

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## **July 22, 2021 – Select Board Meeting**

**Present** –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Sue Chase, Daniel Swain, John Moore, Brian Turner, Georgia Underwood, Sue Connors, Richard Allard, Bobbie Crockett

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants
- 3) Tyler Adkins officially opens meeting to public comment

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Georgia Underwood introduced herself as the Recovery Coach Coordinator for Healthy Acadia Downeast Program. She wants to get the word out that she and the organization are available to help addicts and families recover from all types of addictions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED**

### **TOWN MANGER REPORT**

Daniel provided updates on the following:

The new floor in the meeting room is now complete. Steve has been working on winter sand and accidentally mixed in the extra sand that Allstate had left over from the paving. The town had not been going to purchase the extra sand from Allstate but since it was mixed in with the other sand, will now have to pay for it. Daniel also noted that the town will be receiving insurance money from Allstate for damage done to the fence at the transfer station.

Steve has also been working on brush cutting and has started with the signs which are quite grown in with brush. A special tool is needed to repair the playground equipment.

An insurance claim has been filed for the fence damage at the transfer station. The insurance adjuster will be here tomorrow to assess the damage.

Work is being done on last year's audit and the school assessment came in at \$20,000 less than expected. The new assessors have begun their work and have been to the office three times already. They are finding lots of things that were not done by Hamlins and are in the process of getting everything updated for the commitment.

Daniel submitted a comparison of pricing for road work that was put out to bid versus having it done by the hour. Eric noted that he spoke to a contractor who feels that they could have done the ditching work for \$21,000. He also stated that he did not vote in favor of the bid that was submitted and that if the Road Commissioner makes decisions on his own, he needs to take responsibility. Tyler noted that it's the selectboard's responsibility to oversee the Road Commissioner.

Daniel stated that he tried to speak to the Witham's about the Code Enforcement issue and Mike Witham told him that he will approach the selectboard about the matter when he is ready. Brian Turner asked what the selectboard has decided to do about the situation. Tyler stated that the selectboard will be taking action.

Daniel has been working on a draft of by-laws and will continue to work on it with Sue Chase.

## **SELECTBOARD REPORT**

Eric Vainio noted that the trim on the municipal building needs to be painted. He also noted that he spoke to the Sheriff's Department and expressed concern about ATV use on the Steward Road. The Sheriff said that the matter should be handled by residents who live on the road. Daniel stated that he has started compiling a list of people to invite to the public meeting and Tyler stated that all residents on the Steward Road should be formally invited.

Sue Chase again mentioned that the town web site needs to be updated. Daniel said that Sandra Hardy has been working on it.

Tyler Adkins requested updates on the following:

Has there been any progress on the gym doors, the ADA ramp and road grading?

Daniel replied that there has been no progress on the grading, and no one seems interested in doing the work on the ramp and the gym doors.

Has there been any progress on the clock?

Daniel spoke to the clock repair company and submitted photos. He is waiting to hear back from the company regarding scheduling.

Is there a plan for roadside mowing? Daniel will follow up with Steve.

Is there a timeline for brush cutting? Daniel stated there is no timeline.

Has the town received the final bill for paving, and does it fit the budget?

Yes, the bill has been received and paid and it is on budget.

Is there a schedule date for the Comprehensive Plan public hearing?  
Daniel is still working on it.

Has Daniel spoken to the solar company about early buyout of the solar panels? No.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:** Bobbie stated that Summerfest went well overall, but they had a difficult time getting email responses, the signs went up late and the flier went out late. They also did not get as much financial help as usual this year so they may go over budget. The parade and street dance both went well considering this was the first year for both. The farm tour had to be canceled at the last minute due to illness. Bobbie also reminded everyone that this is the last year for the current festival committee, but they are willing to help the next people that fill the position(s).

**BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:** No report.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** Sue Chase noted that the committee had a successful bulb sale during Summerfest and they will be looking for volunteers to help with planting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Goals for the coming year:** Daniel listed the following goals for the coming year:

- Implementation of new ordinances.
- Working with Snow Pond Technology.
- Working with RJD Appraisals and deciding what to do with town owned property.
- Making a plan to fix up the Basketball/Tennis court, bandstand area.
- Improving the town website
- Improving the reliability of the town WiFi.
- Completing the comprehensive plan
- Getting the town clock fixed
- Working on a maintenance plan for the town.
- Working on a plan for the trust and reserve accounts.

Eric suggested trying to figure out a plan for additional parking in town as well. Sue mentioned that there is a lot of traffic and speeding in town and wondered about putting in some crosswalks. Daniel explained that crosswalks need to be ADA compliant and would be very expensive.

Eric stated that he spoke to MMA about selectboard members abstaining from votes. He explained that the selectboard's job is to vote on matters in the town and unless there is a financial conflict of interest, all members should vote. Tyler explained that he did not feel that the matter of ATV use on the Steward Road was ready to be voted on yet and Sue mentioned that she has seen examples of guidelines that other selectboards use when voting on issues. Daniel will look at guidelines used by other towns.

Sue Connors asked if there is a plan to repair the Degestrom Road. Daniel explained that there was a lot of work done to the road in the spring and the town will monitor the road again next spring. It would have been too expensive to rebuild the road. Tyler further explained that the town is working on a comprehensive road plan so all the roads will be in good shape all the time. Sue stated that there is a lot of work that needs to be done and the condition of the road is totally unacceptable. Residents were unable to get their mail in the spring and some had to walk home from work as the road could not be driven on. There was also a fire in the spring and if the fire had happened a couple weeks earlier, the fire department would not have been able to get down the road. Brian Turner stated that he had been helping Steve work on the road earlier in the summer but has been unable to help him for the past couple of weeks. He will, however, be able to help again and more work will be done on the road this year.

Meeting moved to Executive Session for a code enforcement matter at 7:20 PM.