

Village of Northport

Draft Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 7:00 P.M. | Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

President Christopher McCann called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with all trustees present. Trustee Ruble attended via Zoom; all others were present in person. Staff present included Village Manager Jered Ottenwess, Village Clerk Joni Scott, Village Treasurer- Rutila, and DPW Superintendent Chris Holton.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Consent Agenda

The following items were approved by unanimous voice vote:

- A. Approval of the August 21, 2025, and September 4, 2025 meeting minutes.
- B. Staff reports.
- C. Payment of bills.

4. Public Comment

No public comment was offered at this time.

5. Correspondence

The Council received several letters regarding the proposed Seventh Street development from residents, including Mary Cermak Betzoldt, Joanne Swanson, Jane Ives, Don Sheets, Vicky, and Steve Slot.

6. Ex-Officio Reports

A. Planning Commission

Trustee Cavendish reported that the Planning Commission did not meet the prior week. Discussion has centered on zoning amendments, particularly related to short-term rentals and associated definitions. Draft amendments are expected to come forward at an upcoming work session. Work also continues on the Master Plan, with a consolidated draft in progress.

B. Infrastructure

Trustee Cavendish noted that infrastructure discussions were largely related to the tractor purchase item on the agenda.

C. Marina

No report was presented; a final seasonal report will be shared at the October meeting. Closing of the marina is expected in mid-October.

D. NLTUA

No report.

7. New Business

A. Tractor Purchase

Trustee Cavendish moved, supported by Trustee Ager, to approve the purchase of a new Kubota tractor in the amount of \$34,800, with funds available in the Equipment Fund. Discussion noted that the existing 2014 tractor has over 2,000 operating hours and is nearing the end of its service life. The proposed tractor is an identical replacement with improved features, and the quoted \$16,500 trade-in value was considered favorable. Council agreed that replacing equipment while it retains value is consistent with long-term planning goals, and although additional bids were discussed, staff recommended proceeding with the vendor due to reliability and limited regional options. The option of exploring zero-interest financing was also mentioned.

Roll call vote: Yes – Trustees Ager, Cavendish, Cook, Dean, Harper. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 2025-16 – PILOT Policy

Trustee Cavendish moved, supported by Trustee Cook, to adopt Resolution 2025-16 establishing a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Policy. President McCann noted that the policy clearly outlines the steps necessary to evaluate and implement PILOT agreements. The council agreed this was an important framework to support future attainable housing projects.

Roll call vote: Yes – Trustees Ager, Cavendish, Cook, Dean, Harper. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

9. Council Comment

- Trustee Ager emphasized that the council's work sessions, held on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00 P.M., are where in-depth discussion occurs, and encouraged the public to attend.
- Trustee Harper noted that this was the shortest regular council meeting in his six years of service and credited the village manager for restructuring meetings to make them more efficient. He also addressed correspondence on the Seventh Street property, stating that while affordable housing remains important, recent developments at the township level with the Recycle Center property may warrant reevaluating the urgency of pursuing Seventh Street development. He stressed that resident concerns are being heard and considered.
- Trustee Ruble noted he would be back in Northport the following week and available to meet.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Submitted by:

Joni L. Scott, Village Clerk