

TOWN OF MONSON

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

September 24, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, Bobbie Crockett, Brian Turner, John Moore, Ricky Clawson, Bob Jarvis, Paul Desjardins, Bob Keyes

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Keyes asked if any progress is being made on the PACE Loan Program. Daniel stated that he is currently working on an ordinance to present to the selectboard. Daniel explained that PACE stands for Property Assessed Clean Energy and the program consists of a loan from a bank based on the assessed value of the property. Tyler further explained that States need to allow the program and then towns must opt – in.

Bob also noted that there is no public phone in Monson, and he feels that there should be a public phone for emergency use and for hikers to use. Daniel stated that the PUC will pay for public phones in rural towns. The selectboard requested that Daniel look into the matter.

Ricky Clawson asked what ditching work will be done this summer. He was under the impression that the ditching would be done on a 5 year rotation basis. Daniel noted that the public works department has mainly been working on berms on the Elliotsville Road and that the road plan will be presented to the public at the first meeting of November.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following town departments:

Town Office: Evaughn Holyoke resigned from cleaning the town office as she has moved out of town. The 911 address list has been updated and the Post Office now has a current copy. The clock motor has been repaired and returned and the clock is being reassembled. Work on the back room at the town office will begin soon, ie, furniture and rug replacement.

Public Works: Leveled 2 cross pipes on Chapin Ave, fixed a high culvert on the North Guilford Road and worked on the plow turn around on Forest Ave. Eric asked Brian Turner to look at the culvert because he does not feel that it will work. He noted that the inlet is about 8" lower than the outlet. Brian explained that the culvert was installed too high about 10 years ago and that he had pointed it out to Daniel and Chris so they could lower it. Daniel also noted that the winter sand is done, and Chris will be assisting the Fire Department with the ground work for the new communication tower.

Fire Department: The dry hydrants are installed and the defects with the new truck will be fixed. The Fire Department would like to town to consider charging non-residents for services provided. Daniel noted that he has drafted an ordinance but suggested waiting until the next town meeting to vote on it rather than call a special town meeting.

Daniel spoke to Dan Bouthot at Monson Arts about holding a competition to design a new canal fence. Dan feels that a competition is a great idea.

Hamlin Associates has finished updating the tax maps and they will soon be sent to the contractor.

Finally, Daniel stated that he has been appointed to the Legislative Policy Committee for MMA to represent the county.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric Vainio asked Daniel how long the town will have the rental equipment. Daniel stated that the excavator will be swapped out for a bigger one next week in order to do the work on the communication tower. Eric thought the excavator was rented on August 8, but Daniel clarified that it was not rented until August 24.

Eric then put forth the following concerns:

Several people have looked at the work done on the Elliotsville Road and Eric feels that the work that the public works department accomplished in 2 weeks could have been done in 2 – 3 days. Eric would like to have an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The salt and sand were delivered by August 1 and with all the other projects done by the public works department, Eric feels that all work could have been completed in 3 weeks. Eric is questioning how many hours the public works department is actually working. Tyler then noted that certain projects that should have been done over the summer were budgeted for. He is more concerned about the cost rather than time and feels that the conversations need to be

more data driven. Tyler requested a report on summer road work, which Daniel will provide, for the next meeting.

Eric then pointed out that the speed limit sign on the North Guilford Road, which had been repaired, was not done properly. He noticed that the sign was leaning and upon further inspection, noticed that the post had been stuck in the ground only about 4 inches and small rocks were placed around the post. Also, the flag is falling down by Robinson's Store and Eric would like to have an exhaust fan installed in the public works garage and the sign set back removed from the town ordinance.

Tyler asked Daniel if the funds from the bond for the municipal building projects are used up. Daniel stated that all municipal building projects are completed except the ramp for the back room and there is approximately \$43,000 left. Tyler then mentioned the fact that building materials are more expensive now and asked how much it will cost to install the ramp. Daniel will check with Killams and get an estimate.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: No report

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Committee will meet next week.

OLD BUSINESS

Allstate Payment Decision: Daniel explained that Allstate Paving has offered to deduct \$4,500 from the invoice. He noted that while Buddy is not present at the meeting, he feels that the town should pay the bill. Daniel also reminded the selectboard that to pay the bill, the matter will have to be brought before the town. Tyler is not in support of paying the bill but would like to discuss the matter further when the entire selectboard is present. Eric asked Daniel how the lawyer feels about the matter. Daniel said that the lawyer feels that the town would win a court case but that the cost would be substantial, approximately \$50,000 - \$75,000. Daniel will check on what the exact cost for legal fees would be. Tyler noted that the most he would be willing to pay Allstate would be whatever the cost of the legal fees would be.

CMP Electric Vehicle Charging Program: Daniel explained that CMP is offering a program to provide hook-ups for charging electric vehicles. Daniel has obtained quotes for the actual charging devices and is proposing 4 stations at the gym. The town would be able to charge customers for use. Vendors of the devices say the payback rate is 5 – 10 years. Daniel stated that he may have a possible funding source for the devices, but the town would have to work as a group with other towns. The first application date for the funding is October 1. Tyler noted that as of 2035, California will no longer be able to manufacture internal combustion cars. He

feels that this is a good opportunity for the town as CMP will only be installing 60 stations through their program. Bob Keyes asked if there are any statistics that show how many electric cars there are in Maine. Daniel stated that the BMV has that information and one of the reasons that CMP is doing this program is to gather additional data.

NEW BUSINESS

New Resident Meet and Greet: Daniel stated that the Economic Development Committee will be holding a meet and greet for new residents at Turning Page Farm. The Business Association will be invited and Daniel, Marti and the selectboard will also be there to represent the town.

Moosehorn Roadwork Quotes: Daniel presented quotes from Arvo Korsman and Chad Davis to do culvert work, ditching and rock removal on the Moosehorn Road. He explained that the cost to rent a large enough excavator for the town to do the work will cost \$6,600 per month. Ricky Clawson noted that the town will already be renting a larger excavator to do the ground work for the communication tower and that other companies also rent equipment for possibly less money. Daniel explained that he wants to charge that excavator to the Fire Department budget and that he wants the Public Works department to be done with road work for the summer. Eric asked what Public Works will be doing until snow falls and Daniel said they will be doing tree trimming and working on the cemeteries. Daniel also noted that he would like to dismiss the part time/temporary help soon. Tyler stated that he would like to see what it will cost for the town to do the work themselves and would also like to have a price limit to put work out for bid. Daniel said that there is no limit in the law but that most towns use \$2,500 as the limit. Daniel will figure out a cost comparison for the Moosehorn Road work. The quotes were not read.

Resident Winter Sand Limit: Daniel stated that Doug Villone, a Monson resident, would like the town to change the 1 bucket of sand per storm policy for residential sand use. Doug would like the residents to be able to purchase sand from the town. After a short discussion it was determined that the selectboard will not change the policy. Residents will have to purchase sand from someone who is in the business of selling sand.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM