

TOWN OF MONSON

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

March 12, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

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

Townspople –Bobbi Crockett, Ricky Clawson, Brian Turner, Dee Adams, Jim Greenleaf, David Bjork, Melissa Miller, Dan Bouthot, Alan Melia

- 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

Dee Adams asked what the amounts of the Department of Labor fines are for Public Works and the Fire Department. Daniel informed everyone that the Fire Department fines had been reduced from \$2,800.00 to \$280.00 and the Public Works fines had been reduced from \$1,400.00 to \$150.00

Dan Bouthot informed the group that due to the COVID-19 virus Libra has decided to cancel all public programs and postpone the next residency session. He explained that there is currently a group of artists in town and that Libra is making sure that they are complying with CDC sanitation guidelines. The plan right now is to remain closed until April 10 and then re-evaluate the situation.

David Bjork asked if the LED companies had completed their training so the new street lights can be installed. Daniel said yes. Dave then mentioned that the stretch of road on Rt. 150 below the power lines is getting torn up as the Steward Road had been and that Homer Hill looks torn up as well. Buddy Martin stated that the Steward Road had only had a shim coat and chip seal applied and that the cutting edge of the plow was likely digging in where the road crowns. Daniel stated that the fabric at the bottom of Homer Hill is starting to show but that the top of the road is doing much better than last year. More material will be put down on the road once the frost is gone.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel informed everyone that he has been talking to the church elders about using the church as a hot spot for the WIFI. It looks like the church will be a good spot. They are considering hanging the boxes on the front of the building as they are not very big.

Eris Vainio asked if Libra is going to stop plowing the sidewalks. Daniel explained that since Libra has a handicap entrance on the front of the gallery, they will eventually have to keep in front of that building plowed but that for now it is up to the town to do it.

Eric then asked who will be attending the Emergency Management training. Daniel said that the Fire Department, the selectboard, himself and several others will be attending and that the time of the training will be from 9:30 am – noon.

Melissa Miller stated that she will have the transfer station set up to collect plastic for her projects starting on Saturday.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE: Bobbi Crockett stated that basketball finished last Thursday. The Recreation Committee is planning to have soccer and a movie on the next 2 Thursdays, but it depends on the weather. Dee then said that the movie has been canceled.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: The committee is starting to work on Summer Fest. Jim Greenleaf commended the committee for their hard work on the Snowroller Festival.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Daniel stated that the committee met last week and had discussed the possibility of have some sort of a “ball drop” from the Historical Building to kick off the Bicentennial year. They will also be talking to the residents who live on the lake about the possibility of doing tours of Lake Hebron on pontoon boats in the fall. Bobbi mentioned that there has been a lot on the news about Maine bicentennial. There was a 1 ½ hour documentary on old Maine photos and Bobbi thinks that it something that Monson might consider. Dee then mentioned that on July 4 there is a boat parade on Whetstone Pond in Blanchard and that might also be something to consider doing on Lake Hebron.

Dee stated that The Crosby Band is interested in playing at Summer Fest and wondered if the bandstand is still un-usable. Daniel said that yes, the bandstand is in rough shape. Jim Greenleaf asked who had said that it wasn't safe. Daniel said that the Killams and Arvo Korsman had both looked at it and said that it was unsafe. Daniel will look into getting another opinion from

another contractor. Eric Vainio suggested having someone from the insurance company look at it.

David Bjork then mentioned that he had heard a rumor last year that the historical building is not insurable and asked if the building is insured. Daniel told him that it's insured.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE: Buddy Martin stated that he would like to appoint Dave Hall, Jim Bohrer, Bobbi Crockett, David Bjork, Ricky Clawson, Brian Turner, Jim Greenleaf and Alan Melia to the Budget Committee. Jim Greenleaf declined.

Brian Turner asked if committee members have to attend all meetings and Eric Vainio said, no, not if they are unable to attend. Tyler then mentioned that Tim Bueschen and John Wentworth had expressed interest in being on the committee and that Cindy Turner would also like to attend some of the meetings. The selectboard voted unanimously to appoint all above mentioned residents to the Budget Committee.

OPENING OF BIDS FOR TENNEY HILL FORECLOSURE SALE: One bid was received for the town foreclosed map/lot 005-023 from Jolane Clawson, on behalf of the Brown Family Land Trust in the amount of \$1,295.00. Buddy Martin motioned to accept the bid from the Brown Family Land Trust, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

ROAD PLAN UPDATE: Daniel explained the he has been working with the new software and presented examples of what the road plans would look like when they are done. He explained what all the sections of the plan mean and how it will work for budgeting purposes. All 2020 items will be done this year and the next step will be working on the plan for next year. All information will be based on current pricing.

Tyler asked if there will be a 10 – 15 year plan for all the roads and how the priorities will be determined. Daniel stated that yes, there will be a 10 – 15 year plan and that the Road Commissioner will prioritize the work.

NEW BUSINESS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT AUTHORIZATION: Daniel stated that the town had applied for a grant at one point, but that Julie Andersons name is still on that account. He stated that a new account needs to be opened without her name on it. Hopefully the application will be done by tomorrow and then the town will need to re-apply annually.

Buddy Martin motioned to authorize Daniel to apply for a \$50,000 grant to start a revolving loan program for town businesses and others who would like to start a business in town, Seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Eric asked what would happen if businesses defaulted on the loans and Daniel stated that there would be collateral.

Daniel then stated that Turning Page Farm had applied for a Community Block Grant and that the town will have to hold a public hearing on the matter. Buddy Martin motioned to hold a public hearing, seconded by Eric Vainio. The date has not been set.

WATER STREET PLOWING INCIDENT: Daniel informed everyone of an incident involving a Water Street resident who was upset that the plow had torn up part of his driveway, leaving behind large chunks of tar. The resident then went to the Town Office, yelled at Daniel and threw the tar in the parking lot. The Sheriff issued a No Trespass Order to the resident. Eric Vainio stated that he had seen lots of water in the resident's driveway and Buddy stated that he had looked at the driveway as well and there was no way the plow contractor could have known that it would happen.

Daniel stated that as a general rule, the town fixes all damage caused by the plow, in the Spring but that in this instance he does not feel that the town should fix the damage due to the behavior of the resident. Buddy Martin agreed. Alan Melia feels that the town should fix the damage and Tyler stated that the town should have the same policy for all residents Eric feels like a calm conversation should be had with the resident.

Brian Turner explained that the town has no obligation to fix any damage to any property that is in the town right of way, which this driveway is. Buddy stated that he has a big issue with anyone being irate with town employees over such a small issue. Daniel informed everyone that it's in the contract that the plow contractor is responsible for any damage caused by the plow but Brian Turner reiterated that it's state law that anything in the road right of way is not the responsibility of the town or the contractor. Tyler stated that the town needs to define what the rules and policies should be. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING UPDATE: Daniel explained that the town has moved to Fiber Right, a state of the art, single sort recycling facility in Hampden which can sort trash and recycling.

Alan Melia asked why residents are still paying \$2.00 per bag when that money was supposed to be used for recycling. He feels that the cost of trash should be included in taxation. He also feels that it's bad auditing practice to have the transfer station attendant handling cash. Buddy Martin disagrees that it should be included in the taxes because it would be unfair to have someone who only generates one bag of trash per week pay the same amount as someone who

generates 10 bags. Brian Turner stated that other towns charge \$1.00 per bag to help offset tipping fees. He also brought up the fact that if trash costs were included in taxes, residents in unorganized territories would not be paying anything.

Melissa Miller explained to the group that she will be making benches from recycled plastic by using a plastic shredder and extrusion machine. She will be using the transfer station as a donation drop-off. She explained that she can take #2, #4, #5 and #6 plastic.

MAP 002 LOT 015 AND MAP 002 LOT 015-002 SUPPLEMENTAL TAX: Daniel stated that Winter Hill LLC bought a lot of land and subdivided. One of the lots was in tree growth and a penalty needs to be assessed. Buddy Martin motioned to approve the penalty, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Daniel informed everyone that Laurie Wing no longer works for the town and that Roberta Jarvis is the new office assistant.

Bobbi Crockett stated that Mayo is now merged with Northern Light and that she was informed that her services as Monson's representative are no longer needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm