

Town of Northport
Public Hearing and Select Board Meeting

May 18, 2026 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Molly Schauffler

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Municipal Officer: [vacant]

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse – excused absence

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny – excused absence

Present: Molly Schauffler, Jeanine Tucker, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Tinsley Morrison, Betsy Morrell, Bill Laurita.

Public Hearing: Swans Island Blankets, Community Development Block Grant Application:

Schauffler opened the public hearing at 6:16pm and called for questions about the CDBG application from those present.

Schauffler asked about Laurita’s plans for hiring new staff. Laurita explained that he intends to hire four part-time staff (two full-time equivalent) and one full-time. Some will work in weaving and production, and one in marketing and sales.

Schauffler asked about the breakdown of in-person vs. online sales, and Laurita explained that it is about evenly divided.

Tucker asked whether the proposed loom purchase will replace existing equipment or add to the capital stock. Laurita explained that the new loom is in addition, in order to expand production capacity.

Schauffler asked about the timing of the purchases and hires. Laurita explained that, assuming the grant is awarded in June, he will order the loom right away, and it has about a six-month lead time. Once the new loom is operational in early 2027, Laurita will hire the new staff. He expects to be able to close out the grant in spring 2027.

Schauffler asked whether he intends to hire experienced weavers, or if they will be trained. Laurita explained that he will train any new hire.

Schauffler asked about the recruitment process. Laurita explained that he places ads in the local newspaper, on the company’s website, and online. He also has had some employees return after leaving.

Schauffler asked about any concerns Laurita had about being able to complete the grant. Laurita explained that it is always impossible to predict the business cycle, but they have been in business for more than twenty years and made it through previous downturns. He remains confident that the company will be able to withstand any downturns.

Schauffler called for any further questions. Hearing none, Schauffler closed the public hearing at 6:30pm.

New Business: Support for Firefighter Katherine Paige: Kossuth reported that Firefighter Katherine Paige, who works for both Northport and Belmont Volunteer Fire Departments, was seriously injured in

the fire at Robbins Lumber on May 15. Kossuth reported that Fire Chief Paul Rooney would like to make a donation to the Paige family. The Board decided that it would be appropriate to donate from the Town's Needy Families account. The Board would like Chief Rooney to determine how much would be appropriate, and the Board will add it to the warrant for the next meeting. The Board also agreed to accept donations for Firefighter Paige and deliver them to the family. The Board asked Kossuth to set up an email address for people to write notes to Firefighter Paige that the Town could then deliver to her.

Adjourn: Tucker moved to adjourn at 6:46pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator