

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

June 22, 2026 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Molly Schauffler

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

Municipal Officer: Tinsley Morrison

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Present: Molly Schauffler, Jeanine Tucker, Tinsley Morrison, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, CJ Atherton, Dianna Olmsted, Rob Duplisea, John Burgess, Dan Webster, Tom Gilmore (GWI, via Zoom).

Election of Officers: Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026-2027: Tucker nominated Schauffler to serve as Chair, seconded by Morrison. ***Board voted 3-0, Schauffler elected Chair.***

Schauffler nominated Tucker to serve as Vice Chair, seconded by Morrison. ***Board voted 3-0, Tucker elected Vice Chair.***

Bid Opening: Bayview Park Shoreline Stabilization Project: Kossuth presented the Board with the five bids that the Town had received for the project, and the Board discussed them. None of the bidders was present.

Schauffler moved to award the project to Dan Ford Enterprises for \$99,400, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, bid awarded.

Property Revaluation: Rob Duplisea, of RJD Appraisal, discussed the results of the property revaluation with the Board. The Town's overall taxable property value now stands at \$830,019,000, up from \$307,902,320. The mil rate is expected to decrease from 18.59 to approximately 7.1. Duplisea will mail notices to all taxpayers with their new taxable values in early July and RJD will hold meetings with taxpayers at the end of July so that the Board can commit property taxes as of August 1.

Pole Permits / Relocation: Tom Gilmore from GWI attended via Zoom to explain GWI's proposal for burying some fiber optic cable on Prescott Hill Road and removing some poles, but leaving others in place. Gilmore answered the Board's questions, and the Board asked Gilmore to price out the cost of removing all the poles and burying all the fiber. Gilmore said he would get a cost estimate for that work, as well as for removing the reflective tape from the poles if GWI cannot remove the poles themselves.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the NVC Safety Committee has raised concerns about speeding in the Village. Kossuth offered to call the Waldo County Sheriff's Office to schedule speed details. Novotny reported that the Safety Committee is also preparing a bulletin on beach fire safety, and another on bicycle safety.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that roadside mowing has begun and should be complete in a day or two. Morse received a request to fix the "popped" culvert on Upper Bluff Road, and to straighten one of the "Northport Welcomes You" signs and to reinstall the other.

Town Administrator: Town Meeting recap: Kossuth reported that there had been 127 registered voters at the Town Meeting. He has also contacted people who had expressed an interest in working on the Site Plan Review ordinance revision task force. They would start work at the next Planning Board meeting, on July 14.

Road Salt and Heating Fuel bids: Kossuth reported that he had secured contracts for road salt and heating fuel that were below what the Town had received for bids. New England Salt has agreed to \$80/ton, which was less than the \$84/ton low bid from the Midcoast Council of Governments group bidding process. For heating fuel, Dead River was lower than Maritime Energy, so he entered into a fixed-price contract at \$3.7814/gallon.

Website Accessibility project update: Atheron, the Town's summer intern, reported that she had spoken with some website services vendors about making the Town's website fully ADA compliant and accessible. She reported that one of the vendors would charge \$8000 per year, and another would provide the same service for approximately \$1200 per year, and the Town currently budgets \$1000 per year for web services. Atherton will talk to other vendors and present her recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Fundraising Committee / Summer event planning update: Kossuth reported that the Fundraising Committee is planning three events this summer -- a contra dance, Sunday July 19 at Community Hall; a lobster bake and art sale in Ruggles Park on Sunday, August 2; and Northportpalooza on Sunday, September 20 at the Town Office and 8 Beech Hill Road. These events will be focused on fun, community-building, and fundraising.

Kossuth reported that the Committee had asked about a Town Venmo account to make collecting donations easier. Kossuth reported to the Board what steps were necessary for the Town to open a Venmo account. The Board agreed not to open a Venmo account.

Town Office / 8 Beech Hill Road update: Kossuth reported that he submitted the Town's application for a \$100,000 grant for sprinklers in the fire station. The Town will receive the decision later in the summer.

Kossuth reported that the *Midcoast Villager* had approached him about a feature story about the Town Office project. Kossuth asked the Board for suggestions for items to be sure to mention.

MMA Legislative Policy Committee ballot: Kossuth presented the Board with the ballot for the 2026-2028 Legislative Policy Committee. The Board voted for Kossuth.

Waldo County Budget Committee update: Kossuth reported that the Town had received an invitation from the County Commissioners for the nomination caucus for the budget committee, to be held on July 2 at 6pm. Kossuth also asked the Board about approaching the Commissioners again about supporting a bill that would expand eligibility for the budget committee, to bring Waldo in line with 14 other counties that do not limit the county budget committee to municipal officers only. (Cumberland is the other.) The Board agreed that Kossuth could try again to get support for such a bill.

Solar Project update: Kossuth reported that he had not yet heard anything from the Public Utilities Commission on the Town's request for an advisory opinion. The PUC is supposed to make a decision by

early July. Kossuth also reported that he had contacted Sundog about the Town Meeting vote to authorize a solar installation at 8 Beech Hill Road.

Maine IFW Expanded Deer Hunting request for comments: Kossuth reported that Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is proposing additional expanded archery areas along the coast as part of an effort to manage high deer populations in the area. The new area would include parts of Northport between Route 1 and the water, from The Hoot to Saturday Cove. The Board decided not to submit any comments on the proposal.

FB Environmental Services Contract: Kossuth presented the Board with the service contract from FB Environmental for their stormwater survey as part of the current Community Resilience Partnership grant. The Board approved the contract.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes from the June 8 Select Board meeting. The Board approved the minutes with delight and enthusiasm.

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 for authorization to make the next payroll effective on Thursday, July 2, to accommodate bank holidays on July 3. The Board agreed.

Eugley asked the Board to consider adopting a formal fund-balance policy to guide the Town's practices in the future. The Board asked Eugley to look into other examples to guide the policy-making.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: None at this time.

Adjourn: *Tucker moved to adjourn at 7:52pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator