

Town of Northport  
Select Board Meeting  
November 23, 2020

Chairman: Zak Hollingshead

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Vice Chairman: Shelly Patten

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Selectman: Jeanine Tucker

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse-approved absence

Town Administrator: Barbara Asheby-approved absence

NVC Representative: Vicky Matthews

**Present:** Shelly Patten, Zak Hollingshead, Jeanine Tucker, Vicki Eugley, Vicky Matthews, Amy Eldridge, Mark Lynch

**Citizens Concerns:** Mark Lynch of 281 Bluff Road reported to the Selectmen that many of the residents on Bluff Road that live on the gravel part of Bluff Road, have concerns. Many residents would like to have the rest of Bluff Road paved. The road has been gravel for many years and with more residents on the road, as well as families with school age kids, there is more of a need to have the road paved. Lynch reported that many residents agreed to having the road closed during winter months for safety reasons even if the road was paved. He provided multiple scenarios of large trucks attempting to climb the hill, with no success. He invited the Selectmen to drive down Bluff Road before the road is closed for the winter. Lynch wanted to present this request to the Selectmen for consideration before Town Budget occurs next year. Lynch also stated he could have a letter submitted to the Town, from residents on Bluff Road that are in agreement with having the road paved. The Selectmen agreed that a letter would be appreciated from the Bluff Road residents.

**NVC Representative:** Matthews reported that Northport Village Corporation (NVC) is still concerned about the decrease in the appropriation to NVC from \$25,000 to \$15,000. She again mentioned that that Village would like to be a part of the conversation during budget meetings. She asked the Selectmen if there were any updates to Mission Broadband and better internet for Northport.

**Road Commissioner:** Eugley reported on behalf of the Amon Morse, Road Commissioner, that there was not much happening. Eugley mentioned that the Ryan Road is complete and there were no problems after that days rain storm.

**Town Administrator:** Hollingshead reported on behalf of Town Administrator Barbara Asheby. See Appendix A for the Administrator Report on the Connect ME Planning Grant, Crosswalks, Needy Family Donation and Nordic Aquafarm Permits.

Hollingshead added that improving internet in Northport is a top priority for the Selectmen. Finding the right speed that will last years down the road is an important part. Patten reported that ConnectME will provide \$100,000.00 - \$200,000.00 in grant funds, but the amount also depends on the number of communities that need help. She also stated that there is a match requirement in the grant that the town would need to complete. Hollingshead stated that the Selectmen reviewed the proposal of Mission Broadband, which had a five figure amount that the Town did not budget for. The Selectmen are working diligently on Internet for Northport and appreciates all information and help.

**Town Clerk:** Eldridge provided minutes for 09-14-20, 10-13-20, 10-26-20, and 11-09-20 to the Selectmen for review and approval. ***Hollingshead motion to approve the minutes with corrections, Seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0***

**Finance Director:** Eugley provided the warrants to the Selectmen for review and signature. She also presented the Selectmen with the Healthy Employees Policies and Procedures signature page for the new policy that was presented 10-26-2020. Eugley also reported that the Employee Policies and Procedures will need to be updated for the Town by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Governor has enacted the Paid Leave Time act to make sure most employees earn paid leave time.

**New Business:** Mark Lynch (Northport School Department Chairman) reported that everything is going well at the school. There have been no cases of COVID-19 and the budget is fine. He stated funds from the Cares Act have been utilized for cleaning supplies and a sprayer as well as to provide free food to all the students. They have also received a grant that helped pay for the bathroom improvements in the Elementary wing as well as in the back building, a new van to help with transportation needs and a Pole Barn that Taylor Made Builders helped construct, that will help with outdoor class rooms. He stated that the school is still in the Hybrid Module of kids alternating days in the class room with virtual classes online. He doesn't expect any changes to the schedule in the near future, and the school is following all precautions to help keep everyone safe.

Lynch reported to the Selectmen that all students at the school have a school supplied laptop to use for remote learning days. He mentioned that the school currently provides State and Federally funded wireless hot spots that students can use. He expressed how important internet is for the students and if there is anything he can do to assist Northport with better internet, to let him know.

Hollingshead provided his written letter of resignation to the Selectmen contingent upon the final sale of his home. He stated that it has been a pleasure and honor being a Selectman for the Town of Northport. He appreciated working with an amazing group of people and wishes the Town all the best in the future. Tucker mentioned that the residents of Northport were very lucky to have

Hollingshead as Selectmen for his multiple years of service. The Selectmen reluctantly accepted his resignation and wished Hollingshead all the best.

**Adjourned: Hollingshead motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm, seconded by Patten, Board voted 3-0.**

## **Appendix A**

### **Administrator's Report**

I submitted the ConnectME grant for broadband planning. They will be making awards December 2<sup>nd</sup> and we will be notified either way. A lot of the information they requested we didn't have and I think it would have been something Mission Broadband was going to do. In filling out the application and what they are looking for, I think we need help. Mission Broadband or some other consultant. Also I did not hear back from Mike Connelly who was trying to bring the broadband committee back together. A lot of the grant requirements were work the committee was to be doing. I'll reach out to Mike again and see where we are. Whatever we do, I believe we need a functioning committee.

Crosswalks – I sent out the information on crosswalks and sidewalks I received from the DOT. I didn't see any grant information to help with putting in sidewalks. There is a sight distance requirement of 305'. Amon would know if we have that or not going with the crosswalk at Cross Street. From the email from Peter Coughlan of the DOT he does not recommend them but we can do it if we follow the rules and ADA requirements. And as we mentioned, the students would be walking against the traffic going home the wrong way. I understand the need for a crosswalk but I wonder if putting one in creates more of a safety issue than what we already have?

Donation – I spoke with a lady who is going to make a donation to needy families in Northport. I talked with Vicki and we think it can go to the Needy Families Fund (or some fund name like that) Vicki would like approval to use those funds when they come. She can explain.

Nordic AquaFarm - you may have seen it on the news, but I received notice on Friday that Nordic AquaFarm is receiving several permits from the Board of Environmental Protection: discharge; site location; clean water; natural resource protection. There may still be hearings to follow but they are moving along.