

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2021 – 6:00 PM.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT
REGULAR MEETING

OPEN MEETING:

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PRESENTATION: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

BOARD APPROVAL OF WARRANT:

On the motion of Trustee Kehoe and seconded by Trustee Smith the following bills were approved for payment:

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 General Fund bills in the amount of \$429,675.12

On the motion of Trustee Kehoe and seconded by Trustee Smith the following bills were approved for payment:

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$5,851.65

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Smith the following bills were approved for payment:

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Trust Fund bill in the amount of \$3,750.00

On the motion of Trustee Kehoe and seconded by Trustee Smith the following bills were approved for payment:

Fiscal Year 2021/2021 Payroll Week (01/29/21) General Fund \$235,726.04

On the motion of Trustee Kehoe and seconded by Trustee Smith the following bills were approved for payment:

Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Payroll Week (01/29/21) Sewer Fund \$15,543.73

BUSINESS/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS: None

TREASURER REPORT: None

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Happenings on Main Street Concert Series – adjourned for further discussion

REQUESTS: None

NOTICE: None

RESOLUTIONS: None

On the motion of Trustee Milligan and seconded by Trustee Kehoe the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION: 2021 – 28 ~ APPROVAL OF THE January 19, 2021 MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED: The minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting are hereby accepted.

On the motion of Trustee Milligan and seconded by Trustee Smith the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION 2021 – 29 ~ ELECTION INSPECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Northport hereby appoints, pursuant to Section 15-116 of the Election Law, the following Inspectors of Election for each of the three Village Election Districts to preside at all Village Elections in such districts until their successors are appointed; each Inspector shall receive compensation at the rate of \$14.00 per hour;

Election District No. 1 Election District No. 2 Election District No. 3 Maureen O’Brien (Chairperson) Dorothea Walsh (Chairperson) Marylin Barker (Chairperson) Kathryn Llewellyn Janet Hayes Stace Hansen

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Northport hereby appoints, Georgina Cavagnaro, Joy Nygren and Grace Tierney to serve as Election Inspectors/Computer Operators.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Georgina Cavagnaro, Joy Nygren and Grace Tierney will receive their regular days’ pay and an additional 9 hours in compensation time.

On the motion of Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Weber the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION 2021 – 30 ~ SCANNING OF VILLAGE FILES

BE IT RESOLVED: The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign a contract with Alternative Micrographics, Inc., 704 Challenger Way, Forked River, NJ, in amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the continued scanning of Building, Zoning, and Planning files from 1946 to present.

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Smith the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION 2021 – 31 ~ FIRE CONTRACT WITH THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

BE IT RESOLVED: The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with the Town of Huntington to provide fire protection services for fire protection District No. 1 for a period of one year from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 in the amount of one million five hundred and fifty-seven thousand four hundred and ninety five dollars (\$1,557,495.00) and on

such other terms and conditions as may be acceptable to the Village Attorney, subject to the approval of the volunteers of the Northport Fire Department as provided by law, and **WHEREAS**, this is a type II Action pursuant to 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Section 617.5(c)(26), and, therefore, no further SEQRA review is required.

On the motion of Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Milligan the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION 2021 – 32 ~ RATIFYING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT AND THE NORTHPORT POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of Northport and the Northport Police Benevolent Association dated March 1, 2009 setting forth the terms, wages, hours and conditions of employment expired on February 28, 2022.

WHEREAS, that on October 20, 2017 a Memorandum of Agreement was executed between the Village of Northport and the Northport Police Benevolent Association extending the Collective Bargaining Agreement to February 28, 2028 with certain modifications of the terms.

WHEREAS, negotiations between the Village of Northport and Northport Police Benevolent Association have been ongoing for a retirement incentive for certain employees that qualify and the parties have reached a mutually beneficial retirement incentive Memorandum of Agreement.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to execute said Memorandum of Agreement and has reviewed the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement and has determined it is in the best interests of the Village of Northport.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Village of Northport and the Northport Police Benevolent Association is hereby ratified and approved and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the parties and eligibility to accept the retirement incentive shall expire on December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to appropriate said funds necessary to fulfill the obligations of the Memorandum of Agreement for the retirement incentive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the execution of the Memorandum of Agreement is a Type II action pursuant to 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Section 617.5 (c)(28) and therefore no further SEQRA review is required.

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Kehoe the following resolution was unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION 2021 – 33 ~ BUDGET TRANSFERS

BE IT RESOLVED: The Village Treasurer is hereby authorized to make budget transfers, see Schedule A.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

NORTHPORT VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION:

A dedicated forum for the Public to comment on the findings and voice their concerns regarding Policing in the Northport Village. Participants are asked to keep their comments to three-minute allocation time to give everyone a chance to speak.

Joe Schramm (Update from committee member): The committee is seeking the public's opinion on two points, one being overall safety in the village and two being the level of satisfaction of the police practices. The committee used 5 methods to get community input: 1. Mailed survey 2. Online survey to community and business members 3. Survey of Northport High School seniors 4. Survey posted online and open to all members of the community. 5. This evening's open forum for the public's comments. All surveys were anonymous and only this evening's comments will not be anonymous as the Board of Trustee meeting is recorded. All committee members are present, and all comments are being taken with the utmost importance to help with the next steps. The questions the committee would like comment on is 1. What areas do you think need improvement or change within the Northport Police Department? 2. What areas do you think the Northport Police Department are doing a good job at? The next step for the committee is going to look all the information gathered from the surveys and community comments and use the statistical data and compare it to the comments data and figure out the trends or lack thereof within the village about the police department. A set of recommendations will be set up by the committee and then presented to the Village Board.

Joe Sabia: Thinks the Police Department is doing an outstanding job; they are very well trained and professional. Commends their call response time on all types of calls. Thinks there needs to be more foot patrol on Main Street and also a car parked at the foot of main street for presence even if there is no officer inside. Another thing suggested would be name tags on each of the officers. Thirdly, 25a violations and patrol should be up because of the texting while driving tinted windows etc. that seem to be a constant while on 25a.

Mary Perry: Recently wants to compliment the response time to recent problem that was had. The only concern was the Woodbine Ave incident, it was shocking because it shows a national and local problem of brewing anger and hatred and it is alarming that a gun was pulled and pointed at a head. It was a crazy out of control response to what happen. It was bothersome that no tickets were given out regarding that and how about how no tickets were given out for the blocking out of license plates. I do think perhaps politically most of the police were in alignment with that political group that came through the village and take into account what happened at The Capital on Jan. 6 these are all the same political party affiliates and they caused destruction and fear. Wants to stress that law and order and appreciation of the police is not to allow a caravan of cars with covered license plates to barrel through the village and wants to feel safe and we should nip this unconscious bias of being part of a certain political party that you don't support the police or that if you are a retired police officer you can do whatever. None of this can stand because Law and Order applies to everyone and doesn't want members of one political party to not feel safe in the Village because there are many different people with different beliefs. Doesn't want anything swept under the rug like pulling a gun to be not addressed but still has great appreciation for the Village of Northport and The Northport Village Police Department.

Sherry Pavone: Has great concern that we should have another public forum because of the lack of participation. Wants to give the public every chance to participate in this forum. Mayor

McMullen agrees and wants to give everyone a chance to speak and commends the great turnout for the online survey and hopes the committee can meet and consider doing another public forum. Trustee Kehoe agrees this should be put on the agenda again. Mayor McMullen says that Northport is ahead and doing a thorough job compared to other municipalities.

Chris Cumella: Asks for clarification on which municipalities Mayor McMullen was referring to. Mayor McMullen says he was told this by the governor's office did not specify which municipalities.

Joe Sabia: Why was every business in the Village not given the survey and why was the survey not mailed to every resident as opposed to randomly mailed out? Joe Schramm addresses this question by saying only 500 residents were selected because it was based on a percentage of total number of houses in the postal district and mailing out 500 surveys showed a greater and more reliable response rate in market research studies. Regarding the business, the committee was on a deadline and they relied on the database provided by the Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Kiwanis with the names of the businesses. Mercy Smith offers another database she has access to. Mr. Sabia also asks how many out of the 500 surveys mailed out how many were village residents? Mr. Schramm responds that they encompassed the whole 11768 area code because village residents aren't the only ones impacted by the Northport Village Police Department. They chose an equal number of bill-paying households but to be statistically reliable it needs to be a control group that can gain reliable response from.

Mary Perry: What else was done regarding outreach to the community besides the survey? Mr. Schramm goes over the 5 step process that was discussed and he says there is a subcommittee dedicated to getting the word out to the community regarding the 5 tactical outreach's to the community. Ms. Perry asks when she will receive feedback to her questions and concerns regarding the Woodbine Ave incident? Mayor McMullen answers by saying tonight is to hear the public's concerns, comments, and suggestions to incorporate them into a plan that will be submitted to Albany stating what the community feels should be changed, stay the same, or improved upon within the Northport Village Police Department.

Chris Cumella: Asks Mayor McMullen for a short summary of what exactly is "the woodbine incident." Mayor McMullen says as a Village we have to recognize the rights on both sides. The Mayor wants to make sure he is using correct terminology to which Northport Village Attorney Stu Besen asks if The Mayor wants him to respond. The Mayor says yes if he could use the correct legal jargon. Attorney Besen says basic premise is that there was an incident that occurred on Woodbine Ave. It is an ongoing investigation so the Village really can't comment but simply put everything the Northport Village Police has done in regards to it has been looked at by an independent impartial agency that Suffolk county district attorney office that would have the right to continue with the charges and at this point they have continued with the charges against the one individual and because it is an ongoing investigation it is hard for anyone to go into specific details. Mr. Cumella understands there is an ongoing investigation but is there any baseline information that can be given as to what occurred that day. Mr. Besen responds because of it being an ongoing investigation all that can be said is an incident occurred on Woodbine Ave between two individuals Northport Village police did a thorough investigation and made a decision based on that investigation and the District attorney continued with that and other than

that we cannot comment as a Village. Ms. Perry then says a Trump caravan came through the Village and a lot of their license plates were covered and what happened on Woodbine Avenue where there was an incident between a resident and a member of the caravan hearsay is the resident hit the rearview mirror of the caravan member and the resident had a stick or pipe and when the other member of the caravan came out of the truck and saw the resident the member of the caravan who was a retired police officer had a gun and put it to the Village residents head there is a picture of it in the paper. So, the big question is what would warrant that type of response and it can't be brushed under the rug. Mayor McMullen says this is why the Suffolk County District Attorney office is investigating and it is not being brushed under the rug but there are legal obligations that must be followed.

Pat Naples: Wants to comment on the incident that happened on Woodbine Ave and she commends the response time the Village of Northport Police Department has to calls. But the Woodbine Ave was very bothersome because a gun was pulled even if it was in self-defense and suggests a change in policy to reflect that no guns should be pulled.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday February 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Please note: the meeting will be held via virtual Zoom Conference.

RESOLUTION FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION: if necessary, for personnel and/or litigation matters.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgina Cavagnaro
Deputy Village Clerk