

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## January 2, 2024 – Special Select Board Meeting

**Present** –Tyler Adkins, Sue Chase, JD Walker, Marti Gagnon, Bill MacDonald, Gabrielle Huettnner, Giovanni Lauro, Ryan Laplante, Mike Witham

**ZOOM:** Sandra Hardy, Sheila Grant

1) Meeting opened at 10:00 AM

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Witham asked about the fire contract with the Town of Shirley and expressed concern that Monson residents are subsidizing their fire protection. Bill noted that Shirley currently pays Monson \$12,600 per year for fire/rescue services. JD explained that the department is collecting data on the number of calls to all towns that they service. This data is needed to decide how much to charge each town going forward. Any shortages will be addressed during the budget process. The fire department will provide information to Mike on the number of Shirley calls to date.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Form a charter ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for the purchase of a lead fire engine:** JD suggested a smaller committee rather than a large one as the more people on the committee, the more chance there will be scheduling issues. The town will need to act quickly, and the goal of the committee will be to determine a reasonable financing amount to bring to town meeting. The committee should consist of the Town Manager, a Selectboard member, members of the fire department and several community members. JD feels that 3 community members and 3 fire department members should be sufficient. Tyler Adkins motioned to appoint Morgan Mareglia, Tim Bueschen and John Wentworth as community members, Ryan Laplante, Giovanni Lauro and Terry Gaudet as fire department representatives, and Stacy Pullen and Charles Beane as alternate members for the committee to develop recommendations for the purchase of a lead fire engine, seconded by Sue Chase. Vote 3 – 0. The committee will submit recommendations to the Selectboard by 2/29/24.

**B. Develop agreement and fee policies for non-resident use of the ballfield:** Marti presented a diagram and schedule of events submitted by 207 Overland for their annual event in August. They are requesting to use the ballfield for the event. Aaron Suomi looked at the diagram and determined the event will not interfere with the leach fields or septic tanks. There was some concern about the field being wet if there is another rainy summer, but JD and Bill both noted

that the road and field usually remain dry and solid. Bill submitted a proposed rental agreement and suggested a fee of \$100 per day for non-residents and \$50 per day for residents which is the same fee as for the gym rental. JD expressed concern about charging residents to use the field and Bill explained that the charge would only be for specific events, not for playing ball etc. There was some discussion about removing the daily fee and charging a flat rate per event. It was decided that a \$250/day fee will be requested of 207 Overland for their event. The fee could be negotiable if the group requests. Tyler motioned to approve the Field Rental Agreement with a fee of \$250/day for non-residents and \$50/day for residents.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is a stylized 'JD'. Below it is a signature that appears to be 'Tyler'. The bottom signature is a long, sweeping cursive mark.