

TOWN OF MONSON

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

April 23, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

- 1) Meeting opened at 7:36 PM
- 2) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyler Adkins mentioned that he received a message from Dan Bouthot wondering why selectboard meetings were being held in person at this time. Tyler responded by saying that the budget committee had decided to hold their meetings in person, with the option of attending remotely via Zoom. The selectboard decided that since they were already there, they may as well continue their meeting in person, also with the option of attending remotely via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel stated that Public Works has been busy with plowing, tree removal, road repair etc. since the storm. There was also a short discussion regarding the Willimantic and Elliotsville roads which are in rough shape.

The new pumper truck for the fire department is almost done and a virtual tour will be happening soon.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Eric Vainio asked Daniel what projects he is working on. Daniel stated that he is working on a capital projects plan for the town vehicles, buildings, etc, and, also, a road plan. He will try to have the road plan done before the budget discussion.

Daniel then informed everyone that he has spoken with Axiom and it has been determined that the town office can serve as the anchor point for the public WiFi and that an additional node can be installed at the gym. He is waiting for the church folks to take a photo of the gym and the town office from the steeple and, also, to determine whether or not the steeple has power.

David Bjork asked how strong the router will be and was informed that the signal would be quite strong where he lives.

Tyler Adkins asked for an update on the new community sign. Bobbi Crockett said that ½ of the invoice needs to be paid before the sign is installed. The install is still scheduled for when the frost is out of the ground. She asked the vendor to let her know when they're planning on coming so she can be there to show them exactly where to put it.

Eric Vainio asked if the public works position is a supervisory position. Daniel explained the the position is Public Works Foreman and that Chris is in charge.

Eric also mentioned that the gate at the transfer station is still open sometimes and asked if the siding on the gym will be replaced. Daniel and Buddy will look at the siding sometime and a decision will be made.

Buddy Martin asked for an update on the transfer station lawsuit. Daniel explained that, per the insurance company, the town is not at fault because the resident fell right outside the shed and there is no way that Jim would not have been aware of the incident. Also, the town is covered under the Maine Tort Law.

Buddy also asked about the incident on Homer Hill where a resident drove into a rut in the road, made by the plow contractor and damaged his vehicle. There was some discussion about the damage to the vehicle and it was determined that the wind deflector, not the bumper, was torn off the truck. Daniel submitted the information to the insurance company but has not yet heard back from them. MMA also wants the resident's insurance information and the resident is not happy about that.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE: Dee Adams asked that since the Recreation Department is not using their money right now if it would be possible to spend some of it on repairing the skate park. The park needs a new fence and the curb border needs to be repaired. Dee will try to get some pricing for these repairs. There was then discussion about how much work it would be to keep the ice cleared of snow in the winter. It was then decided that the park would only be used in the summertime and ice skating could be done on the lake or at the Dover ice rink.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: The committee is working on Summer Fest and is trying to plan a parade and extra events.

OLD BUSINESS

Town policy on contractor damage: Daniel got a response from the MMA underwriter regarding the plow damage caused to a Water St. property. The underwriter recommended not fixing the damage but stated that it's up to the selectboard to decide. They also recommended speaking to the MMA Legal Department or the town attorney. The town is not liable for the damage under the Maine Tort Law.

Brian Turner noted that the damage could be repaired in less than 2 hours and offered to volunteer to help Chris fix it. Daniel reiterated that the most important thing is for the town to have a policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Filing of Consent judgment against the Smiths: Daniel informed the group that the Smith's were given until April 5 or 6 to pay back their legal fees for their animal issues. Daniel suggests filing a consent of judgement with the judge for the town to be able to file a lien for legal fees (approximately \$5,300.00). If a lien is filed, the selectboard would be able to foreclose on the property issue. Although the town does not want the property, Buddy Martin suggested that if the animals become a problem again, the town would have the option to foreclose to solve the issue. Also, the town would be able to collect the legal fees if the property is ever sold.

Transfer Station Fees: Daniel did some research on trash disposal fees and recommends raising the fee for demo to \$20 per pick-up truck load and \$30 for a trailer. He stated that Jim Bohrer recommends \$20 per load because he feels that if the fees are too high, people will dispose of their trash anywhere they want rather than at the transfer station. Buddy stated that trailer need to be charged by the cubic foot. After some discussion, it was decided that demo would be .33 per cubic foot. The effective date for the new fees will be when the transfer station starts taking money again. Dee suggested putting out a can for people to put money in.

A short discussion followed about posting agendas and meeting minutes sooner than they have been.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM