

TOWN OF MONSON

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

October 11, 2018 – Select Board Meeting

Present selectboard members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio. Town Manager, Daniel Swain.
Townspople: Brian Turner, Tyler Adkins, Bob Jarvis, Berlynn Henderson

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

Brian Turner explained what a "shim coat" is, in regards to paving. It evens out the road and fills in the pot holes.

Tyler Adkins submitted a petition to the selectboard for increased cell phone service. The petition has 50 – 60 signatures. Buddy Martin will make copies for review.

Brian Turner wondered why the #1 pump truck, bought in the 1990's for \$60 - \$70K is sitting outside in the weather. The fire department feels that the pump truck should stay in the garage and a carport should be constructed for the public works equipment. Brian and Buddy feel that the old tanker should be outside or the pumper could be winterized. Daniel will meet with Eric Melia and Chris about the matter.

Town Committees: Gym; Daniel stated that money for the Gym renovation will be tight. There is approximately \$52,000.00 left in the fund and Killam's bill has not been submitted yet, but it is expected to be about \$50K+. **No other committees present.**

Animal Control Officer: Daniel introduced Lynn Henderson as the proposed deputy ACO. Lynn would be the deputy ACO, under Joe Guyotte until he completes his training. Lynn stated that he is excited about the opportunity. The issue with the Smith's animals was discussed and Lynn assured the selectboard that he will enforce the laws. Buddy stated that new ordinances are being drafted for enforcement.

Buddy Martin made a motion to appoint Berlynn Henderson as Deputy Animal Control Officer. Eric Vainio seconded the motion. Appointment was signed.

Steward Road: B & B Construction has submitted a quote for \$61,000 to put a shim coat on the road. This cost is about \$8,000 more than anticipated due to the road being a little longer than

originally thought. Buddy and Daniel expressed concern that the shim coat won't stick due to the time of year and possible snow. Eric V. asked how the cost compared to other towns, Daniel said that the price was in the ball park. Eric then asked if there was any liability for the town if the work is not done now. Daniel said yes there is liability because the town knows it needs to be done. Daniel also explained that there is \$42,000 in the paving fund and \$77,000 in the road improvement fund, for a total of \$112,000. Eric is apprehensive about spending \$61,000 right now if the material might not stick, not to mention the snow plowing that will need to be paid for. Buddy Martin is hesitant to move on the matter without Brita being present. Brian Turner was asked if he had any concerns and he stated that, in the past, they had to sand and plow the Blanchard Rd while it was being paved and there were no problems. Motion from last meeting will stand pending Daniel's discussion with B & B Construction.

Plow Contract: Daniel explained that Lawson has the snow plow contract for Blanchard and is requesting that he swap a road with Monson. Lawson will plow the Barrows Falls Rd if Monson will plow the Blanchard hill down to the intersection. However, if Herrick does not do a good job, Lawson will plow the Blanchard hill so as not to safety risk. Eric Vainio expressed concern that Herrick will not do a good job, and this could lead to unhappy Blanchard residents and loss of money from the town due to having to pay extra money to Lawson. Daniel explained that anything extra paid to Lawson would be deducted from Herrick's bill. Daniel will invite Herrick to the next meeting to discuss the contract. Further discussion will wait until the next meeting.

County and Willimantic Transfer Station and fire contract: Daniel presented new contracts for Willimantic and the unorganized territories, explaining that if no changes are necessary the contracts will automatically renew from year to year. Eric Vainio questioned whether or not we are being compensated enough for the contract. Daniel stated that they pay about $\frac{3}{4}$ of our fire department budget, so we are well paid. Eric Vainio suggested that perhaps we can use some of that money for maintenance and up-keep of the fire dept. Daniel stated that a new truck is needed but separate funding will be used for that. Buddy Martin made a general statement that about lack of effective leadership in the fire dept. Eric Vainio has seen some improvement, but more is definitely needed.

Items not on agenda: Daniel Swain mentioned a mold quote for down stairs was submitted for \$9,200.00 and stated that it could be done this year. Another quote is expected from Bouchard Cleaning Services.

Lynn Henderson brought up that there is about 1000 yds of sand outside the sand shed, **Buddy Martin** says that we can use it if we add salt. **Brian Turner** then stated that there is not 2000 yds in the sand shed, as there is supposed to be. Daniel will have the Public Works guys measure it to confirm. Brian also mentioned that Herrick's should document how much sand is used.

Eric Vainio followed up on the petition. He thought 10% of registered voters had to sign a petition, Daniels says No, it's 10% of the number of voters who voted in the last gubernatorial election. Eric also

brought up that executive session must have a motion and a second, the statute must be stated as well as the reason for the executive session. He stated that the way it has been done is wrong and if proper procedure is not followed, it can void the session. He explained what he has learned and will put it in laymans terms at a later date.

Homer Hill foreclosed property: Daniel spoke to Tracy Stebbins today and everything is currently on hold with the sale of the property, but she is still interested. Tracy had requested that some broken bricks be removed from the chimney, so they don't fall off. Buddy Martin and Daniel Swain agree that it would be too dangerous to send Chris up on the roof, so the town will not remove the bricks.

Daniel Swain officially announced the resignation of Glen Garrity, MUD clerk and Deputy Town Clerk. He mentioned that 11 people have applied for the position and interviews will start next week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.