

TOWN OF MONSON

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

June 13, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

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

Townspople – Brian Turner, Dee Adams, Ricky Clawson, David Bjork, Tim Anderson, Tom Adkins, Ryan LaPlante, John Adkins, Bob Jarvis, Nancy Putnam, Joanne Adkins, Burton Packard

- 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

Bob Jarvis mentioned an above ground rusty pipe in Center St. that could pop a tire. Daniel told him that we're waiting for a Dig Safe certificate so the issue can be addressed.

Tim Anderson suggested putting a cross walk by the Arts Building so the kids crossing the road will be safer. Daniel informed him that it is a state road and there is an application that needs to be filled out to put in a cross walk. Tim said that he had spoken to Jeff Reed at DOT who gave him the go-ahead for a cross walk.

Ricky Clawson stated that there is a broken leg on the dock that doesn't look nice and that there are lots of spare parts for the dock in the furnace room. He also mentioned that there is a bump in the road just before Monson Hill that needs to be scraped off.

David Bjork stated that there are 12 headstones in the old cemetery that have fallen, and there is also a pile of them that have previously fallen. He asked if the town has any records of where the stones go. No one was sure. He then asked if Genevieve is still considering being the sexton and Daniel said that he is still talking to her about it. Brian Turner told everyone that when headstones break off in the Bar Harbor cemetery, they pour a cement pad and lay the stones flat.

SELECTBOARD REPORT:

Tyler Adkins brought up the solar proposal, which showed the sand shed as a possible site. He explained that the town would be able to offset almost all of its usage with about 75 panels. He

then explained all of the options, stating that Insource Renewables would be willing to work with the town and sell the energy at a cheaper rate than CMP, with a 25 year contract. There is also a 7 year system buy-out option after 7 years, at which time the town could purchase the system. It was decided that Vaughn Woodruff will be invited to the July meeting to discuss the matter further.

Eric Vainio brought up the following concerns:

- Last year the ladder on the dock at the beach was not put on the dock yet and it should be.
- Suggested the possibility of forming a committee to spruce up the town.
- Noted that the Fire Department did not show up for the Memorial Day Parade, the Fire Department usually blocks the roads so it could have been dangerous. Daniel stated that he had spoken to them and they didn't show up because they weren't invited. Daniel told them that in the future they are always invited.
- Ditching of the roads should be prioritized. He asked Daniel if a group has been assigned to prioritize the roads and Daniel said not yet.
- When the Killams were working on the emergency staircase at the gym they noticed leakage on the hardwood floor.
- People have been asking about the possibility of keeping the Town Office open later, possibly 9-5 on Tuesdays.
- The town should have, in writing, a waiver of the gym fee for lifelong residents of Monson for benefits, memorial services and other events held to help in times of hardship. The clean up fee would still apply.
- Suggested a 5 day work week for Public Works in the summer. Daniel stated that many other towns have 4 day work weeks and that Chris is open to working a 5 day week when needed.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The board read through the report that Daniel submitted. Tyler notes that there have been many discussions about long term planning and the town should start by mapping out priorities so everyone knows what they are and fewer things will fall through the cracks. Buddy Martin added that it would also make it easier for a future town manager coming into the job. Tyler asked if Daniel could work on that for the next meeting and Daniel said yes.

Daniel then stated that he had found an old laptop and created some spreadsheets for Public Works to track projects. The laptop has since broke and he would like to purchase a new one

for Chris so that projects can be tracked electronically. He also stated that he had Amelia Trader create email accounts for Public Works and the Fire Department. Daniel has since been working with Chris on creating new spreadsheets. Tyler feels that a laptop is not necessary right now as Chris can do all of that on his phone. Eric stated that a discussion about prioritization needs to be had first so that the road work is done in the right order. Daniel explained that the Barrows Falls road is being done first because it was so bad in the spring and, also to get it out of the way so Public Works can then focus on the other roads, in town along with paving prep work. He also stated that it could be used for a cost comparison for bid contracts. Ricky Clawson said that the town could do a comparison with the work that was done on the dirt section of the Elliotsville Rd in Willimantic.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee – Dee Adams stated that she is working on trying to get paving done on the basketball/tennis court. She also stated that she has the lumber for the backstop for the baseball field and, also that she would like to rototill the whole infield. She mentioned that the field still needs to be mowed and that she hates to keep asking for the field to be mowed; it should just be done. Dee is concerned about losing the field due to lack of maintenance. The backstop won't be done until after Summer Fest and she requested permission to install a camera before the work is done, in case of vandalism.

Dee stated that Sue has Pickle Ball equipment and will be bringing it to Monson this summer and will also be teaching people the rules. The basketball court could be used but there is concern about balls going in the road. She would like to use orange fence around the court while pickle ball is being played. The fence will be kept in the bandstand when not in use. Tim Anderson offered to donate some fence.

Adult basketball – There seems to be more interest now than in the past. Dee would like to advertise in Guilford as they are having the same problem (too few people). Dee also mentioned that there needs to be a compressor at the gym as the balls are always going flat. She will price out a compressor.

Adult softball – Dee would like to enter the Bangor league but there is a fee and she can't get enough commitment. She is wondering if there is enough interest in town for her to proceed.

Dee also explained that it had been too cold to get the flower boxes planted before Memorial Day.

Community sign – The Rec Dept. has a donation account with money in it that was for helping kids who couldn't afford sports equipment. The money has not been used and Dee suggested

using it to put a community sign at the gym. She would like to approach Libra and possibly work with them on the project. She asked if Daniel would talk to Lucas about it and Daniel said that he will.

Festival Committee – Dee stated that Summer Fest needs volunteers and that the fliers will be out soon. There are almost 30 events scheduled for this year. Wilkins St will need to be closed off starting at 9:00 pm and Friday evening, the boat landing will need to be closed off as well for the “Touch a Truck” event. The Community Band will be using the bandstand this year.

Bicentennial Committee – Daniel stated that there was a meeting last week and a couple of new members signed up. The committee is planning to have a street dance on Wilkins St. and the beginning of Hebron St. will be closed off. He also mentioned that the peanut roaster will be there.

OLD BUSINESS

Letter to taxpayers: Daniel informed everyone that the letter to the taxpayers regarding the new fiscal year is now down to one page. He showed the letter to the selectboard and they would like him to add something visual, like a graph or chart, and remove the words “tax increase”. Tyler will stop by the office tomorrow and help Daniel fine tune the letter.

32 Center St: The bids for the 32 Center St. property were opened and read. The bids were as follows:

Genevieve Kara-Tefft - \$500.00

Alan Osgood - \$7,100.00

Anna Duquette - \$2,556.00

Jeff Gasper - \$6,500.00

Burton Packard - \$6,000.00

Jeff Killam - \$8,000.00

After the bids were opened there was some confusion about how the ad was written. Some bidders thought that their bid should include back water and taxes and some thought that the back water and taxes would be in addition to their bid. On some bids the intent was clear. It was unclear what Jeff Killam’s intent was so Tyler placed a call and was told that the bid was all inclusive. Jeff Gasper was not present but his friend, Ryan LaPlante was present and told the board that Jeff expected to pay the back taxes and water in addition to his bid. This made Jeff Gasper the high bidder. Buddy Martin motioned to accept the bid for \$6,500.00 + back water and taxes, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Paving Quotes: Daniel submitted the quotes for hot mix and cold mix. The quotes were for 2 miles on the North Guilford Rd, overlay on the Steward Rd, 2 ½ miles of paved section of Barrows Falls Rd. He also had them look at Forest Ave. The Allstate quote has 2 options for Barrows Falls. 1) to reclaim, grade and compact or 2) pave. Daniel explained that there is a \$130,000 difference in pricing. Chip Seal will last 15 – 20 years as opposed to 8 – 12 years for hot pave. He also explained that the submitted pricing is for the “Cadillac Plan” and that it can be scaled back. Water St. is not too bad and could probably be scaled back by about \$50,000. There was a short discussion about the possibility of not doing the Barrows Falls Rd. Daniel stated that the town has a bond for \$350,000, plus \$50,000 in the road account. He also stated that Allstate is not willing to accept any help from the town with the paving to lower the price, they will do it themselves. Buddy Martin motioned to hire Allstate as the contractor to resurface the roads, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Homer Hill Work: Daniel stated that there has been a lot of money spent on Homer Hill. The winter road work was not done properly, and the spring was very wet and muddy. Public Works has provided a temporary fix but \$30,000 - \$40,000 has been spent on the road in the past three years and the residents are still upset. Daniel suggested having a grader pull the material to the center of the road to crown it and continue working on the ditching by the Witmer’s house. Buddy Martin stated that we need to get rid of the water and that there is a lot of sand on the road so it can’t drain. Daniel’s suggestion won’t get rid of the sand. Buddy then asked if the town could dig a big swale to protect the road. Daniel said yes and that the Cincottas can be charged for it, but he first needs to find out where it will be safe to dig to divert the water. The decision was that the existing slate will be spread, and the road will be graded and crowned. Daniel informed the group that the town is on Mike Theriault’s schedule.

Snow Plow Contract: The new plow contract bids were opened. The same two contractors that bid last time were the only two bidders. Roderick Bjork’s bid was \$351,000 for 3 years (\$10,000 higher than last bid) and Dean Rideout’s bid was \$444,000 (\$18,000 higher than last bid). Several options were discussed including using multiple contractors to do various sections of the town, and having the town do the “in town” roads. Daniel stated that other contractors have expressed interest in doing certain sections of the town. The decision reached was to explore the option of using multiple contractors. Ricky Clawson suggested not putting it out to bid but advertising what the town is willing to pay and see if anyone is interested in doing it for that price. A special Selectboard meeting will be set for June 27 to discuss the matter further. Daniel confirmed that he will decline both bids and tell the bidders that the town is exploring other options.

NEW BUSINESS

Lakeshore House Special Amusement Permit: Buddy Martin motioned to accept and sign the Special Amusement Permit for the Lakeshore House, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

LED streetlights: Daniel submitted 2 quotes that he received from companies to upgrade the streetlights to LED. He stated that the town can save about 90% by buying and owning the LED lights. The cost to buy the lights from CMP would be \$6,400.00 and the cost for a contractor to install them will be \$14,700.00. The town would be responsible for the maintenance of the lights and would have to hire a contractor. Affinity Light is offering a one year warranty and a real term price of \$28,500.00. Daniel stated that if the town moved forward with the conversion this year the savings would begin sooner but that he will have to find the money somewhere. Per Tyler – If we did this in September there would be \$7,500 in the streetlight budget, \$1,100 in savings from having the pump house power shut off, \$4,000 in contingency and the anticipated money from a tree growth penalty. The town has the money and Daniel will find out if it needs to be put to a vote. Eric Vainio asked if any other towns have had any issues with LED lights and Daniel said that if a pole gets hit or if there is a bad ice storm, it can cause problems but that the town can start a capital project account in order to have money set aside for any future issues that may need to be addressed. Tyler feels that this would be a good move for the town because it will increase cash flow. It was decided to put off voting on the matter until the special board meeting on the 27th and Daniel will continue to try to find other money.

AP/Payroll Policy: Buddy Martin motioned to continue the policy of requiring 1 signature for payroll warrants, school payments and pass through accounts, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Daniel stated that the town now has the bond money for the work on the municipal building. T.C. Hafford will do the drainage outside the building, Killam Builders will do the structural work, J.K. Electric update and move the electrical panel and Northeast Restoration will do the mold removal. The work will be done in the following order:

1) Mold 2) Drainage 3) Rebuilding

Eric asked if there was an exhaust plan in place, Daniel said not yet.

Buddy Martin motioned to accept the above mentioned companies to perform the work on the building, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Buddy Martin then motioned to approve a supplemental tax for Tree Growth removal for Fred and Madelein Cameron. Seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM