

**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**October 15, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Paul Rooney, Chairman; Denise Lindahl; Drexell White; Jack Driscoll, Town Administrator; Amon Morse, Road Commissioner; Barbara O’Leary, Town Clerk

**Citizen Concerns:**

Jack Driscoll stated Ashley Landry was going to attend to ask for an easement to run a water line under the road. He could not make the meeting and asked to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting in November.

**NVC:**

The NVC representative was not present. No issues were noted.

Jack Driscoll stated the Animal Control Officer, Jerry Tucker, would be present later to discuss animal issues.

**Road Commissioner Report:**

**Bids:**

The Clerk presented three bids for work on a section of Flanders Road. The following bids were opened and reviewed:

Farley & Son Landscaping	\$7,636.92
Scott Patten Construction	3,900.00
F.C. Work & Sons	5,170.00

Discussion followed. The F.C. Work bid noted an additional \$950.00 for a cross culvert. If the Town buys the culvert the cost would be \$550.00.

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Drexell White, the Board voted 3-0 to accept the bid of Scott Patten Construction. Paul Rooney stated if the cross culvert is needed, the Town would purchase it.

**Prescott Hill:** Lane Construction has repaired the section of road that had a bump on it. The ripple that is left is part of the base and the Town would need to correct it. Paul Rooney recommended seeing how it does through the winter and look at it in the spring.

**Temple Heights:** Amon Morse will get the template to paint the crosswalks. He can borrow one from Belfast and do them next week.

**Priest Road:** brush and trees need to be cut back that are blocking and overhanging the road. Amon will get this done. Paul Rooney noted there are other roads needing this and should be figured into the budget for next year. Amon stated there is a tree limb on Beech Hill Road overhanging the road that should come down. The homeowner has contacted CMP but they will not do anything until it comes down. The Road Commissioner was instructed to look at this and see if he could take it down.

**Salt & Sand Deliveries:** Amon Morse will contact the State for delivery of the salt. The contractor for the sand will deliver within the next month.

Jack Driscoll stated all contactors for the Town should show proof of insurance on a yearly basis. Paul Rooney stated this is a requirement for most bids. The Administrator stated at a recent workshop this was discussed, stating once the job is in hand the insurance could be cancelled. The Clerk noted many

insurances notify when the company cancels a policy. This is a section on the bottom of the proof of insurance that is submitted to the Town. Drexell White asked if we require proof of insurance for all work down through the Town. Paul Rooney stated in the past it has only been required for larger projects, but a good idea to require this proof on all jobs.

**Floats:** Floats should be coming out of the water in the next month. Jack Driscoll stated he talked to the new Harbor Master about getting them out. In the past the Road Commissioner co-coordinated this. He will speak with Lora Mills and see if she needs any help. She will contact Jeff Schleicher to determine when the lobstermen will be finished for the season before coordinating with Dean Brown to get the floats out. Jeff will also look over the floats for any necessary repairs.

Amon Morse also stated there is some metal that has been accumulating at the garage, and what should be done with it. Paul Rooney recommended it be brought to the Transfer Station.

### **Administrator's Report:**

**1. Gateway 1:** Jack Driscoll asked if the Board had decided to sign the agreement with the Gateway 1 Project, a decision is needed before 10-31-2009. An email from Stacey Benjamin was discussed. Town Attorney Bill Kelly has concerns with the agreement and its impact on Northport. He did not see any benefit for Northport to be part of the project. The Planning Board would need to bring the Comprehensive Plan up to date, and possibly revive the Comprehensive Plan Committee to bring the comp plan into compliance with the goals of the Gateway 1 Project. The Board felt this would be very difficult to do and agreed there was not much in the project for Northport. However Denise Lindahl pointed out the drawback would be Northport would lose a voice in any plans for the corridor through Northport. Drexell White stated that since there is limited zoning in Northport we might not have a say if something comes through.

**Under motion** of Denise Lindahl, second by Paul Rooney, the Board voted 3-0 not to sign the Gateway 1 agreement based on the concerns of the Board and Town Attorney, Bill Kelly.

Denise Lindahl asked that a letter be sent to Helen Kosmo thanking her for her several years on the Gateway Steering Committee representing Northport. The Board agreed and instructed the Administrator to write the letter. He will also contact Stacey Benjamin of the Board's decision.

### **Transfer Station:**

Transfer Station Supervisor, Tim Patten, was present. He stated he gets many questions why Northport does not recycle more. Most commonly asked to recycle is glass and plastic. He stated the reason is the contractor is not taking those items.

Metals were hauled away last week and the Town should be getting a check for them. He noted the cost of metal is down from last year. Tim thanked Tim Peabody who came in and bush hogged the area, it looks great. He also stated DM&J; the new demo contractor, is doing a good job.

Jack Driscoll asked if Tim knew if the Village does a lot of recycling. Tim was not sure, but did not think the summer people renting in the Village recycled while they are here.

Jack stated the rest of the trees will be cut at Kelly Cove and the wood brought to the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station Attendants will be able to use this in their stove to keep warm during the winter. Tim stated they would not need all of it and would like to be able to give it to needy people during the winter. The Board agreed this would be a good use of the wood. Jack Driscoll, through the General Assistance fund, will notify Tim of people who could use the wood.

Tim Patten stated he needs someone to fill in for him when he is not there. This would only be if he is sick or when he plans a snowmobile trip. This would not be steady work and would need to be someone who is not looking for permanent part time work. The Board instructed Tim to see if his fill in person was still interested, but they also instructed the Clerk to place an ad for help at the Transfer Station.

Tim asked if we are going to follow through with EcoMaine who came over the summer and talked about single stream recycling. Jack Driscoll was instructed to get more information on this for the next meeting and find out what happened with the survey they were going to do.

## **2. Salt/Sand Shed:**

The Administrator distributed a draft letter from DOT Region 2 Manager, Rhonda Fletcher regarding purchasing the Route 1 land in Northport. Discussion followed. The Board felt a test boring should be done by the DOT to be sure we are not buying land already contaminated. Paul Rooney noted the letter states ½ acre when it is closer to ¾ acres. Drexell White stated the warrant article to appropriate the funds should say it is contingent upon the results of the test boring. He also thought it would be a good idea to know where the DOT had their salt pile.

Denise Lindahl asked how the meeting with the contractor for building a garage went. She stated we need to get estimates on putting up a building. Jack Driscoll stated he was unable to meet with the representative of Mainland Structures and asked Toupie Rooney to meet with him instead. The company has worked with the DOT and knows the requirements. He felt the site is sufficient but there is another area that is flatter. However he would not have a problem with the proposed site.

**3. Knights Pond:** The new boat ramp is in.

**4. General Assistance:** two new applicants, both qualified

**5. High Speed Internet:** Fairpoint has recommended a survey of those interested in high speed Internet in Northport. The site has been added to the Town's website to complete they survey or it can be accessed through Fairpoint. He feels a landline like Fairpoint would be better suited for all residents of Northport. Fairpoint representatives feel the squeaky wheel gets the grease and if there is enough interest in Northport, they may be more likely to come to Northport. If this were the case, it would not be until some time in 2010. The Administrator will meet with Jim Carlson of Bluestreak next Thursday. They are expanding into Northport but may not reach everyone.

The Clerk noted a resident had been in the office with information on Connect ME grants. Towns need to have a provider, have an estimate of the cost to bring high speed Internet to the town and fill out the application. The grants are awarded in January and would be up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Jack Driscoll has been in touch with ConnectMe and will fill out the application when it is available.

**6. Town Hall:** An additional heating zone is needed for the office. It presently is the same zone as the map room and is not working properly. Bill's Burner Service can do this at an estimated cost of \$204 plus labor. The Board agreed to go ahead with the change.

**Animal Control Officer** Jerry Tucker joined the meeting.  
A recent dog issue was discussed.

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:50pm.

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to return to regular session at 8:40pm.

The ACO was instructed to bring animals to the Knox County Humane Society. He was reminded to turn in his reports on a timely basis, come to one Board meeting a month and keep lines of communication open.

**7. Beech Ridge Cemetery:** Tim Peabody has bush hogged the cemetery. Good Deeds will continue marking the cemetery for plots. They are using stakes, but may use metal markers that can be easily found. They recommend a digitized map of the cemetery. When finished there may be 200 plots. The Administrator continues to try and contact Cecil Dennison of the Lincolnville Cemetery Committee with no luck.

**8. Harbor Master:** Lora Mills was sworn in today as the new Harbor Master. Jack Driscoll submitted his letter of resignation as Harbor Master. The Administrator gave her an overview of the mooring application process.

**9. Swans Island Blankets:** Each Town can declare Pine Tree Zone areas following guidelines. If declared such a zone, this would be excluded from the State, County and School valuations. Jack Driscoll will meet with Bill Laurita of Swans Island Blankets to discuss the matter. The Town Clerk discussed this with Town Assessor, Rob Duplise. He has not dealt with this in other Towns, but stated the town residents would need to approve any areas designated for a Pine Tree Zone.

**10. Kelly Cove:** The remaining trees designated for cutting will be taken down next week, Tuesday or Wednesday. Denise Lindahl stated this has been dragging on for months and next week should be the deadline to get this completed.

#### **Clerk's Report:**

**Fire Department Christmas Party:** The organizers of the annual Children's Christmas Party have requested funds from the First Responders to cover some of the costs. The Clerk noted the Town releases funds to the First Responders. She also stated in the past receipts have been turned in and then the check is issued. Discussion followed. The Board felt this was against policy to issue a check without documentation and did not want to set a precedent. The request was denied pending receipts submitted to the Clerk.

**FEMA Funds:** the Town has received roughly \$43,000 in reimbursement funds from storms in June and July of 2009.

#### **Poverty Tax Abatement Request:**

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to enter Executive Session to discuss a request for tax abatement due to poverty.

**Under motion** of Paul Rooney, second by Denise Lindahl, the Board voted 3-0 to return to Regular Session.

The Clerk was instructed to set the resident up on a payment plan for unpaid taxes.

**Minutes:** Draft minutes of 10-1-209 were tabled for the next meeting.

**Warrants:** Warrants for payroll and invoices were reviewed and approved.

**Credit Card Payments:** The Clerk and Deputy Clerk met with representatives of Bangor Savings Bank regarding credit card payment machines. As with Municipay, the fee would be passed on to the customer. This would be a regular “swipe” type machine, and does not need the Internet like Municipay does. However, the fee would need to be done as a separate transaction. The fee for credit card use would be 2.5% of the transaction and a debit card is a straight \$3.95. The Clerk felt this is a better system than Municipay since the office Internet connection is not very reliable. However, she also felt the fee as a separate transaction could make it easy to forget. No decision was made.

**Foreclosure:** The meeting with Town Attorney Bill Kelly was postponed and they will meet on Friday, October 16, 2009. This meeting is to determine that residents whose properties had liens that have foreclosed have been notified properly and what the next step will be.

**New Business:**

Paul Rooney distributed a proposed revision to the Administrative Ordinance regarding the Fire Department. Discussion followed. It was agreed to have Bill Kelly review the proposed change and discuss at the next meeting.

Jack Driscoll stated the piano upstairs at the Town Hall is not used and in bad condition. Frank Fischer has looked at it and stated it is not worth fixing. It may need to be broken up to get it out of the building. Mr. Fischer would do this for \$165. No decision was made and tabled for a later time.

With no further business, Paul Rooney moved to adjourn at 9:50pm, second by Drexell White, and approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O’Leary  
Town Clerk