

# TOWN OF MONSON

*"A town where friendliness is more than just a word"*

## January 12, 2023 – Select Board Meeting

**Present** – Tyler Adkins, Sandra Hardy, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon, Jeff Berry

**ZOOM:** Alaina Zelkan

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Foreclosure Property –North Guilford Rd:** Alaina explained that the property is already in foreclosure but the Selectboard has the opportunity to discuss payment options with the owner. Jeff Berry stated he has \$1,300 to pay towards his past due taxes and will have \$1,100 more on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. These payments will bring the account current. Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the payment arrangement, seconded by Sandra Hardy.

### **SELECTBOARD REPORTS**

Sue Chase noted that a resident on Indian Point Loop had an issue with a snowbank being left in the road during a previous storm. After a discussion about how to contact someone about these issues on the weekend, Alaina suggested that residents may call the Sheriffs Department as they have a record of plow contractors and road commissioners. The Sheriffs Department would then be able to contact whoever needs to be notified of a situation. This suggestion will be posted on Facebook.

Sue then inquired about the following:

Why is the speed sign not working? – Batteries have been removed for the winter.

Are there any rights of way on the Indian Point Loop property? – Tyler is still unsure.

Have any funds been moved to CDs? – Not yet

Sandra Hardy noted that more attention needs to be paid to the flags. She suggested that perhaps Jimmy Erickson could be in charge of them. She then asked about the cell tower – Tyler is still making progress.

Tyler asked if there is any more information about putting the WiFi nodes on the phone poles. The office has reached out to Consolidated and is still waiting for an answer. Tyler then stated that he would like the EV Chargers to be upgradable.

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Alaina stated that she will be meeting with John Simco from Androscoggin Bank to discuss financing options for the new public works truck. There is \$99,000 in reserve and the quote for the truck is approximately \$74,000. She will try to get more information on the financing before the next Selectboard meeting so the warrant can be signed for the special town meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:** The committee is working on the Snowroller Festival.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** No report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**DOT Village Partnership/Proposals:** Matt Drost from DOT asked if the proposal submitted by Gorrill & Palmer will meet the town's needs. Tyler expressed concern that Gorrill & Palmer is a design firm rather than an engineering firm. Matt explained that most companies don't do both but that they will work well with an engineering firm. He has no reservations about the company and noted that these concerns can be expressed up front. Matt further explained that the roadways and adjacent properties will be part of the design but the other parks, boat launch etc. will just be part of the bigger plan. Once the plan is scoped out, funding can be obtained. DOT will assist the town with getting funding. The work should be done during the Rt. 15 rebuild project. The town will need to pay for the design up front and will be reimbursed. A warrant Article will be written for the upcoming special town meeting. Matt asked what the time frame will be for a decision. Tyler will vote to accept the bid and get approval at the town meeting in mid-February. Alaina noted that the town may have some money somewhere but most of it will need to be raised. Matt asked that the town stay in touch with Gorrill & Palmer regarding the town's plans and time frame. Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the bid for Monson Planning Feasibility Study, seconded by Sue Chase.

**EV Charger – Efficiency Maine Grant:** Alaina stated she spoke to Bob Spatz regarding the EV charging Station. These funds will also need to be paid by the town and then reimbursed. The cost will be approximately \$23,000. One possibility is to use the remainder of the ARPA funds to pay the town's portion. \$14,000 will be funded by Efficiency Maine and \$4,000 will be funded by the Nature Conservancy. This topic will also be on the special town meeting warrant. Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the Efficiency Maine grant award and proceed with the expenditure at the special town meeting, seconded by Sue Chase.

**Gully Brook Bridge:** Alaina explained that the bridge is more of a large culvert than a bridge. She has spoken with Pete Laughlin from DOT and also engineer Eric Calderwood. Eric is familiar with infrastructure grants and will assist with funding. The possibility of adding a guardrail and building up that area of the road was also discussed. Alaina will work on figuring out the cost of the project so funding can be obtained, and repairs can begin.

Sue then asked what is the status of the comprehensive plan. Alaina stated that it is at the community input stage. She also explained that for a \$5000 fee, the Eastern Maine Development Corporation will take care of that aspect, if the town wishes. Alaina will touch base with Dean Bennett about the plan. Tyler noted that the Comprehensive Plan is a statutory process and it's the Planning Board's initiative to see it through. Alaina will also reach out to Cindy Turner.

Meeting adjourned t 7:20 pm