fiscal years.

Kossuth reported that the Town's Little Green Light subscription for donor tracking is up for renewal. The Board agreed to renew the contract.

Solar Project update: Kossuth reported that the Town had initiated the informal dispute resolution process with the Public Utilities Commission about the solar array. The Town, PUC, CMP, and Sundog are meeting on March 11 to try to resolve the dispute over CMP's denial of the Town's interconnection agreement.

Belfast Ambulance update: Kossuth reported that he, along with representatives from other towns that contract with Belfast for ambulance service, met with the Belfast city manager, ambulance chief, mayor, and finance director to talk about the ambulance contract price increase. Kossuth reported that the meeting was productive and informative, and clearly explained the reasons behind the price increase.

Winter '26-'27 Heating Fuel bids: Kossuth reported that he submitted the Town's heating fuel needs to the Greater Portland Council of Government for their bulk purchasing program, and GPCOG decided to delay awarding the contract for 60 days to let heating fuel prices stabilize.

The Hoot Liquor License Renewal: Kossuth reported that The Hoot had submitted its application to renew its liquor license. Kossuth asked if the Board wanted to hold a public hearing or waive the hearing because The Hoot has had its license for over five years. The Board agreed that a hearing was not necessary.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes from the February 23 Select Board meeting and March 2 Special Town Meeting. 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. Eugley asked the Board to schedule future budget meetings. The Board agreed to hold budget meetings on March 16 and March 30 at 6:15pm.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Adjourn: *Tucker moved to adjourn at 7:42pm, seconded by Schaufler. Board voted 2-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator