

TOWN OF MONSON

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

May 9, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

Present select board members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, Tyler Adkins - Town Manager, Daniel Swain.

Townspople – David and Kathy Murtough, Nancy Putnam, Billy and Marilou Ranta, Brian Turner, Jon Adkins, Lucas Butler, David Bjork

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM
- 2) Select board reviews warrants and unapproved meeting minutes.
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Flaherty from the Spirit of America Foundation spoke about volunteerism and encouraged the selectboard to participate in choosing a recipient to be recognized for exceptional volunteer work. He stated that many other towns as well as MMA are very supportive of the program. The deadline for choosing a recipient is June 30. Most recipients are honored at the Annual Town Meeting. Buddy Martin asked what types of activities are honored in other towns, at which time Bruce directed him to a section of their website titled "Honored Last Year" to see who had been selected and why.

Daniel Swain mentioned the renewal of the Quarry liquor license. Buddy Martin stated that it will be taken care of. Daniel confirmed with Marilou that nothing has changed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel will be meeting with a consultant regarding where to put dry hydrants. A new camera is needed at the transfer station to see who is messing with the gate.

Buddy Martin asked if any progress is being made on the animal ordinance. Daniel said yes, they are working on it. Brian Turner stated that he would like to see it "tweaked" a little bit to include the Animal Control Officer.

Buddy then asked Brian if the town has come up with a way to enforce septic issues. Brian said no. Buddy stated that there needs to be language in the ordinance for the enforcement side of the issue. Brian mentioned that every year there are issues with stinky septics but there is

nothing that can be done about it. Brian will check with the state to see what can be put in the comprehensive plan. Daniel stated that the change would be in the land use ordinance.

Tyler Adkins brought up WiFi, LED and Solar. Daniel stated that there is no update on the WiFi but that he had contacted CMP and obtained a quote to switch to LED, as well as a cost savings analysis for switching to LED. He stated that the town will buy the lights from CMP and CMP will be the supplier. The town would be responsible for the maintenance of the lights. Daniel also informed the group that he has a meeting scheduled with Vaughn Woodruff from Resource Renewables to discuss solar, and that the town should consider having a car charging station in town to encourage people to stop.

The discussion then turned to the Water St. pump house. It is still on and costing the town about \$60 per month to run. It may be able to be shut off as it is no longer supplying water to Moosehead, nor to any hydrants. Brian Turner stated that someone who knows what they're doing should look at it because it is no longer usable. Tyler asked if we can have an answer by the next board meeting as to whether or not it can be shut off. Daniel said yes.

Eric Vainio noted that once the town gets answers on the cost of solar, an independent person should also take a look at the numbers to make sure it makes financial sense.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee – No report

Festival Committee – No report

Bicentennial Committee – Daniel stated that there is a meeting coming up in a few weeks, and that the Historical Society has expressed interest in becoming more involved.

OLD BUSINESS

Snow Plow Contract: Daniel informed the group that the plow bid has not been awarded. Buddy Martin feels that it should be put back out to bid. Eric Vainio would like to see if we can get the word out further to see if more potential bidders can be reached. Daniel will put the contract back out to bid and try to get as much coverage as possible. The deadline for bids will be June 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

32 Center St: Daniel stated that the property has already been put out to bid twice. Tyler asked how much the town is currently spending on the property and Daniel said about \$80.00 per month for mowing. Tyler suggested advertising it again with no minimum bid. Daniel mentioned the possibility of keeping the property for town use. He proposed raising the garage

roof and using it for Public Works, which would create more space in the downstairs of the municipal building for the Fire Dept. to use. Buddy Martin does not think it's a good idea, financially, to do that at this time. The property will be put out to bid again and the deadline for bids will be June 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Banking RFP: Daniel Swain mentioned putting the banking services out to bid. He feels that the town could possibly earn more money with a different bank, as well as get better customer service. However, do we really want to take on more change right now? Interest rates are currently going up, but the town's CD rates are locked in. Daniel will meet with banks and further discussion will be had at the July meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Daniel presented a draft of the letter to send to taxpayers regarding the new fiscal year/2019 mill rate. Eric Vainio suggested adding more detail about the payment period (18 months), when interest begins and when the discount will be applied. Tyler Adkins suggested reiterating that taxes are not going up and providing more of a visual presentation, rather than a narrative to help people understand. He suggested showing a comparison of numbers and keeping the letter to one page.

Nancy Putnam stated that some people are expressing concern that the mill rate will be going up to 25 and that the letters should go out very soon.

Daniel explained that it will cost about \$600 - \$700 to send letters to every taxpayer, whereas it will only cost about \$60 to send letters to Monson residents only, and all other letters can be sent with the tax bills. Tyler will assist Daniel with structuring the letter.

Daniel obtained authorization to work with Dean Bennett on the comprehensive plan. The contract will be for \$8,500. Tyler expressed concern with moving ahead with Dean Bennett without seeing what, or who else might be out there to work with. Brian Turner explained that this is Dean's business and the town has had good experiences with him in the past, which is why the planning board chose him. Lucas Butler stated that in his experience, it's important to use someone that the town is comfortable with as these things can get very expensive, and Dean has a good history with the town.

Buddy Martin motioned to authorize Daniel to sign a contract with Dean Bennett, seconded by Eric Vainio. Buddy also motioned to authorize Daniel to sign a contract with Dr. Dan for computer services, seconded by Eric Vainio.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Eric Vainio raised the following concerns:

The siding on the gym is getting worse. There are 30 – 40 pieces of new siding that could be used to repair it. Daniel and Chris will take a day next week and fix the siding. There is lumber and refuse behind the town office that needs to be cleaned up, the fire storage trailer/trash container is very messy and has a lot of junk piled in it. The fire department needs to be more organized. Daniel will make sure the trailer gets cleaned out.

The canal fence should be fixed this year, Daniel will check to see if the bids are still good.

Eric asked if Jim Bohrer has decided what to do about the broken bench. Daniel will see about getting a new one from the museum if not, John Tatko can make one.

Buddy Martin mentioned that the roof patch over the town manager's office is starting to come off. Daniel said he's waiting for the bond anticipation note.

Brian Turner said that the town used to put the '37 Ford in the storage trailer and asked if there is any plan to get it out of the Melia's garage. Daniel said the when the snow is gone it will be brought to Whittier's to see if they can get it running, then he will meet with the fire department and remind them.

David Bjork asked what will be done with the trees at the Hillside Cemetery, Daniel told him that Chris had done some trimming. David also mentioned that the fence at the cemetery by the church, as well as the fence behind the playground need to be repaired. Eric Vainio stated that there probably is not enough money for that right now.

Buddy Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm, seconded by Tyker Adkins.

DRAFT