

**Northport Village Corporation
Board of Overseers**

Meeting: November 10, 2013

Minutes

Present: *Overseers:* Metcalf, Wang, Houghton, Kazilionis, O’Keefe, Brockway
(Absent: Flowers)

Officers and staff: Huntoon, Cressey, Phillips, Paige

Visitors: Samway, Brockway, Wright,

President Huntoon called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Minutes Due to the absence of office manager Bartels, minutes have not been distributed. Approval of the minutes deferred until January.

President Huntoon appointed Cressey as temporary secretary for the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report Packets had been distributed containing forecasts for general government and the two utilities, the proposed utility budgets, motions that the treasurer was proposing for the overseers’ consideration, a tax report, and an updated debt report. Cressey stated that there would be bills received between the meeting and the end of the year and that there could therefore be some reasonable differences between the final results and the Treasurer’s forecasts, but that all three entities looked to be in satisfactory shape financially. He reported that Purdy Powers had indicated a willingness to perform the audit for the same fee as charged for the past few years.

Motion: Judy Metcalf moved, and Steve Kazilionis seconded the following motion:

“The treasurer is authorized to accept the offer from Purdy Powers to conduct the 2013 audit and PUC report for the sum of \$9,800.00 allocated as follows: General: \$2,400; Water: \$4,200; Sewer: \$3,200.” Voted—unanimous approval.

Motion: Denis Wang moved and Marge Brockway seconded a motion to approve the 2014 utility budgets as drafted and distributed by Supervisor Dick McElhaney and as recommended by the utility trustees.

Discussion: Dick Brockway raised the issue of the changes in the financial relationship between the general government and the utilities; viz., the new rent charges for the utility building this year, and the decrease of the general subsidy to the sewer company. Discussion ensued. Overseers and the treasurer offered explanations for the changes and mentioned the goal of accurately reflecting the usage of the building and the desire to avoid a tax increase. The Overseers expressed an intention to also evaluate the allocation

of costs and potential collection of rent fromfor the Yacht Club and/or the Historical Society. It was agreed to discuss these matters in 2014.

Steve Kazilionis asked whether it was necessary to continue to build additional reserves in the utility companies, and wondered if there could be some rate decrease if additional reserves were not needed. Discussion ensued about depreciation of capital assets of the utility companies and the need to be able to replace assets when they were no longer serviceable. It was agreed that the utility companies need to present to the overseers a capital improvement plan for the next three years. (It was also mentioned that a similar capital plan for General Government has been requested and is in the works, but not finalized.) It was agreed that the item will remain on the agenda until plans have been approved.

Action: The question having been called, the previous motion was approved unanimously.

Village Agent Bill Paige, as Acting Village Agent detailed several projects that he was following up on that had been discussed with the overseers, and had been worked on by Bill Paige Senior.

Completed: Resurfacing the apron on Upper Maple Street and reconfiguration of the swale. Hot top at the bottom of Maple St., Tap for the Yard Hydrant at the Sewer Plant, grading and resurfacing of Pleasant Lane to protect exposed water connection.

In Progress or pending: Cap on guard rail at bottom of Clinton St., new floor for the old jail (which is intended to be used for storage of Village owned tools and therefore is an anticipated Village expense, not Utility expense), re-attaching and cutting planks at waterfront, , raising covers on septic tanks, rail on BVP ramp, swing set repair. Bill also raised the issue of a blockage that had been placed on the extension of Maple Street at the top, and issues related to rights of way in the southeastern edge of Auditorium Park where utility work needs to be done.

Bill reported that he had investigated and evaluated the drainage concerns on Upper Main Street brought to the attention of the Village by resident Angela Cassidy. He confirmed that the culverts across from the Cassidy house is not blocked and is properly channeling water. Some water does appear to wash down the road to the Cassidy property and Bill invited Lee Houghton to look with him to evaluate whether there is a surface runoff issue. Bill also raised that there appears to be an encroachment into the road right of way caused by the rock wall and garden space constructed in that area. As the overseers have done with other such encroachments, Bill asked that the Overseers confer with the Cassidys about abating this encroachment.

Residents' Concerns

Dick Brockway inquired about the process used to cover the burial costs for Bill Paige and the purpose of the funds raised on behalf of the Paige family.. Considerable

discussion ensued. The Overseers affirmed their support of the decision to pay and to serve as a conduit for funds for the Paige family and noted that it had been the correct thing to do, given Bill's fifty years of service.

O'Keefe had been asked by another resident to inquire about the propriety of a contractor's sign near the golf course. The sign was described as a temporary sign erected by a contractor performing contracting services for the Golf Course. Bill P. will see if the sign is on Golf Club property, in which case it would be allowed, or if it is in the road right of way, in which case it would be a Town matter (not a Village matter).

Centennial. Nothing to report in supplement of the report from last month

Town Liaison Maureen O'Keefe reported that the Town is fixing catch basins and doing work on Shore Road. In response to a previous question about work needed at Kelley Cove, the Town has indicated that Kelley Cove is private property, not Town or Village property. On October 7, the Northport selectmen conveyed condolences to the Paige family. They have look favorably on the Village's intention to name the Fire Station the William H. Paige Fire Station. O'Keefe reported that a new fire truck has been ordered and will be here soon.

Facilities. Nothing to report.

Safety. A candidate for the life guard position has been identified and will be interviewed soon. The overseers re-affirmed that the Village will pay for open water certification, if necessary.

Tree Warden. Jane discussed several situations that she is working on, including efforts to get Fairpoint and Central Maine Power Company to complete work that is their responsibility. She discussed several options for replacement of the White Ash in Ruggles Park that has been struck by lightning and will be removed. Mr. Dutton apparently has a 35 ft Maple on his property that could be acquired by the Village. He says he can move it and plant it in Bayside for \$275.00. In response to a question by Jane Phillips, Denis Wang confirmed that the Centennial Committee is considering a tree planting in Scribner Park at the Library as part of a legacy gift to the Village. No living or live trees will be removed to make way for this potential new tree.

Parking Ban. Judy Metcalf moved, and Maureen O'Keefe seconded that the Parking Ban be reauthorized and that language be added stating that during and immediately following any winter storms, there is to be no parking that would interfere with snow removal. Cressey agreed to find the old parking ordinance, update it and send it to Maureen for posting. [see attachments to this draft.]

Check Signing Authority. Huntoon pointed out that with Ned Lightner no longer on the Board, a new check signing authority form needed to be executed. Steve Kazilionis moved and Marge Brockway seconded that a new form should be executed authorizing Cressey, Huntoon, and Wang to sign checks in all entities, and Crofoot to sign checks in

the utility accounts only. Cressey will obtain the form and get it attested and returned to the bank.

Right of Way. Following up on a complaint by Elaine Moss to the effect that a property owner had blocked a passage between Auditorium Park and Park Row that she believed was a public right of way, Judy Metcalf had researched the deeds. There is no right of way at the specific location cited by Moss. There are two public walkways between Auditorium Park and Ruggles Park, one between the two cottages owned by members of the Dykstra family (i.e., west of the lot numbered Lot 4 on both the Greenlaw map and the map filed with the Registry of Deeds) and one between Ed Lord's house and the former Westcott cottage. It was agreed that someone needs to look at the facts on the ground between now and the January meeting. Moss should be given an answer that there is no right of way where she thought there was one. The Overseers discussed how villagers should be reminded that even on the public walkways quiet, respectful of the property should be encouraged because of the proximity of the private homes to the walkways.

Executive Session. The Overseers adjourned to executive session at 10:20 and reconvened at 10:50. There were no motions offered as a result of the executive session.

Other Business:

Kazilionis asked Cressey to check whether an insurance certificate has been received from Paul Paige, in relation to the plowing contract. [Subsequent investigation—Yes there is a \$500,000 liability insurance certificate and also a pre-determination of contractor status.]

Motion: Kazilionis moved and Houghton seconded that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a final payment to Dean Brown for the removal of the floats, and to make any other time sensitive payments as may be needed between now and the January meeting. Passed unanimously.

Motion: Marge Brockway moved and Steve Kazilionis seconded that \$75.00 Christmas bonuses be given to employees and to contractors McElhaney and Flynn. Passed Unanimously.

The next meeting was set for January 12, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.

Submitted. Cressey. November 10, 2013.