

TOWN OF MONSON

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

April 9, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

Via Conference Call

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

Townspeople –Bobbi Crockett

1) Meeting opened at 7:00 PM

3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Buddy Martin stated that he approves the previous minutes and warrants. Eric Vainio noted that Tyler had made a couple of comments at the last meeting and the notes said that Eric said them.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel stated that he spoke to Axiom about the WiFi. Premium Choice said they would need to install equipment at the gym. Axiom said they can start at the Town Office because that would be a hot spot and would increase bandwidth at the Town Office. The church has decided that they would like to install the box on the steeple. Daniel believes that will not be a problem, but that power may need to be run to the steeple.

The Transfer Station is back up and running. Kass and Patrick Hefferan have been helping out and are doing a good job.

Daniel then mentioned that the town is getting good press about being awarded the downtown grant. Eric asked what the grant money is for. Daniel explained that it will come in two parts. \$10,000 will be used to study the downtown area and have community meetings. Bobbie asked who will be getting paid. Tyler explained that the grant team has some very expensive consultants who will be helping with the plan but that everything is currently on hold due to corona virus. He explained that the committee will show the consultants around town and will basically be building on the plans and discussions that were had last fall.

Eric asked Daniel about the article regarding Turning Page Farm's grant. He asked what they will be using the money for. Daniel explained that the town has to apply for the grant and that Turning Page will be using the money to install bathrooms at their facility.

Eric then asked how the town is set for cash flow for the next 1 – 2 months. He has spoken with other towns who are being cautious with their budgets and being frugal for the next few months. Daniel stated that there is approximately \$450,000 in the operating account. The school costs about \$50,000 per month and payroll is approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 per month. He feels that the town is in good shape for a while. Bobbie asked if extra, virus related expenses can be claimed on the disaster plan, Daniel said yes.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Eric asked Daniel what is going on with Public Works. Daniel said he believes Chris is working reduced hours. Marti mentioned that Chris has been working 40 hours, Daniel will talk to Chris.

Buddy asked if there is anything new to do for the pandemic, Daniel said no.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Meetings: Daniel sent a copy of the proposed budget to the selectboard for review. Buddy stated that he has not had a chance to look at it yet but will look at it tomorrow. Eric feels that depending on what happens with the virus, budget meetings should wait until everything is all clear. He feels that it would be hard to have the meetings on a conference call. Tyler feels that one phone meeting would be good in order to kick things off and so Daniel can explain any changes to the budget. Buddy agreed. Eric then agreed as well. It was agreed that a budget meeting will be held on April 16th at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Daniel and Marti will get the word out to the budget committee members and provide them copies of the budget and their oaths.

Property damage caused by contractors: Daniel is not ready to make a decision yet. He would like to speak to the insurance company first.

Employee Handbook: Daniel stated that he added a section to the handbook stating that training costs will be reimbursed to the town if an employee voluntarily leaves their job before one year. The employee would only have to reimburse the cost of the classes, not time and travel. The money will be deducted from the employee's final paycheck. Buddy Martin motioned to approve, seconded by Eric Vainio.

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Project Planning: Tyler mentioned that when doing long term planning, the town should try to tie in more than one project at a time. For example, if the town is planning to bury power lines and would have to rip up the sidewalks, and is also planning to replace sidewalks, plan the projects at the same time. Daniel stated that the Portland City Manger sent him a copy of their improvement plan and he will use their format for Monson's plan. He then stated that part of the capital plan will include town buildings. He should have the plan done by next budget year.

Transfer Station Law Suit: Daniel explained that a local woman claims to have fallen on ice while throwing trash in the compactor las fall. She told Daniel that Jim Bohrer and another resident saw her fall, however, Jim does not recall the incident. A few weeks ago, the woman came to the town office and told Daniel that she has been having severe nose bleeds and her doctor told her they are due to the fall. She is wondering if there is anything the town can do to help her out financially. Daniel filed a claim with the insurance company, they would like to see pictures of where the fall took place. Daniel sent pictures. MMA has also been in contact with the woman.

Eric noted that he was approached by a local contractor who is interested in doing seasonal public works jobs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.