

Town of Northport
Public Hearing and Select Board Meeting

September 23, 2026 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Molly Schauffler
Vice Chair: Jeanine Tucker – excused absence
Municipal Officer: Tinsley Morrison
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse
NVC Representative: Janae Novotny

Present: Molly Schauffler, Tinsley Morrison, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amon Morse, Janae Novotny, Dan Ford, Linda DesMarais, Michael DesMarais, Toupie Rooney.

Public Hearing: Camp DeForest Catering Liquor License and Special Amusement Permit: Kossuth reported that Camp DeForest had withdrawn its liquor license and special amusement permit applications due to a change in plans.

Bid Opening: Brush Cutting: Kossuth presented the Board with the two bids that the Town had received for brush cutting, from PSG Concrete and Ford Enterprises. The Board discussed the two bids.

Schauffler moved to award the contract to the low bidder, Ford Enterprises, for \$58,400, seconded by Morrison. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Citizen Concerns: Shore Road / Kelly Cove culvert: L. DesMarais and M. DesMarais, 673 Shore Road, presented their concerns to the Board about the stream that crosses their property and drains into Kelly Cove through a culvert under Shore Road. They have noticed in recent years that the stream has been moving closer to their building, and they believe that it is because there has been development and tree-clearing upstream from their building, and because the culvert is inadequately sized for the increased flow. They would like the Board to stabilize the stream bank on their property near their building and increase the size of the culvert to allow for stormwater to flow to Kelly Cove without backing up into their property. The Board explained that the Town is not legally permitted to spend public money on private property. The Board did suggest that the Town could support the DesMaraises in their efforts to locate grant funding or low-interest loans for the work, but the Town cannot pay for it. The Board told the DesMaraises that as part of the Town's stormwater survey, the engineers will look at the stream and the capacity of the culvert, to see if there is anything that the Town needs to do to the road or the culvert. The Board asked the Road Commissioner to inspect the culvert, and Schauffler said that she would meet with the DesMaraises at their property to talk more about their concerns.

Northport Village Corporation: Novotny reported that the Overseers had approved purchasing a new truck for the Village Agent, that they had posted an RFP for a new float, and that they had sent a notice of violation letter to Pinkerton & Sons for breaching the trash hauling contract by not delivering all the trash to the Transfer Station before the Transfer Station closed. The NVC had asked Pinkerton to return its key to the Transfer Station gate, but they had not. The NVC would purchase a new lock for the gate and make enough copies of the key for all of the authorized users.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that Ford Enterprises was replacing a culvert on Knights Pond Road that had rusted out. Morse is also in the process of repairing the bump on Upper Bluff Road. Morse reported that he would remove the tree on Shore Road lying on the fiber-optic cables.

Town Administrator: Draft Letter to Maine DOT re traffic calming: Kossuth and the Board discussed the latest draft of a letter to Maine DOT asking for advice regarding traffic calming measures around Town. Kossuth and the Board will continue to revise the letter and consider it at the next meeting.

Town Office / 8 Beech Hill Road update: Kossuth reported that the Town had received its permit from the State Fire Marshal's Office for the renovation and change of use for 8 Beech Hill. Kossuth is working with Amanda Austin of 2a architects and the Code Enforcement Officer to finalize the Town's submission for the Planning Board's October meeting for the change of use. The ad for bids for the renovation has been posted and the Town has received some inquiries. Bids are due October 9.

Kossuth reported that he spoke with Amanda Austin and Andrew Hedrich (Gartley & Dorsky) about updating the Town's Maine DEP and Army Corps permits to include the new septic field location and reduced wetland impacts.

Fundraising Committee / Northportpalooza recap: Kossuth reported that Northportpalooza on September 20 was a success, despite the damp weather. Kossuth and the Board thanked all the volunteers, vendors, participants, and attendees. Kossuth reported that Excelsior Lodge in Northport donated \$400 to the Town Office project. The Board thanked the Masons for their generous contribution.

Climate Resilience Committee update: Kossuth shared the latest data on the food scrap pilot program, with nearly 70 buckets distributed, and over 1400 pounds of waste diverted in the first three months. Kossuth reported that FB Environmental will soon begin the work on the stormwater survey under that same grant.

Kossuth reported that the Town has been awarded a grant for just over \$50,000 for the Town to work with Waldo Community Action Partners on energy efficiency initiatives in Town. The goal is to come up with a way to identify and connect with those households in Town most in need of energy efficiency upgrades. WCAP and a consultant will do the bulk of the work, and the Town will coordinate. The Resilience Committee met on September 23 and asked Kossuth to set up an initial meeting with all the participants.

College Scholarship Policy update: Kossuth presented the Board with proposed revisions to the Town's college scholarship policy to allow students who earned the scholarship but did not claim it in their first year of post-secondary education to claim it in their second year. The Board asked Kossuth to make some additional changes to clarify the process.

AngelCom services quote: Kossuth reported that he and Eugley will meet with AngelCom on September 24 to follow up on their earlier conversation about updating the Town's service agreement.

Minutes: Kossuth presented the Board with minutes from the September 9 Select Board meeting. The Board approved the minutes.

Tax Collector: Abatement Requests: On behalf of the Tax Collector, Kossuth presented the Board with abatement requests for 37 Pound Hill Road (Map R05-021) and 1015 Caswell Hill Rd (Map R04-17-A). The Board approved both requests.

2027 Proposed State Valuation: On behalf of the Tax Collector, Kossuth presented the Board with the State's proposed property valuation for 2027. The Board had some questions for Kossuth to ask the Assessor's Agent the next time he is in the office.

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.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

New Business: Morrison reported on her Verbal Judo workshop, which provided several tips for successfully managing difficult conversations.

Executive Session under 1 MRS § 405(6)(H) to for consultations between the Select Board and the Code Enforcement Officer pursuant to 30-A MRS § 4452(1)(C) regarding the prosecution of an enforcement matter.

Schauffler moved to enter Executive Session under 1 MRS § 405(6)(H) for consultations with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding an enforcement action at 7:40pm, seconded by Morrison. Board voted 2-0 to enter Executive Session.

Schauffler closed the Executive Session at 8:05pm.

No action taken.

Adjourn: ***Morrison moved to adjourn at 8:05pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, meeting adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by,

James Kossuth
Town Administrator