

2013

Town of Northport Annual Town Meeting Minutes 2013

Northport, Me.

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**OFFICIAL WARRANT FOR THE TOWN OF NORTHPORT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
To be held on June 1, 2013 and June 3, 2013**

To: Jeanine Tucker, Town Clerk of the Town of Northport in the County of Waldo, State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Northport in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to appear at the Northport Town Hall on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at 8:00a.m., then and there to act upon Articles 1 and 2,

AND

To notify and warn said voters to meet at the Blue Goose Center on Monday, June 3, 2013 7p.m. there and then to act upon Articles 1; then 3 through 30 inclusive.

Article 1. To Choose a Moderator to preside at said Town Meeting.

On Saturday June 1, 2013 Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker opened the meeting by greeting those present at the Town Hall for the purpose of acting on Article 2. Motion was made by Robin Coombs and seconded by Dee Reid to nominate Alismarie Parsloe as Moderator of the election portion of the Town Meeting. Three written ballots were cast and entered into the record. Parsloe was sworn in as Moderator.

On Monday June 3, 2013 Tucker opened the meeting by greeting those present at the Blue Goose Center for the purpose of acting on Articles 3 through 30. Motion was made by Paul Sheridan and seconded by Mark Humphreys to nominate Lee Woodward Jr. as Moderator of the Annual Town Meeting. Three written ballots were cast and entered into the record. Woodward was sworn in as Moderator.

Woodward announced that there were a couple of presentations and a speaker from Broadreach Services that had a presentation as well.

Board Member Denise Lindahl presented outgoing Selectman Paul Rooney with a plaque in appreciation of the combined twelve years of dedicated service as a Selectman for the Town of Northport.

Town Administrator Barbara O'Leary presented Finance Director Vicki Eugley a plaque for her twenty years of dedicated service to the Town.

A representative from Broadreach Services presented the Town with photo plates of World War II Servicemen that had been used by The Republican Journal during the war for printing purposes. She explained that when The Republican Journal was doing some housekeeping and was about to throw the plates out with the trash and were recovered by John Potter. Mr. Potter gave the plates to the Palermo Historical Society and they have been turning them over to towns. She stated that the organization was turning the plates over to the towns that the soldiers were from and proudly handed the sixteen plates to Town Administrator O'Leary. The Broadreach representative then explained what her service provides and that they are seeking \$500.00 from the Town for a donation.

Article 2. To elect by secret ballot:

95 Registered Voters attended the polls on June 1st results of voting were as follows:

- A. One (1) Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor for a three (3) year term.
Mark Humphreys ran unopposed and was elected with 89 votes
- B. One (1) Regional School Unit 20 Board Member for a three (3) year term.
Dr. David Ferguson ran as a write in candidate and was elected with 56 votes.
- C. One (1) Road Commissioner for a two (2) year term.
Amon Morse III ran unopposed and was re-elected with 90 votes.

Article 3. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to pay the Selectman/Assessors for the ensuing year. (Current salary – Selectmen \$3,500.00– Selectman Chair \$4,000.00) Selectmen recommend no change.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 4. To choose Assessors for the ensuing year.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 5. To choose one or more Overseers of the Poor and establish pay for the same.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 6. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay the Road Commissioner, Road Workers, Trucks and Equipment for the ensuing year. (Selectmen recommend State Rates plus 10% for routine road maintenance. Major road reconstruction to follow the competitive bid process.)

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 7. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to pay members of the Planning Board. (Current pay \$27.50 for each member per meeting attended; and \$32.50 for the Chairman for each meeting attended.) Selectmen recommend no change.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written.

Resident Martha Beiser asked how long it had been since there was a change, the Board replied it has been four to five years since there has been any change. All in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for the Northport Scholarship Fund for second semester Northport college freshmen.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. A resident in attendance asked if the scholarship was for all Northport students; Chairman Paul Rooney replied that the maximum allotted per Northport Freshman for their second semester is \$500.00, if there are more than ten applicants then the money would be split evenly.

Another resident commented that the student has to apply for the scholarship; Rooney confirmed that they do need to apply.

All in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 9. To see what amount of money the Town will vote to raise, appropriate, carry forward and expend for the following accounts. Selectmen recommend the following:

Department	Raise From Taxes	Estimated Carry Forward	Estimated Revenue	Total Appropriation*
A) Administration	\$153,408.20	N/A	N/A	\$153,408.20
B) Ambulance	\$11,729.03	N/A	N/A	\$11,729.03
C) Animal Control	\$1,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$1,000.00(Dog Licenses)	\$9,500.00
D) Assessing Contract	\$19,900.00	N/A	N/A	\$19,900.00
E) Belfast Free Library	\$3,500.00	N/A	N/A	\$3,500.00
F) Cemetery Maint.	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00	N/A	\$8,500.00
G) Cemetery Development	\$2,000.00	\$7,713.50	N/A	\$9,713.50
H) Code Enforcement Office	\$22,000.00	N/A	\$2,000.00 (from Building Permits)	\$24,000.00
I) Contingency Fund	\$10,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$10,000.00
J) Emergency Management	\$2,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$2,000.00
K) Employee Benefits	\$24,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$24,000.00
L) First Responders Equipment	\$5,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$5,000.00
M)First Responders Operating	\$9,400.00	N/A	N/A	\$9,400.00
N) General Assistance	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00 (from 50% State reimbursement)	\$12,000.00
O) Harbor Fund	\$0.00	\$22,000.00	\$3,600.00(Boat Excise)	\$25,600.00
P) Insurance	\$14,000.00	\$8,000.00	N/A	\$22,000.00
Q) Legal	\$20,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$20,000.00
R) Northport Vol. Fire Dept.	\$39,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$39,000.00
S) NVFD Chief Stipend	\$20,800.00	N/A	N/A	\$20,800.00
T) NVFD Truck Replacement	\$20,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$20,000.00
U) Office Operations	\$30,000.00	N/A	\$28,000.00 (from Tax Interest & Charges)	\$58,000.00
V) Payroll Taxes	\$23,500.00	N/A	N/A	\$23,500.00
W) Planning Board	\$1,000.00	\$1,400.00	N/A	\$2,400.00
X) Roads & Bridges	\$125,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$220,000.00 (from Auto Excise) \$42,144.00 (from State U.R.I.P.)	\$687,144.00
Y) Sand/Salt Shed Loan	\$34,055.88	N/A	N/A	\$34,055.88
Z) Septage Contract	\$4,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$4,000.00
AA) Snow Removal & Sanding	\$180,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$180,000.00
BB) Social Services	\$7,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$7,000.00
CC) Street Lights	\$1,500.00	N/A	N/A	\$1,500.00
DD) Town Hall Operations	\$18,500.00	N/A	N/A	\$18,500.00
EE) Transfer Station	\$30,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$45,000.00(from Sticker Sales & Debris Fees)	\$125,000.00
FF) Wyman Park	\$500.00	N/A	N/A	\$500.00
	\$836,293.11	\$409,613.50	\$345,744.00	\$1,591,650.61

*based on estimated amounts.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 10.To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport Volunteer Fire Dept. 2012 operating budget as of 6/30/2013 to the Fire Truck Replacement Special Reserve Account.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. A resident asked what the benefit to transfer the funds would be rather than carry them forward; Rooney explained that unexpended funds could be used to save toward truck replacement. Resident Bart Calder asked if the current trucks were up to date or if the department needed a new truck; Rooney explained that the department is in the early stages of looking to replace the tanker. He continued by stating the current tanker doesn't meet the guidelines and the insurance company doesn't like 'homemade' equipment. All in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 11.To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Northport First Responders 2012 operating and equipment budget as of 6/30/2013 to the First Responders Equipment Special Reserve Account.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 12.To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of Mooring Fees collected as of 6/30/2013 to the Marine Reserve Fund.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. A resident asked what the mooring fees were used for; Rooney replied that they are used toward the replacement of the wharf, floats and repairs to docks. All in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 13.To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of unexpended funds from the Salt/Sand Shed Construction account as of 6/30/2013 to the Salt/Sand Shed Special Reserve Account.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Resident Martha Beiser asked if there is a reserve account currently; Rooney stated that there is not a current reserve account for the salt/sand shed. He continued by explaining that current funds were for construction, which has been completed, and there are no funds for maintenance, this would create a maintenance account. All in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sale of cemetery lots with 50% of the revenue to be placed in the Cemetery Capital Reserve Account and 50% to be placed in the Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Account.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. A resident asked if this is a change in policy; Administrator O'Leary stated that it is as the only cemetery with lots available to sell is the Beech Ridge Cemetery. She explained that the purpose is to set aside money for perpetual care. Resident Karen Gleeson asked how many cemeteries there are in town and if the money would be used for all of them. O'Leary replied that there are five cemeteries that are maintained by the Town and the funds from the lots sold would be from the Beech Ridge Cemetery. Finance Director Vicki Eugley added that the money will also be used in the future build-up of cemeteries. All in favor-none opposed Article passed.

Article 15. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend such monies deemed necessary from the following Reserve Funds, or to take any action relative to the same.

Cemetery Capital Account
Fire Truck Replacement Account
Fire Watch Fund
First Responders Equipment Fund
Marine Reserve Fund
Town Wharf Fund
Sand/Salt Shed Fund
Wyman Park Fund

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Resident Joy Metcalf asked if the money can only be expended as designated for each account; Rooney confirmed that the money can only be spent for the purpose of the account. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to carry forward the balances of the following accounts as of 6/30/2013 and allow expenditures of the same:

Nature Conservancy
Northport Needy Families
Northport Warm Neighbors Fund
Snowmobile Reimbursement Fund

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Resident Joy Metcalf asked what the funds from the Nature Conservancy are used for. Eugley stated that the funds are used to offset the tax commitment. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to use \$200,000.00 from the Undesignated Fund Balance to reduce the 2013/2014 tax commitment.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Resident Gerald Reid asked what the resulting tax commitment would be; Rooney stated that it is still unknown as the school budget had not been set yet. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of Taxes thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute Quit Claim Deeds on same.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Resident Joy Metcalf stated that property should not be taken away for non-payment of taxes. Resident Deb Riley asked how many properties this applied to; Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker replied that there are two properties that could potentially fit the category. Resident Elsie Andrews asked what the procedure was; Tucker explained that it is done through a sealed bid process. All in favor-one opposed. Article passed.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to fix a rate of interest on taxes delinquent after September 30, 2013 and March 1, 2014. (Selectmen recommend State authorized rate of 7%)

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 20.To see if the Town will set a rate of interest for refunded taxes due to over assessments. (Selectmen recommend rate of 7%)

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 21.To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend overlay money to pay tax abatements and applicable interest granted during the fiscal year.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. There was a request from the audience for an explanation; Eugley explained that there needs to be a means by which tax abatements are paid as they are part of the commitment, this article allows for that. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 22.To see if the Town will vote to authorize the tax collector to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §506.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Gleeson asked what the article meant; Woodward explained that some towns will refuse a payment of a portion of taxes at the closing of a property sale because the taxes have not been committed yet for that year, this article would allow the Town to accept payments towards taxes before they are billed. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 23.To see if the Town will vote to enter into an Alewife Harvesting Program, with or without the Town of Lincolnville, for the 2013-2014 season.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 24.To see if the Town will vote to accept the following grants and revenue from the State of Maine and allow the Selectmen to use them as they deem necessary.

State Revenue Sharing	\$ Unknown
Veterans	\$ 1,035.00
Snowmobile Registrations	\$ 139.02
Local Road Assistance	\$ 42,144.00
General Assistance	\$ Unknown
Civil Emergency Funds	\$ Unknown
Land Grants	\$ Unknown
Tree Growth	\$ 1,223.41
All Other Funds Available	\$ Unknown

All dollar amounts are estimates.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 25.To see if the Town will vote to give the Northport Ridge Riders (a snowmobile club) funds that the State of Maine returns to the Town from snowmobile registrations, to be used to maintain snowmobile trails in Northport.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. A resident asked how much money that is each year; Eugley explained that varies depending on how many snowmobiles were registered the previous year. Gleeson asked if there were any other clubs looking for the funds; Rooney stated that there are not. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds for the Northport Village Corporation an amount of \$25,000.00

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. A resident asked what the purpose of raising funds for the Village would be. Rooney explained that the Town used to help maintain the roads in the Village adding that if the Town forwards the funds the Village can use it for whatever is necessary. The resident asked if the Town works on the Village roads; Rooney replied that the Village taxes take care of that not the Town. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 27.To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to accept and expend educational and other grants and donations for the reason specified in the grant or donation.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 28.To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to dispose of Town owned assets with a value of \$3,000.00 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Resident Joy Metcalf asked what type of assets; Board member Drexell White explained that last year the Board disposed of the old First Responder Rescue Unit this article allows for that authority. Metcalf asked what would be over the \$3,000.00; Rooney explained that buildings and land would be above that amount. All in favor-none opposed. Article passed.

Article 29.Shall the Town enact the revised Administrative Ordinance of the Town of Northport?

Motion was made and seconded to approve as written. Metcalf referred to Section 3.0.8 on page 8 regarding Select Board Meeting- Public Access. Metcalf stated that she disagreed that public access does not mean public participation. Board member Denise Lindahl explained that there is an opportunity at the beginning of the meeting that allows for public comment under 'Citizens Concerns' but that when the Board is discussing an item on the agenda it does not mean that the public can participate in the discussion. Resident Sandy Wallace asked how the public could comment; Lindahl explained that the Board can open the session to public comment. All in favor-one opposed. Article passed.

Article 30.To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$1,054,020.83 established for the Town of Northport by State law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Written ballot required by statute.)

Motion was made and seconded to table as the budget had not exceeded the levy limit. No discussion, all in favor-none opposed. Motion to table passed.

Woodward asked for a motion to close at 8:02 p.m., motion was made and seconded. Calder commended the Board noting they had done a very good job with the presentation. All in favor, motion passed meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanine Tucker
Town Clerk