

TOWN OF MONSON

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

November 14, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

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

Townpeople –Bobbi Crockett, Ricky Clawson

- 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

Ricky Clawson asked what happened with the cost analysis of the ditching and excavation work done by the town over the summer compared with subbing the work out. Daniel explained that Marc Freeman from Shirley had been hired to finish the ditching, but he doesn't feel that it would be fair to use his pricing for the cost analysis as the cost was \$5.00 per foot for 1000 feet. If the town had done the work, it would have only cost about half of that. Freeman was the only available contractor at the time. Eric stated that he had spoken with the Town of Abbot and they paid about \$19,000 for 2 ½ miles of road, which works out to about \$2.80 per foot and most of the work was done by one person.

Ricky then asked what the cost was for the town to do the ditching on the Barrows Falls Rd. Daniel provided all the costs and stated that it worked out to \$1.72 per foot. Eric noted that the cost of employee benefits, as well as the risk and liability need to be added in for an accurate cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Tyler Adkins asked if the tipping fees at the Fiber Right facility will be higher than what the town is currently paying. Daniel explained that the tipping fees will remain the same but there will be more tonnage. Bobbie Crockett asked if the transfer station fees for residents will increase and Daniel stated that the town will need to figure out how it's going to address the price increase. All trash and recyclables will go in the compactor and Fiber Right will sort it and recycle

anything that can be recycled. Tyler noted that if cardboard gets mixed in with liquid it will be useless.

Daniel then informed the selectboard that the Rapid Renewal process for online registrations is in place but in order to get the TRIO module, it will cost \$600 up front and then about \$200 per year after that. Additionally, the town will lose the agent fees for all registrations renewed online.

Daniel stated that he had a meeting with the Dept. of Labor and that they have removed some of the citations. The town has until December 2 to address the rest of the issues. He then explained that he has started a “networking lunch” with other town managers and has found it interesting to hear what’s going on in other towns.

Daniel then mentioned that a resident had approached him about having a traffic study done on Route 15. Daniel explained to the resident that the only way to control speeding would be to have a police officer in town.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Tyler Adkins asked Daniel to provide an update on the Community Vision Meeting. Daniel stated that about 30 people came to the meeting and offered idea for the Monson community. He plans to hold another meeting in the Spring for summer people to attend. Eric Vainio said that he noticed that most of the people who attended the meeting were fairly new residents and that not many long - time residents on Monson attended.

Bobbie Crockett asked where the Community Vision will go from here. Tyler stated that the Planning Board is working on the Comprehensive Plan and that the meeting also gives the selectboard an idea of what people are looking for in Monson.

Eric Vainio presented a list of requests from Annalee Libby regarding the Kris Kringle event, which included placing a Christmas tree inside the bandstand, removing the bleachers from the gym, plowing the tennis court for parking, having Christmas decorations up by December 1 and cleaning up and sanding in front of the gym. After a short discussion it was decided that it would not be practical to plow the tennis court and that the decorations can be put up by December 1. Ricky Clawson informed everyone that there is a pvc pipe in the ground near the tennis court that the Christmas tree can go in to hold it up. He and Eric will find the pipe. Ricky also stated that in the past the town has hired Jeff Moore from Abbot to fix the outlets for the wreaths on the light poles.

A short discussion was then had about powering the lights for the Christmas tree. Eric suggested asking the church if the town could run an extension cord and use their power. It was decided that Eric will look into buying solar lights for the tree.

Daniel expressed concern about moving the bleachers as they are very heavy and cumbersome and there is really no place to put them. Eric suggested disassembling them and stacking them against the wall.

Eric then brought up the following concerns:

A resident had asked about the possibility of a jake brake ordinance for trucks coming down Tenney Hill. Buddy Martin stated that the truckers would not pay any attention to the ordinance and that there are no police in town to enforce it and therefore feels that it would be a waste of time. Eric asked if there was any interest in proceeding, no interest was expressed.

A public works employee mentioned to Eric that 4 wheelers have been driving under the portion of the dump gate that does not have a bar. It was suggested that an extra bar be welded onto the gate.

Are the Public Works hours now 8 hours per day, 5 days per week, and do the employees take breaks? Daniel stated that the Public Works employees now work 5 days per week and that Chris had signed a waiver regarding his breaks.

Does the town own a utility trailer? Ricky Clawson said that there is a town trailer that has always been kept at the transfer station.

Is there a problem with the sander on the town truck? As far as Daniel knows, the sander is fine.

When will Killam be back to finish the downstairs of the municipal building and what is the status of the Smith's animals? Daniel stated that the Killams are waiting for the electricians to finish and that the Smith's animals are gone.

Eric spoke to the Dept. of Transportation about the broken sign on the North Guilford Rd. They informed him that it was the town's responsibility to repair the sign and that it has to be 5' – 7' high.

Eric then brought up the matter of Chris loading the sand truck for the plow contractor with the town loader. He suggested putting a time frame on the arrangement or charging \$100 per hour for Chris and the loader. Buddy Martin agreed and it was decided to give the contractor until

December 1 to make other arrangements. It was then mentioned that there is a salt/sand pile outside the sand shed that should be used first, before using what's in the shed.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bobbie Crockett submitted a quote from AMB Sign in Dover for the proposed community sign. She does not feel that the Rec. Committee should have to get any more quoted for the sign as the money being used is from donations, not taxpayer money. Eric and Buddy both expressed support for the new sign, Tyler supports the sign but feels that since the sign will not be installed until spring, there is time to get more quoted. Bobbie will try to get a couple more quotes from companies in Bangor.

Bobbie then mentioned that the Hunters Breakfast did not go well. Only about 12 people attended, and she feels that if the sign had been up more people would have come. She also stated that Pickle Ball will start at the beginning of December on Wednesday mornings.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Operation Plan: Daniel submitted a draft copy of the plan that he has been working on with the County EMA Director. Buddy asked what types of emergencies the town is planning for. Daniel stated floods, blizzards, wind - storms, etc, and explained that the draft delegates responsibility and instructions. Daniel also stated that he plans to set up warming and cooling centers within the next year or so as well as setting the gym up as a shelter. Eric asked if anyone does wellness checks on people in the winter and Daniel stated that if any requests come in he sends them to the Sheriff's Dept.

Automating Payments: Daniel stated that Premium Choice is currently being auto-paid and asked if there is any interest in paying other bills automatically. He explained that it would cut down on the time spent doing accounts payable as well as the number of checks and stamps used. The bank offers check fraud protection as a security measure. It was decided that Daniel will look into it further.

Next Meeting: The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day. It was decided to skip the next meeting and meet again on the second Thursday of December.

Ricky Clawson mentioned that the lights at the gym have been on for a couple of days.

Bobbie Crockett stated that earlier in the day the North Guilford road had been very icy but now it is sanded beautifully.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

