

TOWN OF MONSON

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

May 13, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present – Buddy Martin, Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, John Moore, Ricky Clawson, Bobbie Crockett, Jim Thyng, Brian Turner, Esther Ann Hamilton

Zoom – Chad and Emily Davis

- 1) Meeting opened at 7:00PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobbie mentioned that there are some pieces of slate in a pile at the transfer station and asked if she could take some. Daniel told her she could. She also asked when the cross pipe on the North Guilford Road will be complete and Daniel stated that it will be done when the pavers come.

Esther Ann Hamilton stated that she has hired Jeremy Philbrook to do work on her properties, including tearing down the building at 8 Mitchell St. She asked for a 3 month extension so she can try to salvage the windows and some of the boards from the building. She then noted that there is a lot of water behind the camp and asked if she can drain it into the lake. Brian told her no because it's a vernal pool and therefore protected land. After a short discussion the selectboard denied Esther's request because the situation has been going on for over a year and she has been given plenty of opportunities to deal with it. Buddy Martin told her that she may have until 7:00 am on Monday to remove anything from the building that she wants to salvage, then the building will be torn down.

Jim Thyng asked about ATV use on the Willimantic Road, stating that he has not heard of any issues regarding ATV use on the road during the trial period. He asked that permission to use the road be reinstated on a more permanent basis. Buddy told him that they will have an answer at the next meeting. Daniel then mentioned that he has had requests to open the Steward Road to ATVs as well so Turning Page Farm can be accessed by ATV. Several people felt that the Steward Road is too narrow for ATV use.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following:

Office staff has been working on the town report. It should be done in a week or so.

Steve has returned to work and Daniel is hoping to have quotes for a new loader at the next meeting.

There was a decreased amount of demo brought to the transfer station last month but more solid waste. The Fiber Right facility is very close to being sold.

Daniel met with the DEP about the erosion at the beach. They suggested contacting the DOT to put in a swale to keep the water from eroding the beach every year.

Hamlin Associates always kept the town data at their facility and put the information on property cards. The new assessors will not house the data at their facility which will require the town to upgrade TRIO to include the full assessing package. The upgrade will cost \$13,000 and then \$1,500 per year. Daniel will stop by Hamlin's office at some point to retrieve the rest of the town's data.

Daniel then mentioned that he would like to have the warrants signed on the nights of the meetings.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Tyler asked about the progress of the electric vehicle charging stations. Daniel stated that the town may not move forward with the project as he has not received any pricing on the trenching and to have Revision do the work would be too expensive.

Tyler then asked about the road plan and how the summer road projects will be implemented. Daniel stated that as soon as a contractor is chosen the work will begin as soon as possible.

Buddy asked if the town has any rules regarding the sale of raw milk, eggs or vegetables. Daniel said that the state has rules and Brian Turner stated that he, as the code enforcement officer, is supposed to inspect the septic and sign off on it if anyone wants to sell food items from their home.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: No report

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: The committee met today and is starting to work on designing logos.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: A town wide clean up is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 and a plant sale is planned for the first Saturday in June. The committee is currently working on the planters.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Town Meeting: Daniel read aloud the town meeting warrant and explained that the assessing amount was changed to reflect the TRIO upgrade. Tyler expressed concern about the process of making changes to the warrant. Daniel explained that the dollar figure was discussed and voted on at the budget meetings but now there is new information to discuss. The new warrant is not an official document yet and the changes are being discussed in a public setting.

Daniel then noted that the state revenue sharing changed from \$80,000.00 to \$110,000.00 which will help to lower the mill rate. The selectboard approved the changes.

Tyler asked why the bond amount was raised to \$600,000.00 from \$400,000.00. Daniel explained that it's because he had not added in the cost to chip seal the two roads that are being paved. Tyler then asked if the bond money will pay for paving on the Willimantic and Elliosville Roads and pay Allstate Paving. Daniel confirmed that it will. The selectboard approved the town meeting warrant.

Road Project Bids: Daniel stated that there is approximately \$110,000.00 in the budget for road work. He based the budget on \$5.00 per foot for the work that needs to be done. Two bids were submitted. Chad Davis bid \$325,000.00 and Mark Freeman bid \$190,000.00. The selectboard is not interested in hiring Mark Freeman as he does not do quality work and is unreliable. Daniel stated that he spoke to Chad about his bid, and it is the cost of material that makes the bid so high. The options are to put the work back out to bid or scale back the scope of work to fit within the budget. Tyler stated that there needs to be a plan to fit the time frame and the budget, Buddy feels that whatever needs to be cut to stay within the budget should be cut and there should be better/earlier planning for next year. The work will be put back out to bid.

Daniel then noted that King's Flooring submitted the lowest bid for the flooring in the meeting room. It is the same flooring that the town of Hampden had installed, and it comes with a commercial warranty.

Brian Turner thanked the selectboard for supporting him and Daniel throughout the dangerous building procedure and stated there are more dangerous buildings in town that will need to be addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm