

TOWN OF MONSON

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

August 22, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

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

Townspople – Neil & Colleen Pinkerton, Brian Turner, Bobbi Crockett, Ed Hoovler, Tim and Joy Bueschen, Jim Pullen, Dee Adams, Terry Gaudet, Brian Gaudet

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Hoovler stated that Lucas's presentation was a success. He also stressed the importance of internet and broadband in town and feels that this should be considered when working on the comprehensive plan. Housing – He feels that there should be more housing in town that is not a hiker hostel. Retail space – Libra has bought all of the store fronts in town and there is a growing need for additional retail space. He feels that the need will get more critical as time goes on. Brian Turner stated that all of these things are addressed in the land use ordinance.

Bobbi Crockett mentioned that the curve sign and hidden drive sign on the North Guilford Rd are hidden by brush. She also questioned the status of the town's disaster plan. She offered to get it started and Ed Hoovler offered to help.

Bobbi then asked if there was any update on the cell tower, Daniel stated that the representative from the company did not show up for the appointment.

Ed Hoovler mentioned that the next Library presentation will be on September 19, the topic will be solar energy in Monson. Vaughn Woodruff will be doing the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric Vainio stated that when the work on the Barrows Falls Rd is completed, he would like to see a cost breakdown of the work that was done.

Daniel stated that the complaint regarding the Smith's animals was approved. It will be filed with the court this week and then he will wait for the judge to call for a hearing. Neil Pinkerton asked who will be responsible for removing the animals. Daniel explained that if they don't comply, they will be in contempt and the town may then remove the animals and levy fines. The Pinkerton's offered to be witnesses in court.

Eric then asked if the Town has any safety training for Public Works employees. Daniel said that Chris used to work for the state and had already completed the required training, and there is also a chart in the garage pertaining to safety.

Daniel then stated that David Bjork has resigned from the school board and the selectboard will need to appoint a new member.

Eric asked about updates on the brush cutting and road paving. Daniel stated that he is currently speaking to a company about the brush cutting and the chip seal has been applied to the roads and they now just need to be swept.

Tyler Adkins asked for updates on the following:

General budget for Public Works – Daniel will be working on it with Chris.

Timeline for Public Works software – Daniel will be buying it next week.

Online vehicle registrations – Daniel stated that we can do it but it will be more of a process than anticipated. He is working on it.

Beautification Committee – Daniel put it out on Facebook but has not gotten any response. Colleen Pinkerton offered to be on the committee.

Tyler then explained PACE, which is a way to finance clean energy through taxes, allowing the financing to be attached to the property rather than the owner, that way if the property gets sold, the new owners will be responsible for continuing to pay for the upgrades.

Daniel then explained that the nearest Androscoggin Bank branch is in Jay, ME. He can open up an account at Maine Highlands in Guilford so cash deposits can be made there and

electronically transferred to Androscoggin. He stated that he needs a vote of the selectboard to open the account. Buddy Martin motioned to allow Daniel to open the account at Maine Highlands, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee – Dee Adams said that the Rec. Committee has offered kick-ball, T-Ball and movies all summer. Soccer sign ups are coming up, but she doesn't feel like there will be enough interest. The committee will be hosting the Hunters Breakfast soon and they will have it start later in the morning than they have in the past. Dee also stated that the float at the beach has been vandalized and should be fixed before it's put away. Buddy Martin suggested that perhaps someone who can weld aluminum might be able to fix it. Dee would like to have cameras at the beach.

Festival Committee – Dee stated that she had worked at the Guilford River Fest and that Guilford prints out banners for people and businesses to sponsor events, such as a bouncy house. The banner would state who sponsored the event. Dee would like to try this during snow roller.

Bicentennial Committee – No report

OLD BUSINESS

SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARINGS/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - Buddy Martin stated that between the street lights and the new fire truck, he is not comfortable spending \$200,000 the town's money without putting it before the people since the money was not budgeted. He suggested holding a special town meeting to allow the townspeople to decide on the matter. Eric Vainio stated that he called MMA and was informed that the town must hold a special town meeting. Brian Gaudet said that this is false information, John from Androscoggin also stated that a special town meeting is not required and that the bank has done these types of transactions statewide.

Neil Pinkerton expressed concern that if the selectboard makes decisions of this magnitude on their own it may cause people to become dis-engaged. Joy Bueschen asked if the selectboard would recommend the street lights and fire truck at the town meeting and Buddy Martin stated that they would.

Daniel suggested that whereas some folks want a special town meeting and some want the selectboard to vote, perhaps the best idea would be to hold a regular meeting and do a "straw

poll” to get the people’s thoughts. Then it wouldn’t have all the rules of a special town meeting or a public hearing. Tim Bueschen agrees with having the town meeting but would like to selectboard to express their support. Daniel stated that if a special town meeting were to be held, he would like it to include everything, including the new ordinances which are not yet ready. Tyler Adkins deferred to Eric and Buddy to decide. Eric Vainio wants an official vote, Buddy agreed. It was decided that a special town meeting will be held on September 19, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

SNOW PLOWING – Daniel stated that he has advertised that the town is looking for a plow contractor. Eric Vainio said that he knows Dean Rideout and will try to talk to him about possibly plowing for the town. Daniel informed him that the contract will need to include the sanding as Chris is not willing to do it.

STREET LIGHT CONVERSION – Daniel stated that he got a quote from the bank to lease the proposed LED street lights. The options are 3, 5 or 7 years. It would be a smaller amount of money and the first year could be paid out of the street light budget. Eric Vainio remains opposed to the street light conversion. Buddy Martin motioned to lease the lights for a 3 year term, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC WIFI PROPOSALS – Daniel submitted one proposal from Axiom. He also explained the “splash page” which would essentially pay for the public wifi by having businesses run ads on the page when people log on to the wifi. The equipment would be leased for 1 year at a cost of \$1,000 per year for maintenance. Daniel will speak to Axiom about possible grants and the Business Association about ads. The ads would pay for the \$1,000 per year maintenance fee and Tyler stated that if no one wants to run ads, the wifi will be shut down.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH WILLIMANTIC – Daniel informed everyone that Willimantic has decided to open their own town office.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

