

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

July 27, 2026 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Molly Schauffler

Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Municipal Officer: Tinsley Morrison

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Molly Schauffler, Jeanine Tucker, Tinsley Morrison, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, CJ Atherton, Janae Novotny, Dianna Olmsted.

Citizen Concerns: Schauffler reported that she had spoken to a resident who had concerns about erosion from a creek on her property. Kossuth had also spoken to that resident, and he had referred her to the Code Enforcement Officer to ensure the resident obtained the proper permits.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that summer is in full swing in the Village. The Safety Committee had borrowed traffic counting devices from the Maine DOT and installed them in a few places in the Village to collect data regarding vehicle numbers and speed.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that the speed feedback sign on Bayside Road had new batteries but was still not working. Novotny offered to have the resident who had fixed the similar sign in the Village last year try to fix this one. Morse will drop the sign off. Morse was asked about roadside mowing, and the fall mowing will happen soon. Tucker asked Morse to remove the tree near the stop sign at the intersection of Nealey Road and Route 1, and Morse will do that.

Town Administrator: Traffic Safety Concerns in the Village: Kossuth presented the Board with the correspondence that he had received from residents expressing concerns about traffic safety in the Village. Kossuth reported that additional traffic counting devices would be installed on certain Town roads in the near future to collect additional data about traffic volume and speed.

Revisiting Changing Select Board Meeting days: Kossuth asked the Board when they would like to begin meeting on the 2d and 4th Wednesday of each month. The Board decided to change the meeting day effective in September, with the meeting held on Wednesday, September 9. The Board also decided to change the public hearing for the Swans Island Community Development Block Grant to August 24.

Town Office / 8 Beech Hill Road update: Kossuth reported that he had met with Amanda Austin, of 2A architects, and the State Fire Marshall's Office (SFMO) about the plans for the temporary town office next door. SFMO agreed that the Town would not need to add an ADA-compliant bathroom, given the expense and the relatively small amount of work the Town will be doing to the temporary office.

Kossuth reported that he, the Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney, Austin, and Andrew Hedrich from Gartley & Dorsky had met to discuss the plans for the temporary parking lot and septic field at 8 Beech Hill Road. The site evaluator is scheduled to return to 8 Beech Hill on July 28 to dig test pits in the area of the knotweed next to the fire station, to see if the field could be moved further from the road and make room for the temporary parking lot. Kossuth reported that because of that delay, the temporary Town Office project will not be on the Planning Board agenda until September.

Kossuth asked the Board for permission to have Zuhlke start to remove the trees, both from 8 Beech Hill Road and from the Beech Hill Road cemetery, per the quote from March. The Board agreed.

Fundraising Committee / Summer event planning update: Kossuth reported that the contra dance on July 19 was a success and raised over \$6000. The lobster bake is on August 2, and over \$2000 in lobster tickets have been sold already. The art vendors will donate 20% of their proceeds to the fundraiser as well. Kossuth reported that the Town had received a \$40,000 cash donation this week.

Solar Project update: Kossuth reported that the Town had submitted its reply to CMP's comments to the Public Utilities Commission about the solar array. Kossuth reported that it is unknown when PUC will issue a decision.

Climate Resilience Committee update: Kossuth reported that the Climate Resilience Committee met last week to plan the further distribution of food scrap buckets for the ScrapDogs compost pilot. Almost half of the 75 buckets have already been distributed, and the Committee is planning to have a couple of volunteers at the transfer station on a couple of Saturdays to distribute the rest of the buckets.

Cash Handling Policy and Employee Policy updates: Kossuth presented the Board with clean and redline versions of the two updated policies, with the revisions approved at the previous meeting. The Board approved and signed the two policies.

DOT Route 1 update meeting scheduling: Kossuth reported that the update meeting with Northport and Lincolnville Select Boards and the Maine DOT is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, at the Lincolnville Central School.

Waldo County Budget Committee vacancy: Kossuth reported that former Municipal Officer, now County Commissioner, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, had asked the Board to recommend that the Waldo County Budget Committee recruit Belfast City Councilor Mary Mortier to fill Pinkham Bebb's vacancy on the Budget Committee. Kossuth presented the Board with a letter for the Board's review and approval. The Board signed the letter.

County Commissioner / Sheriff visit: Kossuth reported that County Commissioner Pinkham Bebb would like to visit the Select Board with Sheriff Trundy and provide an update on County affairs. The Board agreed that September 9 or 23 would be suitable for a visit. Kossuth will arrange the visit.

Belfast Ambulance contract: Kossuth presented the Board with a corrected Belfast Ambulance contract for 2026-2027. The previous contract had had a typographical error. The Board approved the corrected contract.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes from the June 15 Town Meeting and July 13 Select Board meeting. The Board approved the minutes with friendly edits.

Tax Collector: 2026 Tax Commitment: Kossuth, on behalf of the Tax Collector, presented the Board with tax commitment forms for 2026 with three different options for overlay amounts. The Board discussed the choices and agreed on an overlay of \$94,261.43 and a mil rate of 7.25. The Board also approved the tax commitment for the Northport Village Corporation with a mil rate of 2.13.

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.

Annual Policies: Eugley presented the Board with three policies for the Board to renew: Treasurer's Disbursement for State of Maine Fees Policy; Treasurer's Disbursement for Employee Wages and Benefits Policy; Municipal Officers' Policy on Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs. The Board reviewed and signed the policy renewals.

Employee Payroll Agreements: Eugley presented the Board with annual employee payroll agreements for FY2027. The Board approved and signed the agreements.

Unfinished Business: GWI Poles on Prescott Hill Road: Schaufler asked Kossuth if there had been any word from GWI. Kossuth reported that he had shared the residents' input with GWI but had not heard back. The Board instructed Kossuth to let GWI know that the Board would like to see all the poles removed and all the cable buried.

New Business: Donor Naming Privileges: Schaufler asked the Board to consider what terms, conditions, or parameters the Town would like to see in place for any naming opportunities in the new Community Center. The Board agreed to discuss it further at the next meeting.

Summer Intern Recognition: Schaufler recognized and thanked CJ Atherton, the Town's summer intern, for her work this summer and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Adjourn: *Tucker moved to adjourn at 7:30pm, seconded by Morrison. Board voted 3-0, meeting adjourned.*

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth, Town Administrator