

TOWN OF MONSON

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

August 13, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

Present – Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, Tyler Adkins, Daniel Swain
Roger and Peggy Foster, John Wentworth, Ricky Clawson, John Moore, Tim Bueschen,
Brian Turner

- 1) Meeting opened at 7:00 PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel stated that he has researched complaints surrounding the new community sign being in violation of the Land Use Ordinance because it is not 8 feet from the property line. He explained that a right of way is usually considered a property line but that the town is exempt because the sign can be used to announce public safety matters.

Brian Turner then submitted information from the Code Enforcement manual, written by MMA, stating that the Code Enforcement Officer can not determine property lines. The abutting land owner, in this case the State of Maine, would have to resolve the matter with the town in court because it's a civil matter. Brian also noted that the property lines are not clearly marked, therefore, how would the town know where to measure from. Brian feels that if the state has no problem, then there is no problem. Eric Vainio stated that a resident has a concern and seems to be requesting a change to the ordinance changing the 8 foot requirement. It was determined that the proper procedure for this would be to start with the CEO and then take the matter before the Appeals Board.

George Geiss asked if he could trim a willow tree by the boat launch, so it is not in the way of mowing. He was told that he could trim the tree. He will also clean up the brush.

Roger Foster brought up the increase in his tax bill and stated that the bill was \$300 more than his last bill in Kennebunk. Buddy explained that the valuations and the mil rate have both gone up. There was some discussion about the cost of education and the fact that Monson has 56 students. Buddy explained that Monson has a contract with Foxcroft Academy which would be very expensive to get out of. He also explained that the town has looked into sending students to Guilford or Greenville but that there would not really be any cost savings. Roger then asked if

the purchase of the new rescue truck and boat was brought before the townspeople. He then stated that his wife suffered a heart attack and had to wait 45 minutes for the Greenville ambulance. Buddy stated that the purchase was brought before the townspeople and Tim Bueschen explained what the truck is capable of and that more people on the Fire Department are training to be EMTs.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel noted that the tax money is coming in steadily and that Steve Vainio is helping out the Public Works Department for the summer. The Fire Department communication tower should be up within the next few weeks. The first WiFi device was successfully installed at the town office. There were setbacks at the gym and church, so the other devices have not yet been installed.

Daniel then stated that he has researched available grants for a sidewalk to the beach. He then explained that he also looked into a grant for a sidewalk on Water St, from Rt. 15 to the train depot. The quote for the Water St. sidewalk was \$450,000 which the state would pay 80% and the town would pay 20%. He did not get a price for the sidewalk to the beach. Roger Foster and John Moore expressed concern about the cost. Tyler explained that this is the beginning of a discussion about how to get to the beach safely, a concern that has been raised by multiple residents. Tyler then noted that the town had just paved over an existing sidewalk on Water St. The selectboard decided to hold off on any sidewalks for now and make them part of a larger plan in the future.

Daniel found a couple of companies who specialize in clock repair and he will be in touch with them to discuss options. He also spoke with Cindy Turner about local ordinances and the growth in Monson. He determined that the comprehensive plan is more "Monson specific" than he thought and that the plan should be done by the end of September.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Eric mentioned that the Public Works Department rock raked the Indian Point Loop road even though it probably only needed gravel. The potholes are still there, and the road is very dusty. Buddy agreed that the holes should be filled with gravel.

Buddy also mentioned that the dock at the beach has been moved out to deeper water and it's very hard for smaller children to use it. He then asked about the animal ordinance, regarding sheep being kept at a residence on the Greenville Rd. Daniel stated that he left a copy of the ordinance on the door and the next step will be to call animal control.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports

OLD BUSINESS

Road Plan Update/Contractor Hiring: Daniel presented the updated road plan and explained the changes and additions he made. He feels that the town can move forward with the plan. Daniel then explained that he is having trouble finding someone to do tree trimming. He did find someone in Sebec who would be willing to do whatever work the town has budgeted. Buddy noted that the contractor needs to submit pricing to see if the work fits within the budget.

Daniel then suggested hiring Chad Davis and Arvo Korsman to do road work (ditching and culverts) for the rest of this year. He stated that the work would be charged either per foot or per mile. Discussion followed as to why the Public Works Department is not doing the work. Daniel explained that Chris has been working on winter sand and Steve has been doing patching on the roads. Buddy stated that a procedure needs to be in place to guarantee that all planned work will get done. He is starting to question whether the road crew is doing everything that needs to be done. Tyler then stated that the road crew works for the road commissioner and asked Daniel what the plan is. Daniel again proposed hiring Chad and Arvo. He also stated that contractors don't like bidding on jobs anymore. Buddy asked Daniel if Public Works has time to do the work. Daniel said yes but the contractors will get it done faster. A short discussion followed regarding Chris' small excavator. It was determined that the machine is too small and should no longer be rented. Daniel stated that Arvo will be buying a new machine and that he would be willing to rent it to the town.

Dangerous Building Update: Daniel explained that the public hearing for the dangerous building at 31 Water St. has been moved to September 10 because the paperwork was not served to the property owner in time. Brian Turner submitted one more dangerous building at 8 Mitchell St. He stated that he has been trying to work with the owner but has had no success. He feels that it's time to have a public hearing. Daniel will work on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Abatements and Supplemental Taxes from 2020 Commitment: Daniel submitted the 2020 abatements and supplemental taxes and explained the reasons behind them. The selectboard will look them over and sign them at a later time.

Winter 2021 Fuel Quotes: Daniel submitted quotes for fuel from A.E. Robinsons and McKusick Petroleum. A.E. Robinson quoted 1.59.9 for oil and 1.29.9 for propane. McKusick Petroleum quoted 1.57.9 for oil and 1.15.9 for propane. The selectboard decided to go with McKusick.

The meeting then moved to executive session for 1 MRSA Subsection 405 (6) (E) – Discussion with town attorney.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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