

TOWN OF MONSON

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

May 28, 2020 – Special Select Board Meeting

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

Townspople –Bobbi Crockett, Susan Chase, Ricky Clawson, Brian Turner, David Bjork

- Buddy opens the meeting at 6:00 pm
 - Board approves and signs previous meeting minutes
 - Board signs warrants
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PUBLIC COMMENT

David Bjork stated that twice he has tried to dispose of tires at the Transfer Station and been told he can not do that. At a previous selectman's meeting, David was told by the Town Manager that the transfer station could take a couple of tires at a time. He went to the dump on Saturday and tried again to dispose of tires and was told no. He then played a recording of Jim, the transfer station attendant's response, using foul, disrespectful language. Jim also said that he had told Daniel that he cannot accept tires.

Daniel then explained that transfer station used to be able to take a few tires at a time but, since switching to Fiberight, tires are no longer accepted. He was informed of this the day after he told David he could dispose of tires. Buddy then stated that if there is a miscommunication, the transfer station attendant has the authority to make the final decision.

David then stated that as a courtesy, a notice should be posted stating that no tires will be accepted. Ricky Clawson then noted that the language used by the attendant was completely inappropriate. Buddy agreed that it was inappropriate but said that sometimes people do lose their cool and for the most part, Jim does a good job for the town. Brian Turner asked why the conversation with Jim was recorded and David stated that he has the right to record a conversation if he wants to.

Eric then noted that the dump gate has been left open a lot, creating an opportunity for theft and vandalism. Daniel will make sure a sign gets posted at the transfer station about the tires.

Bobbie Crockett asked if the voting will still be taking place in July and asked if there is anything on the Town Meeting Warrant about the Recreation Committee. Daniel answered that there is nothing on the warrant as he thought the committee was being dissolved. Tyler confirmed that the committee will be dissolved and will be run informally until the town decides what it wants to do.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel explained that Monson was awarded a State grant for a flashing light by the gym driveway. The monetary value of the light is \$6,500.00. Tyler asked if the cross walk will be repainted and Daniel said he will check on the rules. Buddy Martin noted that the sidewalk will need to be tapered for wheelchair access.

Tyler asked Daniel for an update on the WiFi. Daniel explained that Axiom has written a liability policy for the church and town. It needs to be signed by the selectboard and then the WiFi can be installed.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric Vainio brought up the town utility trailer that had been missing last fall. He submitted a photo of the missing bearing and asked the other members what action should be taken. Buddy stated that he thinks the axel is too worn to replace the bearing. Eric suggested that since no policy was in place, he feels that the cost to repair the trailer should be split between the town manager and the employee who borrowed it and there should be no cost to the town. Daniel then informed Eric that Chris has offered to fix the trailer and Eric reiterated that MMA had advised that no employees should be allowed to use town equipment. Buddy agreed and stated that it's ok with him if Chris fixes the trailer.

Eric then asked Daniel if he had copies of the town employee's job descriptions. Daniel said he has them and will make copies. Eric stated that he will be in tomorrow to get them and will also get copies for the other selectboard members.

Eric noted that he has received lots of complaints about the Elliottsville Rd. Daniel said that it's in the budget for this year and whatever can be done for \$30,000 will be done. The road will need to be patched as it is cracked and therefore a shim coat will not work.

Eric then suggested that a GPS unit be installed in the town truck to track activity. Daniel explained that North of Augusta, the GPS's are not very reliable because the signal will be spotty. Daniel also noted that Public Works is working 4 days per week for the summer.

Tyler then asked for updates on the following: Timeline for employee performance reviews - Daniel stated that they will be done by the end of June. It was decided that Daniels review will be done at the first meeting in July. Daniel requested that the review be done publicly.

Taxpayer receipt for the tax bills - Daniel said that it can be done and will be broken down on the tax bills by % or \$, by department. He will print and email samples.

Smith Consent Update – Daniel said that the selectboard authorized it but he’s not sure if it has been filed yet.

Buddy Martin asked if the docks are in at the beach and if the porta-potty has been delivered. Daniel explained that one dock is in the water but the other one needs to be repaired.

NO COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

Road Plan Update – Daniel presented the road plan and explained that it covers routine maintenance and capital projects. He explained the layout and thought process behind the plan and also noted that the pricing is subject to change from year to year. Eric suggested having an actual amount to compare with the budgeted amount for each year.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Recap – Daniel presented the budget comparison for review, noting that it may be a little confusing as last fiscal year was 18 months. He will also email a copy of the recap to the budget committee. Tyler feels that the recap is helpful but should have some revisions to make it clearer.

Town Meeting Warrant – Daniel read through the warrant and estimated that if \$100,000 from surplus is used, the mil rate will be approximately 16.7. With no surplus, 17.9 and with \$50,000 surplus, 17.2. After a short discussion, the selectboard decided it would be best to keep all surplus money and not use any to lower taxes this year. Buddy Martin motioned to approve the warrant, seconded by Tyler Adkins. Eric would like to see a final draft before signing.

Town Report Dedication – Daniel suggested dedicating this year’s town report to Jimmy Erickson for all he does for the town. Selectboard approved.

Spirit of America – Daniel explained that this organization asks towns to honor volunteers who go above and beyond to help others. Monson missed the deadline last year, so Daniel asked for

suggestions. Buddy Martin suggested David and Kourtney Ray as they do an outstanding job helping people. Everyone agreed. Daniel will submit the nomination.

Posting Bids for Winter Sand – Daniel submitted the ad for review. Buddy martin motioned to approve the ad, seconded by Eric Vaino.

Daniel then submitted The Lakeshore House Liquor License and Special Amusement Permits. The selectboard approved and signed the permits.

Daniel noted that he forgot to mention that additional ditching may need to be done on Pleasant Street near Shaw's Hiker Hostel.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05