

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## **July 11, 2019 – Select Board Meeting**

Present select board members: Eric Vainio, Tyler Adkins Town Manager, Daniel Swain.  
Townspople – Brian Turner, Bobbi Crockett, Jeff Gasper, Jim Greenleaf, Andy Stirling, Ed Hoovler

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Turner stated that when he has looked over previous Board Meeting minutes, he noticed that there has been lots of negativity, regarding flower- pots, flags, sidewalks, etc. In the spring, the roads need to be first priority for the Public Works Department and all other tasks are secondary. He feels that Public Works is doing a good job and should be given some encouragement.

Jim Greenleaf asked what was leaking water on the gym floor. Eric Vainio stated that the back door had not been shoveled out properly over the winter and it leaked.

Public Comment closed.

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Daniel Swain stated that Allstate Paving had begun paving and realized that they will not have enough material. The quote stated that there would be a 2" overlay but they only have enough material for 1". The paving that has been done so far has 2". Daniel instructed them to finish the North Guilford Rd. Allstate is proposing that the town pay for the extra material that will be needed but may have until next budget year to pay for it.

Eric Vainio suggested contacting MMA Legal and Tyler Adkins stated that Allstate needs to finish the job as contracted.

Daniel contacted Ethan at Lary Funeral Home regarding the damaged headstones in the old cemetery. The damaged stones will be replaced with small plaques with the persons name and dates of birth and death. If the person's family wants to pay for something more, they are welcome to do so. Approximately 20 plaques will be needed, and the cost will be \$120.00 each.

Daniel then mentioned that it appears that the float at the beach has been vandalized, along with the port-a-potty. Eric asked if there was any update on the grading of Homer Hill and Daniel stated that he has spoken with Dean Rideout, who may be interested in doing some grading.

Daniel expressed concern about having a Road Planning Committee. He does not want to give the “complainers” a forum, and if something goes wrong, he wants to feel that he did everything he could to prevent it. Tyler stated that there needs to be a plan in place to keep the roads maintained. Daniel will speak to Maine Rural Roads about their road maintenance software.

Tyler suggested that since the town is working on a comprehensive plan and revaluation, they should offer townspeople an opportunity to get together and discuss where the town is going. He suggests having meetings in the Summer, Fall and Winter.

## **TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recreation Committee** – Bobbi Crockett reported that the Rec. Committee had a Movie Night and Whiffle Ball last week. They will be having Kick-Ball next week and plan to offer baseball and softball clinics.

**Festival Committee** – Everything is on track for Summer Fest, Bobbi requested that the growth by the dock be cut down so people can better see the Anything That Floats race.

**Bicentennial Committee** – No report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Town Solar Project** - Vaughn Woodruff attended the meeting to answer any questions about the solar project. He explained that ground mounts will last longer but cost more to install. He also stated that they do not do winter maintenance on the system as it is dangerous and also may damage the modules, however, there is a 10 year labor warranty and the system is monitored so they are always aware of any issues.

Daniel Swain, on behalf of Buddy Martin, asked about the integrity of the building on which the panels would be installed. Vaughn stated that the metal roof is in good condition and that the Town Office would also offer good exposure. The town will not pay for installation as the contract would be to buy the power produced at a rate that would be 10% cheaper than CMP. Tyler Adkins motioned to authorize Daniel to negotiate a contract, seconded by Eric Vainio.

Ed Hoovler offered to put together an informative session through the library to inform the public.

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.

**Snow Plowing** – Daniel stated that he has spoken with Rod Bjork about having a 3 year contract with a 1 year probationary period but has not heard back from him. He also spoke to Dean Rideout who stated that his price would be reduced by \$800 per mile if it did not include sand. It will cost the town between \$8,000 and \$12,000 to buy a sander and the labor and cost to run the truck can be estimated. Brian Turner stated that it takes about 3 hours to sand the town. An interim meeting was scheduled for 7/18/19 to discuss further and decide what to do.

**Salt/Sand** – It was decided to go through the state again to purchase the salt and to put the sand out to bid through the town.

**Smith Animal Update** – Jason Smith previously agreed to a June 24 deadline to have his animals moved but as of today they are still there. Daniel has received a letter from the attorney and the options are as follows:

- 1) File a Notice of Forfeiture so that the town can take the animals
- 2) Assess fines and if the fines are not paid by a certain time, the town may foreclose on the property
- 3) Do nothing.

Daniel stated that Buddy is in favor of assessing the fines. Eric Vainio and Tyler Adkins are in favor of the Notice of Forfeiture. Tyler motioned to authorize Daniel to file a Notice of Forfeiture, seconded by Eric Vainio.

**Street Light Conversion** - Daniel stated that since the last meeting he has reviewed 2 proposals. The proposals and money sources will be discussed further at the interim meeting on 7/18.

**Review of Bank Proposals** – Daniel sent out RFPs for banking services and 4 banks responded, Androscoggin, Bangor Savings, Skowhegan Savings and Machias. Daniel interviewed all 4 and

stated that many of the services offered are the same as Camden. After going over all of the proposals, Tyler Adkins motioned to go with Androscoggin, seconded by Eric Vainio.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Works Helper** - Daniel informed the group that Berlynn Henderson resigned abruptly from the Public Works Dept. Daniel has been contacting contractors to see what can be contracted out. He feels that it would be wise to advertise for a part time permanent position in Public Works. Tyler Adkins asked what tasks will not get accomplished now that Lynn is gone. Daniel will talk to Chris about what is needed that won't get done and report back at the next meeting.

**Leasing of Fire Dept. Equipment/Vehicles** - Daniel explained that the Fire Department needs more time to put together their proposal, so they did not attend the meeting. He then proceeded to discuss leasing. There will be no need for a special town meeting, and the town would not be indebted. If the lease payments are not approved at the next town meeting, the equipment can be returned. He also explained that if the equipment were leased through Androscoggin Bank, there would be a \$1 buyout option at the end of the lease. The town would be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment, but it would be new. A typical lease runs for 5, 7 or 10 years. The cost of the proposed vehicle is \$175,000. The town has \$45,000 in the equipment fund, Daniel suggests putting down \$25,000. The payments would be between \$18,000 and \$33,000 per year, depending on the term. Andy Stirling Suggested looking into grants rather than leasing. Daniel will look into funding options.

## **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Daniel informed everyone that the town of Willimantic is in the process of ending their relationship with Guilford and they have asked if Monson would be willing to serve as their Tax Collector and Treasurer and also process their vehicle registrations. Daniel explained that the benefits of offering these services to Willimantic would be that Monson could keep all of the agent fees and also charge them an additional fee for the office space. The matter will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Daniel also mentioned that the Libra contractors damaged the canal fence and should be responsible for repairing it.

The deadline for the Spirit of America award has passed. Daniel will tell Bruce Flaherty that Monson does not have a nominee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.