

TOWN OF MONSON

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

December 14, 2023 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon, Bill MacDonald, Jonathan Pullen, Aaron Suomi, Kent Rich, Gabrielle Huettner, Chuck Beane, Giovanni Lauro

ZOOM: JD Walker, Sandra Hardy, Brian Turner

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM
- 2) Selectboard signs warrants

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The Selectboard reviewed the Town Manager Report submitted by Bill MacDonald.

Sue confirmed that a proposal needs to be submitted to Lori Osher with the Community Resilience Program in order for the town to obtain membership in January. Bill stated that his goal is to send the proposal this month and send a grant application next month. He is not sure that it's still an option to join with unorganized territories to be eligible for additional money. Bill will also try to find out when the deadline is to submit grant applications. He feels that the January 11 Selectboard meeting should allow enough time to decide which projects to apply for.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Sue wondered why the flashing speed sign is still working. Bill will check with Steve to see if the batteries have been removed for the winter. The new truck decals will be put on the truck after it is washed. She then asked for updates on the following: The yield sign on the North Guilford Rd, EV charger activation, 19 Center St.

Bill stated that there probably won't be anything done on the North Guilford Rd until Spring. To change the yield sign to a stop sign would be a Selectboard decision and he will also be applying for another flashing speed sign from DOT in the Spring. The goal for the EV charger is to have it activated by the beginning of the new year, to coincide with the New Years Day celebration.

The owner of 19 Center St was served the Notice of Public Hearing the day after it was signed by the Selectboard.

JD stated he would like to see a sequential plan and a step-by-step process laid out for the North Guilford Rd. He also noted that the community sign should always be updated and asked Bill if there has been any progress on an RSS feed. Bill said that Jade is working on figuring that out. Sandra said the Collaborative group discussed sending a monthly newsletter electronically and in the mail.

Tyler asked if there are any Code Enforcement updates besides what is on Kent's report, specifically, what is the plan for addressing the Moosehead Mfg. plant. Bill replied that an executive session will need to be scheduled to discuss the matter.

Bill then noted that on Monday April 7, 2024, there should be a visible eclipse. Several local lodging establishments are already booked, and perhaps other local businesses would consider being open on that night.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee: The tree and pole lights are up, and the committee is considering additional seasonal décor for next year.

Recreation Committee: The committee met last week. The Christmas event was very successful with close to 100 children attending. JD reported that the next event the committee will be working on is Snowroller.

OLD BUSINESS

CEO Report: Tyler suggested using a spreadsheet similar to that of the Fire Department to track data and trends.

Consider a transfer of \$10,000 from the Fire Department Reserve to Cover FY22-23

Equipment: Bill explained that the \$10,000 is needed to close out last year's books. The equipment was paid for from the general fund but needs appropriated funds. He recommends taking \$10,000 from the reserve and \$2,800 from the donation account. Tyler noted that the department has already used 98% of the payroll line for this year and it looks like other budget lines will go over as well. He does not feel comfortable approving funds that will not solve a systemic problem and feels that it may be best to cover the overage with this year's budget and then resolve the resulting overage for FY23-24 at next year's annual town meeting. Tyler then requested a plan to resolve the issue and also stay within budget. Bill stated he will have a plan

before the next meeting and will try to schedule a special meeting to make a decision. He will work with the Fire Department to prioritize purchases and make a plan.

NEW BUSINESS

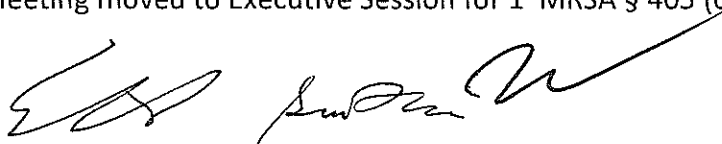
Consider Forming an Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Recommendations for the Purchase of a New Lead Fire Truck: Tyler would like to make all appointments to the committee at the same time. Bill and the Selectboard will consider members and hold a special Selectboard meeting to make the appointments. Bill suggested scheduling the meeting between Christmas and New Years. Chuck Beane stated the Fire Department thought the committee would consist of 3 Fire Department members, the Selectboard, the Town Manager and 1 community member. JD stated the goal is to have 2 – 3 Fire Department members, 1 Selectboard member, the Town Manager and several community members so all stakeholders are represented fairly.

Sign Selectboard Documents: The Selectboard signed the Certificate of Assessment that was voted on previously.

Consider Developing Use and Fee Policies for Non-Resident Use of the Ballfield: Marti informed the group that Jason, the head of the Recreation Committee in Fort Kent gave a positive reference for 207 Overland, an outdoor exploration group who is requesting to use the ballfield for a few days next summer. Fort Kent had no formal agreement with the group, nor did they charge for the use of their park. Jason stated the group was very polite and respectful and left the park in pristine condition when they were done. Bill noted that there are leach fields for the gym and the medical center which will need to be blocked off. He also suggested charging a modest fee for the use of the field. Tyler and JD both expressed that the Selectboard is supportive of accommodating the group but would like to see a plan laid out before making a decision. Marti will reach out to 207 Overland and request more information.

Consider Supporting the Maine Trails Bond Initiative: Tyler explained that there is a bond initiative in the legislature which proposes to invest \$30 million in trail infrastructure over the next 4 years. He attended a discussion in Greenville about improving infrastructure. Approximately 20 – 30 people were in attendance. Tyler feels it's important to express support and is in favor of longer- term funding which would provide funds to non -profits and municipalities. 20% of the funds would need to be matched. Sue feels that the funds may be helpful to different groups who struggle with trail maintenance such as water management and flooding issues. Bill has reached out to the Narrow Gage snowmobile club. JD asked if there would be any other commitment or just a show of support. Tyler said just a show of support. Tyler motioned to sign on to the Maine Trails Bond Initiative, seconded by Sue Chase.
Vote 3 – 0.

Meeting moved to Executive Session for 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A)- Personnel Matters at 7:25pm.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is a stylized, cursive name that appears to be 'Tyler'. The signature on the right is also cursive and appears to be 'Sue Chase'. Both signatures are written in a fluid, connected style.

