

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

July 13, 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, CJ Atherton, Janae Novotny, Dianna Olmsted, Vicki Webster, Ann Frenning Kossuth.

Citizen Concerns: A resident asked about scheduling meetings with RJD Appraisal about the new property tax assessed values. Kossuth instructed her to call the Town Office during business hours to schedule an appointment during the week of July 20.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the NVC Safety Committee had requested, and the Overseers had approved, making a formal request to the Board to install stop signs and speed humps at various places in the historic Village area in response to pedestrian safety concerns. The Board discussed the request with Novotny, and Morse raised some concerns about stop signs on through streets like George Street and Bluff Road. A resident raised concerns about the effect of having a stop sign right in front of her house. The Board instructed Kossuth to work with the NVC Safety Committee and Maine DOT on further research, including a traffic study to collect data on traffic volume and speed.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that the exhaust fan in the salt shed had been fixed. He had installed speed limit and "blind driveway" signs on Priest Road in response to a resident request. A resident asked about straightening the "Welcome to Northport" sign near the Belfast line, and about re-installing the one near the Lincolnville line. Morse has those items on his to-do list. Kossuth asked about filling some potholes on Horse Jockey Lane near the cemetery. Morse has that on his to-do list.

Town Administrator: Changing Select Board Meeting days: Kossuth reported that one of the Board members had asked to discuss changing the meeting day from the 2d and 4th Monday to the 2d and 4th Wednesday of each month. The Board discussed the change and agreed to change the meeting day effective in August, with the meeting held on Wednesday, August 12.

Town Office / 8 Beech Hill Road update: Kossuth reported that he had spoken with Amanda Austin, of 2A architects, and Andrew Hedrich, of Gartley & Dorsky, about the new proposed septic field location and the design for the temporary town office and parking. Kossuth presented the Board with the proposed layout and drawings. The Board expressed concern about putting the temporary parking lot so close to Beech Hill Road, and with multiple points of entry and exit. The Board also asked whether the septic field could be moved farther from the road to allow for parking to go where the proposed septic field lay.

Kossuth asked the Board for permission to enter into a contract with a climate-controlled storage facility to begin moving archival items ahead of the planned move in the fall. The Board agreed.

Fundraising Committee / Summer event planning update: Kossuth reported that the Fundraising Committee's contra dance is coming up on Sunday, July 19, at Community Hall, and raffle ticket sales have raised over \$2500 so far. The planning for the Committee's lobster bake in Ruggles Park on August 2 is coming along nicely.

Solar Project update: Kossuth reported that the Public Utilities Commission had invited public comment on the Town's request for an advisory opinion regarding the Town's planned solar array, and the deadline was July 10. The Town has until July 17 to submit a reply. Several parties submitted comments in support of the Town's position, and CMP submitted comments in opposition. Kossuth will submit the Town's comments by the deadline.

Cash Handling Policy draft: Kossuth presented the Board with a proposed policy to address cash handled by volunteers at Town functions (such as the upcoming contra dance). The Board discussed the policy and approved it with edits.

Employee Policy draft: Kossuth presented the Board with a revised Employee Policy regarding payouts for eligible employees who do not receive their health insurance through the Town and aligning the Town's paid-leave policy with new State laws. The Board discussed the proposed changes, and approved the health insurance payout as an annual lump sum at the end of the fiscal year in June. The Board also approved the edits to conform with State law regarding paid-leave accrual and pay-out.

Swans Island CDBG Public Hearing scheduling: Kossuth reported that the Town had been awarded the Community Development Block Grant for Swans Island. The Town needs to hold a second public hearing to finalize the acceptance of the funds. The Board agreed to hold the hearing on Wednesday, August 12, at its regularly scheduled Select Board meeting.

DOT Route 1 update meeting scheduling: Kossuth reported that he and David Kinney, Lincolnville Town Administrator, have heard from Maine DOT about the status of the plans for the Route 1 project between Point Lookout and Lincolnville Beach. DOT would like to schedule another joint meeting with the Select Boards. The Board agreed that either September 14 or 15 would work.

MMA Legislative Issues survey: Kossuth had shared with the Board a link to a survey regarding the Town's legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The Board agreed that Kossuth could complete the survey, highlighting the issues that are most important to the Town.

Belfast Ambulance contract: Kossuth presented the Board with the Belfast Ambulance contract for 2026-2027. The Board approved the contract.

Waldo County Budget Committee ballot: Kossuth presented the Board with the ballot for the Waldo County Budget Committee. Ian Stover of Waldo was the only candidate on the ballot; the Board voted for Stover. The Board asked Eugley about her upcoming role on the Waldo County Finance Advisory Committee. She said that the Advisory Committee will meet for the first time on August 7.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes from the June 22 Select Board meeting. The Board approved the minutes with friendly edits.

Tax Collector: Kossuth presented the Board with a request from Ashley Landry to accept his full payment for his outstanding 2022-2025 taxes for his tax-foreclosed property at 251 Shore Road (U12-25). The Board agreed to accept his payment and issue a municipal quitclaim deed.

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 reported that \$14,075 had been donated by residents to Firefighter Katherine Paige so far.

Unfinished Business: GWI Poles on Prescott Hill Road: Schaufler had solicited input from abutters to the GWI poles on Prescott Hill Road. The Board asked Kossuth to send those comments to GWI and to ask for an update on GWI's next steps.

New Business: Website Accessibility vendors: Atherton, the Town's summer intern, presented the Board with her research on various website vendors who could make the Town's website fully ADA compliant and accessible. The Board discussed her research and agreed to contract with Revize for the project, for \$4800 divided over four years, or \$1950 per year.

Municipal Officers on Other Committees discussion: The Board discussed an appropriate approach to having two Select Board members sit together on another committee. Kossuth had consulted with Maine Municipal Association's legal department, which had suggested some possible approaches. The Board agreed that (a) all committee meetings with two Board members would be publicly noticed on the Town's website calendar, (b) the notice would include the information that two Select Board members serve on that committee, but (c) no Select Board business would be discussed at the committee meeting and (d) all committee decisions relating to money would be referred to the full Select Board for discussion and approval.

Adjourn: *Tucker moved to adjourn at 8:29pm, seconded by Morrison. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator