

TOWN OF MONSON

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

January 23, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

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

Townpeople –Bobbi Crockett, Ricky Clawson, Brian Turner, Andy Stirling, Bob Jarvis, Andrew Hunt, David Bjork

- 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 brought up the \$80,000 discrepancy in the budget and asked what the options are. Daniel explained that the February - May 2019 portion on the Herrick plow contract were not accounted for (approximately \$40,000), the new plow contractor is being paid approximately \$31,000 more than the previous contract and about \$8,000 worth of repairs were done on Homer Hill. He also stated that the budget should also include the interest on the bond payment. Daniel will submit an exact figure before the vote.

Bobbie Crockett asked if there was any updated information on the Emergency Management Training. Daniel informed everyone that there will be a training session with the county on Feb. 26 at 9:30 am. Anyone with any responsibility in the plan will attend the training.

Andrew Hunt, relative of the residents living in the town foreclosed house on the Steward Rd stated that he would like to clear up all the back taxes on the property. Daniel explained that taxes are owed for 2017, 2018 and 2019. He also explained that the selectboard had agreed at the last meeting to contact a lawyer about taking the property but that they had held off to see if something could be worked out with the family. Andrew said he will pay all the back taxes and work with the family to get the proper names on the deed. Eric Vainio stated that he has no problem signing a quit claim deed to give the property back after the taxes are paid. Tyler Adkins agreed. Daniel will confirm with the lawyer that there are no issues and will then call Andrew to make arrangements for the taxes to be paid and the property to be given back to the family.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel stated that he hasn't been able to make much progress on his projects because of the number of General Assistance requests that have been coming in. It takes about 3 – 4 hours of his time per request.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Tyler Adkins posed the following questions to Daniel:

Any update on the Wifi? – Daniel said that Libra had a lot of questions to which Axiom responded but he has not yet heard anything from Craig.

Any progress on the Splash Page/advertising? Daniel said there are no updates.

What is the update on the LED lights? Daniel is still waiting to hear from the company regarding installation.

What is the status of the solar panels? – Daniel stated that all the paperwork has been signed and InSource is working on a press release. Daniel will try to find out when they will be operational.

What to do about tipping fees at the transfer station needs to be decided. Daniel will check with other towns to see how they are handling it.

Tyler then mentioned the Beautification Committee and said that a lot of people are willing to help. He feels that they should be empowered to start getting things done. He does not want the idea/committee to die out because of lack of direction. Bobbie asked where the money will come from and Tyler said that still needs to be determined.

Tyler stated that he looks forward to seeing the road plan and feels that there should be a capital projects plan.

Daniel then asked for authorization to pay Colleen Pinkerton for the new lights that she bought and installed on the wreaths. Everyone agreed that Colleen should be paid for the lights.

Eric Vainio motioned to begin the budget process at the beginning of March and be finished by mid-May. Seconded by Buddy Martin. Eric feels that the town reports should be out at least 2 weeks before town meeting. Daniel explained that the longer we wait to begin the budget

process, the more accurate information we will have to put the budget together. Eric said the committee can start with the basics.

Eric then brought up the following concerns:

Snow Removal – There had been an effort made to remove the snow from the steps at the gym, but, per OSHA, all doors with exit signs must not be obstructed. Stairs must be cleaned and sanded with a path to the parking lot. Buddy asked if it's impossible to keep up with the snow removal on the steps as the eaves drip and the snow comes off the roof. He then asked if the town should consider building roofs/entryways over the steps. Daniel said that the insurance company had recommended building roofs over them.

Bleachers – The bleachers were put back in the gym without the missing brackets because the brackets are stored behind the recreation equipment in the basement. Dee Adams explained that they had researched replacing the boards on the bleachers but that it would be very expensive. She said that if the boards are placed properly, they won't flip, and the wrong boards were brought up after the Kris Kringle fair. Brian Turner said that the solution to the problem would be to just leave the bleachers up. Dee stated that this would not be possible because the Kris Kringle fair needs the extra space.

Fire Extinguishers in the gym- The extinguisher by the stairs is new as of last summer but the second one, by the door has a 2018 date on it. Eric feels that they should be checked, and the tag noted on a monthly basis and the provider needs to inspect them annually. Eric also feels that the kitchen should have portable fire extinguishers and there needs to be a drawn emergency plan for the exits. Daniel will call Guay's and arrange for the inspection.

Eric then motioned to discontinue allowing Chad Davis to use the town loader, starting tomorrow. Daniel then submitted a copy of the plow contract which states that Chad may have use of the loader for one year. Eric stated that this matter has been brought up at several meetings and asked why this was never mentioned. Daniel said he forgot it was in the contract. Buddy Martin stated that the contract was signed by the selectboard and is therefore binding. He also feels that Chad is taking advantage of the town and that he was under the impression that Chad was looking for his own loader. Ricky Clawson asked why that was added into the contract and Daniel said that it was a sample contract that was used by another town. Eric then motioned to remove the language from the next contract, seconded by Buddy Martin.

Tyler asked how Monson's rate for plowing compared to other towns. Daniel stated that Herricks had been charging about half of what other plow contractors in the county were charging and that the new contract is more in line with what other towns are paying.

Sander placement on the town truck – Eric explained that per White Ford, over a period of time, with the sander placed where it is in the truck, there will be more wear and tear on the tires, shocks, etc. He then asked Ricky Clawson if the sander had previously been pushed to the front of the truck. Ricky said yes. Brian Turner then stated that Chris has trouble with the sander and chain because it had been stored with sand and salt in it. It should have been steam cleaned and the chain greased. Eric then asked if it could be sandblasted and cleaned up, and how much for a new one. Brian said that a new one would cost \$10,000 - \$16,000. Buddy stated the town needs to decide whether to fix it or buy a new one.

Gym policy – Can we set something up for adult use and have a time when younger people may use the gym under adult supervision. Dee said they have tried that in the past and most of the time no one showed up. She will try to come up with times that she may be available to supervise the gym.

The Special Town Meeting, scheduled for this evening was postponed due to the fact that the warrant wasn't posted physically, it was only posted online. The meeting will be rescheduled for Thursday February 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE: Dee Adams stated that the Basketball Clinics have started. She also thanked Daniel for making a better effort at communication, and also mentioned that the gym floor was very dirty throughout the week and that the steps were still not shoveled.

Bobbie submitted a new estimate for the community sign, which was about twice as much as the other estimate. The Recreation Committee would like to have the new sign installed prior to Nosin' Around Monson. Dee would also like to install solar lights to light the sign. The selectboard granted permission to move forward with ordering the sign.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: The Snowroller Festival is coming together and the sponsorship for the various events is working out great. There are still no sponsors for the cotton candy machine or the dunk tank, but the Recreation Department has the money for the events if needed.

Dee then stated that she called the phone number for Bill Greene, but the number is for the LBZ news desk. Glen Poole may have some connections and she will keep trying.

Tyler informed everyone that he received a message on his phone that Glen Poole will sponsor the dunk tank. Eric Vainio then offered to sponsor the cotton candy machine.

John Pullen and John Wentworth will attempt to get the snowroller moved.

Eric asked about the Snowroller signs and Dee said that the signs don't look very nice. They will be put over the Welcome to Monson signs for this year, but she will need someplace else to put them in the future.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Daniel stated that a meeting will be held on the first Thursday of February.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Town Meeting Warrant: Buddy Martin motioned to set the new date for the meeting on February 13, at 6:30 pm, seconded by Eric Vainio.

Tax Acquired Property Ad Approval: Daniel submitted a copy of the ad for everyone to review. The selectboard approved the ad and Daniel will put it in the newspaper.

David Bjork asked if there was any plan for the Ulman property. Buddy stated that there is no plan yet.

Open Gym Policy: It was decided that the gym will be open from 9am – 2 pm for adults and Dee and Bobbie will try figure out times for the kids to use it.

Poverty Abatement Policy Discussion: Daniel stated that the law requires the town to have a procedure in place. Eric Vainio asked if someone applies, would the abatement apply to any other properties that they own? Daniel said that it would only apply to the primary residence.

Eric then asked if the abatement only applies to the home and 2 acres, or an entire property. Daniel wasn't sure but said he will find out the answer. Daniel also stated that any boats, ATVs etc. would be considered income.

NEW BUSINESS

Beginning of the Road Plan: Daniel submitted the beginning of the road plan for review and explained how the software evaluates the data. After all the data is entered, the software will submit a time- line for when road work needs to be done. Daniel will have more information at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.