

# TOWN OF MONSON

October 8, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

**Present** – Buddy Martin, Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, Bobbie Crockett, John Moore,  
Ricky Clawson

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Moore expressed concern that according to the previous meeting minutes, it appeared that the town would have to pay something for the installation of the electric vehicle charging stations. Tyler reassured him the notes are simply part of the bigger discussion and that there will be no charge to the town.

Ricky Clawson asked about what work was done on the Elliotsville and Willimantic Roads. It does not look as though any work was done other than removing the berms. He feels that money was wasted, and nothing was accomplished. Ricky also noted that the North Guilford Road and Chapin Ave are being dug up after recently being paved, there is a tree down on the Willimantic Road which has been there for a week and a half, the vinyl siding on the gym is quite damaged and the speed limit sign on the North Guilford Road still has not been fixed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED**

**Allstate Payment Decision:** The representative from Allstate Paving stated that he had heard from Daniel that no decision had been reached on payment of the paving invoice. He attended the meeting with Allen, Allstate's construction manager, to see if an agreement can be reached. Daniel explained that not all selectboard members were present at the last meeting and informed them that Buddy feels that the town should pay the invoice, minus the \$4,500.00 that Allstate is offering to credit. The representative explained to everyone present that a math error had been made on the quote and more material was used than they had originally quoted. He also explained that the day the work began or the day before, Allstate discovered the error and informed the town at which point they were asked to proceed with the work. Allstate then offered to wait until the next fiscal year for payment on the additional amount. He also stressed that the additional cost was for materials not profit.

Buddy Martin stated that there was some confusion on his part in the beginning about whether the original document was a quote or an estimate. He initially thought it was a quote but then realized it was an estimate for materials. Buddy first felt that the town should pay for the materials cost but now feels that the town should pay the entire amount.

Eric Vainio's view is that the town should pay the materials cost but no more.

Tyler Adkins' position is that the document was a contract, and the error was made by the contractor, therefore they should honor the contract. The price increase was approximately 20% and Tyler feels that the selectboard cannot in good faith ask the town for more money. Tyler's opinion is that \$4,500.00 is not a serious offer.

Daniel suggested holding a special town meeting whereas there are 3 different opinions from the selectboard. Eric also feels that it might be a good idea to let the citizens make the decision.

Buddy then noted that in 2020 the tax bills went up 15% on average. He asked Allstate if an agreement is reached, can the town have until next fiscal year to pay the bill. Allstate replied that the town can have the extra time to pay. The selectboard agreed to come to a decision in 30 days.

#### **TOWN MANGER REPORT**

Tyler expressed concern that the downtown WiFi project is not moving forward. Daniel explained that he is having trouble finding an electrician to install the outlet at the church..

#### **SELECTBOARD REPORT**

Tyler noted that there was discussion at the last meeting about using the rest of the bond money. Daniel stated that the remaining money was earmarked for ADA upgrades to the town office. Tyler thinks it is important to get the money spent because it cost more to sit in the bank then to spend it. Tyler also noted that many of the planned summer projects did not get done. Daniel stated that he had anticipated using contractors to do some of the work that getting a late start because of some confusion didn't allow for more projects to be done.

Eric determined that the excavator was rented for 5 weeks and the Public Works Foreman worked 200 hours during those 5 weeks, so why were not more projects completed. Daniel stated that Chris and Steve split their time between the road work, other small items and getting the winter sand done. Eric stated that the work done on the Elliotsville Road looks like it should have been done in 3 days. He also noted that the culvert was not installed correctly and that the ditching by the culvert on the North Guilford Road was poorly done.

Tyler asked for an update on the electric vehicle charging stations. Daniel explained that he will submit photos to CMP for them to use in their decision -making process on who will be awarded the grants.

Regarding the sand use policy, Tyler stated that whereas the sand policy is 1 bucket per residence per storm, he is in favor of residents who do not need their sand offering it to those who may need it.

Eric Vainio noted that the flags need to be taken down and that the road plan needs to be completed.

Buddy Martin asked Daniel if there is an update on the proposed marijuana store opening in town. Daniel informed him that the potential owner of the store is willing to wait for him to complete a class on new marijuana laws before anything further is done. Buddy reminded everyone that there is a town ordinance prohibiting marijuana stores in town. Daniel noted that any state law passed supersedes town ordinance, the class coming up will inform towns of how the state law affect any town ordinances. Buddy then mentioned that Dover High School currently has a gender poster hung in the building and he wondered if the town school board member has any influence on such matters. Daniel will speak to Jamie Pullen about it.

## **TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:** No report

**BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:** Daniel noted that while he does not yet have a draft of the plan, the committee is planning on having one event per month and they are hoping to tie the events in with other events in town. April is the official month, and they are hoping to have a proclamation from the legislature. The next meeting is scheduled for November.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Moosehorn Road Work Discussion:** Daniel stated that he did a cost analysis for the proposed road work on the Moosehorn Road. For the town to do the work, the excavator rental will cost \$1,200.00 and labor would cost approximately \$700.00. The scope of work would be to remove and replace a culvert, do some ditching and remove a large rock from the road. The selectboard decided to put the work on hold until next year but do something this fall to mitigate the wash out that happens.

**Water St./Mitchell St. Dangerous Building Updates:** Daniel stated that the owners of the Water St. property did secure the building within a week of the public hearing. The windows are closed, and the doors are locked but he did not see any other progress. The selectboard determined that the owners are in violation of the agreement and will be informed that the town intends to proceed with demolishing the building. Tyler expressed concern that whereas some cosmetic work has been done to the property, perhaps the town is being hasty in demolishing the building. Daniel will speak to the owners before putting the demolition out to

bid. He will also find out if the building can be buried on site. A public hearing will be advertised for 8 Mitchell St.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed Policy for Purchasing and Bidding:** Daniel presented a draft copy of the policy. Buddy confirmed that the selectboard is not obligated to select the lowest bidder for projects. Daniel will also add that contractors will have adequate equipment and insurance.

**Proposed Policy/Guidelines for Ordinance Violations Fines:** Daniel stated that currently, only the Land Use Ordinance has a schedule of fines for violations. He submitted a draft policy for other ordinances. Bobbie Crockett asked if the same fines would apply to dangerous buildings. Daniel informed her that the dangerous building ordinance has its own fines and that the new policy would mostly apply to animal matters. Bobbie Also expressed concern that there was a dangerous building section of the ordinance, which gives the town the right to make any landowner tear down a building on private property. The selectboard and Daniel both assured her that this was simply to ensure public safety, especially of children playing in them, and is focused on in town properties. Bobbie said they should just put up a no trespassing sign and then it's no one's faults if someone gets hurt.

**Reaffirm AP/Payroll Process Policy:** Daniel submitted the policy for reaffirmation. No changes were made. Eric stated that he no longer wants to be the selectboard member to sign the payroll warrants.

**Personnel Discussion in Public Meeting- Selectperson/Town Manager Concerns:** Eric asked if it is the Road Commissioners, which the town manager is, job to check on the road work being done. He does not see how the work is getting done in those hours because the days are shorter now. He suggested that they either work from 7am – 5 pm or work 8 hours per day 5 days per week. Daniel noted that after next week they will be working 5 days per week.

Eric then asked who decides what road work will be done and what the timing will be. Daniel stated that Chris informs him what work needs to be done and when and he approves it. Daniel also noted that most of this discussion should wait for executive session because it concerns employees who wish not to be discussed in a public meeting.

Buddy motioned the meeting be moved to executive session at 9:15 pm, Tyler seconded

Tyler motioned to end executive session and adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm, Buddy seconded