

**MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 9, 2022 – 6:00 PM.**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**Meeting was held live at Village Hall, 224 Main Street Northport, NY 11768 and also via Zoom.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Koch, Deputy Mayor Sabia, Trustee Weber, Trustee Pucillo, Trustee Dolan, Assistant to the Mayor Don Tesoriero, Village Administrator Roland Buzard, Village Clerk Georgina Cavagnaro, Treasurer Siobhan Costello, Chief Christopher Hughes, Attorney Ed Gathman, Fire Commissioner Chairman Phil Weber

**REGISTERED ZOOM PARTICIPANTS:** David Weber, Joseph Cavagnaro, Thomas Radman, Phyllis Weber, J W, Blair Beaudet, Brett Jones, Donald Blixt

**OPEN MEETING:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Pledge of Allegiance recited

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**PRESENTATION:** None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Daniel Karpen questioned the legality of the Bluff Point Sewer Expansion by citing past rulings from the New York Supreme Court. A copy of Onondaga Landfill Systems v. Flacke was presented to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Karpen claims that one of the findings from this case requires a governing body, such as the Village of Northport, to have a long-term plan to justify environmental alterations. Mr. Karpen then asked whether the Village had any long-term plans on file to legitimize the sewer extension to Bluff Point Road. Mr. Karpen spoke of another court case concerning pollution discharge limits imposed on Oak Beach Inn on the South Shore in which the court ruled a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) must be done before proposing sanctions. Mr. Karpen then asked whether an EIS had been done to prove the residents on Bluff Point Road were responsible for polluting the Northport Harbor via their septic systems to warrant the sewer expansion project. When Mr. Karpen finished, Mayor Koch stated that the Village Engineers would need to be present to answer any of Mr. Karpen's questions.

Mary Silberstein read a prepared statement detailing safety concerns in the Village of Northport. The first issue raised was about safe walking on Woodbine Avenue and Main Street in which Ms. Silberstein referred to numerous obstructions (chairs, tables, signage, etc) found in the walkways. Ms. Silberstein herself suffered a fall as a result of tripping past tables on Woodbine and spoke of a friend who had fallen in a similar fashion. The second raised concern deals with speeding into and out of the Village. Ms. Silberstein described witnessing frequent speeding on Reservoir Avenue as well as aggressive behavior exhibited by drivers. Ms. Silberstein called for greater enforcement of safety laws as well as stricter compliance from members/non-members of the Chamber of Commerce. On the topic of enforcement, Ms. Silberstein asked law enforcement and the Board of Trustees to conduct spot speed studies on Reservoir, Woodbine, and Scudder Avenue to determine the times of day most traffic offenses take place and enforce accordingly. The dangers of traffic violations put everyone at risk and Ms. Silberstein tasked everyone, including the Board of Trustees, to find solutions to the problem.

Effie Huber expressed her gratitude for the police officer(s) who continue(s) to issue parking tickets to cars illegally parked on Scudder Avenue. Mrs. Huber then asked for an update on the litigation between the Village of Northport and the Northport Hotel. Mayor Koch shared that the Village is trying to bring the situation to a close but no progress from either party has been made due to scheduling conflicts. Mrs. Huber would like to see this come to an end, stating that Kevin O'Neil does not deserve the inconvenience for all the good that he has done for the Village of Northport.

Doug Roberts thanked the Village Clerk for responding to his FOIL request and then followed up on questions he raised at the last Board of Trustees meeting concerning Village bills. The bills in question were for Bensen Engineering and generator repair at the Firehouse. Treasurer Siobhon Costello detailed the specifics of each concern, stating that they both are categorized as emergency repairs. Mayor Koch thanked Mr. Roberts for bringing the generator concern to the Board's attention as it prompted the Village to seek out a potential maintenance service agreement going forward. Mr. Roberts stated that he questions whether the generator repair was a real emergency but is glad to see that it is fixed. Following that Mr. Roberts asked about the warrant concerning Northport Copy as to whether quotes were acquired in compliance with Chapter 56: Procurement Policy of Village Code. Mayor Koch and Treasurer Costello clarified that since the warrant covers bills from multiple departments that individually total less than \$500, the procurement of quotes was not necessary. Mr. Roberts took the opportunity to make the point that it is not difficult to ask for quotes and that the Village of Northport/Board of Trustees should follow the Procurement Policy or vote to change it. Afterwards Mr. Roberts asked for clarification on the Basketball Court resolutions on the agenda; the resolutions represent professional services and therefore do not require the procurement of quotes. A question was then raised in regard to whether or not payment had been received by the Village for the work it had done taking down a framed structure on Tom Kehoe's property. Attorney Ed Gathman explained

that the cost has been added to Mr. Kehoe's tax bill in the form of a lien on the property that must be satisfied if the property is sold. Then Mr. Roberts asked about the procedure for adding new stop-signs in reference to the one scheduled to be added at the intersection of Seaview Avenue and Lindberg Court. Mayor Koch detailed the process which typically involves a written letter to the Village which is then referred to the Chief of Police who conducts a study to determine if a stop sign is warranted or not. Mr. Roberts then asked about actions to be taken as a result of the traffic study done on Woodbine and Scudder Avenue. Mayor Koch responded by stating that ideas are still being worked out. Chief Hughes made a comment on the topic of stop signs; residents often suggest the addition of stop signs to combat speeding in a troubled area, but such a measure is actually advised against by the Department of Transportation. Speeding vehicles may not stop at the stop sign, thus putting pedestrians at risk, or drivers may take a different route and place the traffic risk elsewhere. Chief Hughes addressed the previous concerns of Ms. Silberstein in stating increased attention will be brought to Reservoir Avenue by working on bringing a speed sign to the area that will collect spot data. Targeted enforcement will continue in efforts to address the speeding problems. Mr. Roberts ended with positive remarks for the use of Dockwa as a cash control measure at the village dock.

Suzanne DeCory made the Board of Trustees aware of a noise ordinance violation that occurred on Friday, July 29th at approximately 5:45 AM. Ms. DeCory was abruptly woken by the sound of blowers, heavy machinery and landscaping equipment being used by Highway personnel outside her bedroom window. When the incident occurred, Ms. DeCory called the Northport Police Department but was told that there was nothing that could be done and was instructed to call Town Hall which is not open until 8:30 AM. Ms. Decory then approached the Highway personnel and was given the contact information of Village Administrator Roland Buzard when she asked to speak with a supervisor. Ms. Decory then called the Second Precinct of the Suffolk County Police Department and was told to call the Northport Police Department for it was out of their jurisdiction. Afterwards Ms. Decory called the contact information given to her by the Highway personnel and was told that the Village Administrator would get back to her, but he nor any other personnel ever did. Ms. Decory read select noise ordinances set by the Board of Trustees in Chapter 200 Noise of Village Code that Highway personnel were in violation of that morning and asked what recourse there is for violations of these ordinances, who enforces these ordinances, how will these ordinances will be enforced, and when will someone get back to her to answer these questions so that an incident like this never happens again. Mayor Koch stated that this was the first she heard of the situation. Trustee Sabia asked Village Administrator Roland Buzard if it were an emergency situation. The Village Administrator apologized and assured that this will never happen again; Highway personnel were cleaning up sand and debris caused by heavy rains.

**BOARD APPROVAL OF WARRANT:**

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Weber the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 General Fund bills in the amount of \$553,581.47

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Dolan the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Sewer Fund bills in the amount of \$29,672.41

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Pucillo the following warrant was unanimously approved.

General Utility Bills 7/19/22 in the amount of \$193,392.06

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Pucillo the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Sewer Utility Bills 7/19/22 in the amount of \$15,742.20

Trustee Sabia asked about the Deputy Treasurer's note regarding the higher Optimum bill at the Plank House compared to Village Hall. Treasurer Costello stated that there was an internet problem at the Plank House which required the service provider to send personnel to resolve the issue. The Village was charged for the service visit.

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Sabia the following warrant was unanimously approved.

General Utility Bills and Special Requests 7/29/22 in the amount of \$1,987.10

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Weber the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Sewer Utility Bills 7/29/22 in the amount of \$43.36

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Dolan the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Payroll week 7/15/22 General Fund \$332,243.61

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Pucillo the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Payroll week 7/15/22 Sewer Fund \$15,064.40

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Sabia the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Payroll week 7/29/22 General Fund \$302,437.94

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Pucillo the following warrant was unanimously approved.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Payroll week 7/29/22 Sewer Fund \$16,566.95

**BUSINESS/COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

Assistant to the Mayor Don Tesoriero informed that the three grant submissions have been distributed. The grants include a comprehensive plan submission for the Village of Northport for \$100,000, a Suffolk County water protection and restoration grant for \$250,000 that will go towards watershed and catch basin work, and a New York State water quality improvement grant for \$700,000 that will fund watershed work in the Northport Park area as well as Valley, Seaview Terrace and Laurel. The Bluff Point Sewer Expansion project is moving forward as well as the necessary steps in the Basketball Court Beautification Project.

Village Administrator Roland Buzard stated that the Highway Department is looking to do paving this month, especially on Dogwood Road before school starts. National Grid plans on beginning work up Ocean Avenue and down Highland Avenue to Eatons Neck Road in the upcoming months of which the paving schedule will have to work around.

Trustee Dolan discussed the large events that have been taking place in the Village parks and the wonderful work the Parks Department has done to accommodate them. The Drug and Alcohol Task force is showing another movie in the park next week; Art in the Park is taking place Sunday, August 14th after a three-year hiatus. Work at restoring Steers Park is moving forward; a meeting was held to discuss the scope of work to be done such as constructing a walking path around the perimeter. Trustee Dolan spoke on the two resolutions on this meeting's agenda for the basketball court - one is for boring tests and the other for topography mapping. Discussions were had on starting an awareness campaign for pesticide use in the Village with the possibility of creating an advisory board or committee. There is also a new hire for the Parks Department to be voted on; the Parks Department is keeping busy and working well.

Trustee Pucillo continues to work with Chief Hughes on police policies and procedures with a focus now on hiring practices as the Village is in the process of hiring a new full time police officer. There will be a 'new' method of hiring implemented consisting of a panel interview; the panel will hold the Chief of Police, the Police Commissioner, and the Commissioner of Personnel. A total of nine candidates are coming out of civil service for the position. Letters will be sent to each of the nine candidates and interviews will be given to those who accept. A decision will then be made by the panel on which candidate to present to the Board of Trustees in consideration for the open position. Trustee Pucillo spoke on the issue of speeding and the Chief's focus on monitoring bus routes during the school year. Trustee Pucillo discussed the need for more space within the Police Department facility - relocation is being considered. Chief Hughes and Trustee Pucillo continue to meet every Friday to discuss potential threats, protests, etc. using the intelligence given to them by Suffolk County.

Trustee Weber spoke about the Dockwa app, the new reservation and electronic

payment system that will be used by the Village Dockmasters. This will make the processes down at the docks easier, more efficient, and reduce the amount of cash payments Dockmasters are responsible for. Dock revenue is down, possibly a result of higher fuel prices and higher temperatures. The Sewer Plant was able to successfully minimize the damages caused by the PSEG oil spill July 19th-21st and was congratulated by Suffolk County Department of Health for the steps taken by the personnel. The Sewer Plant personnel were quick to act in bypassing the EQ tank and were able to hold the contaminant in a single tank for it to be treated. No SPDES Permit was violated through July 19th-21st. Trustee Weber wishes to recognize the personnel that were on duty those days via letters of congratulation; Mayor Koch agreed and assured letters will go in their personal files. On the matter of commerce, Trustee Weber attended the ribbon cutting event for RB Realty on Scudder Avenue and congratulated their opening. Trustee Weber then discussed an email from the Northport Drug and Alcohol Task Force asking to place ten flags in Village Park for the month of September (Recovery Month) around the gazebo with purple ribbons on poles and businesses given purple light bulbs to show support. The Night to Remember will also be held August 31st.

Trustee Sabia congratulated the Highway Department and Village Administrator Roland Buzard for their handling of the oil spill. With the help of the Town of Huntington, the Highway Department was able to build a berm to block the oil from coming down Main Street. Unfortunately, a major rainstorm washed away the berm and pushed sand/debris down the road. The Highway Department worked overtime to clean up Main Street. Continued work at Whispering Fields. Road striping continues. Re-grating of part of the driveway into Steers Park has been done with gravel being spread out in the parking lot. Trustee Sabia described the long list of tree work that needs to be done and the Highway Department is out every day working to the best of their ability to take care of it. Trustee Sabia met with the owner of the Ritz Cafe to discuss a beautification program that the owner wishes to start with one of the gardening clubs. The program entails gardening flowers and removing pine trees behind the building. Trustee Sabia emphasized that a lot is going on and getting done in regards to infrastructure. The parking lots are to be cleaned. Once work is done at Whispering Fields, Lisa Drive will be taken care of with the residents' input.

Mayor Koch agreed with Trustee Sabia on the amount of tree work that needs to be done in Northport. The mayor attended the American Legion College of Boys and Girls State. Mayor Koch then repeated the praise given by the other Trustees towards the personnel involved in working to contain the oil spill. The Main Street Committee continues to meet and discuss how to improve the shape of the Village sidewalks. National Grid is still scheduled to start its project in January on Main Street. Mayor Koch confirmed that being mayor is a full-time job.

#### **TREASURER REPORT:**

Treasurer Siobhan Costello disclosed that auditors will be attending the September 20th meeting. The Treasury Department hopes to have a draft sent out by the end of next week. The treasurer met with Mayor Koch to go over the Revenue/Expense Control Report, stating that the Village is right on target with the budget and everything seems to be on the right track.

**CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:**

Chief Hughes shared that the Police Department responded to 546 calls for service, issued 180 summonses, and made 15 arrests for the month of July. The chief then requested an executive session at the end of this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**FIRE COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

Fire Commissioner Phil Weber reported 95 calls in Northport, 36 calls in Fire Protection District #1, and 114 total calls where 82% were either rescue or EMS calls. The Fire Department is working on acquiring another pumper truck that will take approximately 1-1.5 years. The Fire Department already has the money to purchase the vehicle from previous contracts and savings. The new ambulance is to be delivered within the next six months. Trustee Sabia asked whether buying a firetruck involves locking in a fixed or using a sliding scale; the fire commissioner answered locking in a price which he estimates will be two payments of \$400,000.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None**

**REQUESTS: NIOT in the Park**

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the use of Cow Harbor Park October 16th, 2022 from 10:00AM-12:00PM for the third annual NIOT in the Park event.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Sabia the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION: 2022 – 175 ~ APPROVAL OF THE JULY 12, 2022 MINUTES**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The minutes of the July 12, 2022 meeting are hereby accepted.

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Dolan the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 176 ~ HIGHWAY LABORER**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Nicholas Stallone is hereby hired to the position of Laborer at the annual salary and other conditions of employment, pursuant to the collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village of Northport and Local 342, Long Island Public Service Employees.

**WHEREAS:** Hiring of employees 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 Sabia and seconded by Trustee Weber the following

resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 - 177 ~ SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW PROPOSED "D" VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC**

**WHEREAS:** The Northport Village Board of Trustees shall schedule a public hearing on the 6th day of September, 2022 at 6:00pm at Northport Village Hall, 224 Main Street, Northport, NY 11768 to consider the following proposed local law:

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW "D" OF 2022  
A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND  
CHAPTER 282 VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC  
OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT

Proposed addition to Chapter 282 "Vehicles and Traffic" Section 53, schedule V: Stop Intersections.

ADD:

Stop Sign on Lindberg Court at Seaview Avenue

**WHEREAS:** the scheduling of public hearing to consider a code amendment is not an action pursuant to SEQRA, and no further SEQRA review is required at this time.

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Dolan the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 178 ~ TELESCOPE DONATION**

**WHEREAS:** A donation of a Colorblind Scenic Viewer Telescope is being made by Eagle Scout Candidate Andrew Monda of Troop 474 to be installed at Scudder Park, and so

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Village of Northport is hereby authorized to accept the donation of a Colorblind Scenic Viewer Telescope.

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Weber the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 179 ~ BOND RELEASE**

**WHEREAS:** As per the applicant's request, the Village Administrator performed the requested final inspection, on premises at 36 Mariners Lane in order to obtain release of the surety being held in the amount of \$100,000.00, on the required improvements, for Susan Suvall, 36 Mariners Lane, and

**WHEREAS:** On July 29, 2022, the Village Administrator states that all bonded work was completed and a certificate of completion was issued and that the completed work is acceptable, now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Trustees authorizes the immediate release of surety in the amount of \$100,000.00 being held as bond, on the required improvements, for Susan Suvall, 36 Mariners Lane.

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Pucillo the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 180 ~ BUDGET TRANSFERS**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Village Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following budget transfers; see attached Schedule "A".

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Dolan the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 181 ~ DOCKWA APP**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Village board hereby authorizes the use of Dockwa Book in connecting with dock usage fees and

**WHEREAS:** Information will be collected and stored on the app to help organize and keep track of guests, there is no fee for utilizing this service or contract and can be canceled at any time.

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Dolan the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 182 ~ SURVEY/TOPOGRAPHY MAPPING SERVICES – NORTHPORT COW HARBOR PARK**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Village hereby authorizes an expenditure not to exceed \$3,150.00 to Paul J. Ruzenski, LS PC for survey/topography mapping services, associated with the basketball court beautification project at Northport Cow Harbor Park as outlined in a proposal dated July 28, 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This is a type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.5 (c) and is not subject to any further action under SEQRA.

Trustee Sabia asked whether the money for the mapping services would come out of the donated money or be paid by the village; the money will be taken from the donations.

On the motion of Trustee Weber and seconded by Trustee Sabia the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION 2022 – 183 ~ BORING SERVICES/DETERMINATION OF WATER LEVEL – NORTHPORT COW HARBOR PARK**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Village hereby authorizes an expenditure not to exceed \$1,725.00 for boring services to determine water level, associated with the basketball court beautification project at Northport Cow Harbor Park as outlined in a proposal dated August 3, 2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** This is a type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.5 (c) and is not subject to any further action under SEQRA.

Trustee Sabia asked whether the money for the boring services would come out of the donated money or be paid by the village; the money will be taken from the donations.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday September 6, 2022 at 6:00PM.

A meeting will be held on Wednesday August 17, 2022 at 7:00PM for Bluff Point residents.

On the motion of Trustee Dolan and seconded by Trustee Sabia and approved by all, a motion was made for an executive session at 6:56 PM with Chief Hughes.

On the motion of Trustee Sabia and seconded by Trustee Pucillo and approved by all, the meeting closed at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgina Cavagnaro  
Village Clerk