

TOWN OF MONSON

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

October 22, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, Glenn Poole, John Moore, Ricky Clawson,
Dawn MacPherson-Allen, Dick Marshall

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn, Dick and Glenn, on behalf of the Monson Historical Society, requested permission from the select board to install the Veterans Memorial by the fence in the old church yard. They also noted that they have raised \$20,000 so far and are expecting to raise another \$10,000. The memorial will be installed on Memorial Day, 2022. Eric noted he would like to see non taxpayer funds used more than town meeting appropriated funds. Glenn stated that Civil War soldiers will also be listed on the memorial along with room for future conflicts.

Ricky Clawson noted that at the last meeting there was discussion about the downed trees on the Willimantic Road. One week later, John Moore cut up the trees and attempted to straighten the speed limit sign on the North Guilford Road and cut brush around the sign. Ricky also mentioned that more signs on the Willimantic Road are falling and hidden by brush, 5 or 6 flags are ripped and the light on the flagpole has been out for about 3 years.

John Moore asked why residents got a new tax bill after one year whereas the last bill covered a 1 ½ year period. Daniel explained the fiscal year and the time that the tax bill covered. John then asked why the mil rate went up and how much the new communication tower will cost. Daniel explained the mil rate went up because the town purchased the new rescue truck, did some paving and did not take any money from surplus, which were all approved by town meeting votes or the select board. Daniel also stated that the town will only be paying for the site work for the communication tower. The money will come from the Fire Department reserve account.

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel stated that Evaughn Holyoke has resumed her cleaning position at the town office. He also stated that the clock will likely be sent to the clock repair company to be reassembled. Daniel then presented a quote from Dave's World for new flooring in the meeting room and front entryway. Eric mentioned that Harmony Décor in Corinna also does flooring. Daniel will get a quote from them as well. Daniel then stated that he would like to purchase some old prints of Monson from the Historical Society to hang in the meeting room. The select board suggested waiting until the exterior ramp is built before doing flooring and decorating. Tyler asked Daniel to provide an update on how much of the bond money is left, how much interest has been paid it costs to not spend the remaining bond money and how much it will cost to build the ramp. Daniel will have this information at the next meeting.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Tyler Adkins expressed concern that the Wi-Fi does not seem to cover the service area that Axiom promised it would. Daniel will have Axiom perform a test of the service. Daniel then noted that he took pictures of the parking and power source for the electric vehicle charging stations. He will submit the photos to BLINK, and they will complete the paperwork for CMP.

Eric Vainio wanted a change to the previous meeting minutes and explained that the reason he does not want to sign the payroll warrants any longer is because he does not feel confident in the hours worked by some employees. He also mentioned that there have been complaints about trash odor and rodents coming from the Melia property on the North Guilford Road as well as lots of complaints regarding speeding on the North Guilford Road. He feels that there should be more Sheriffs presence on the road.

Finally, Eric did sketch of how grading should be done versus what was done this fall. He explained that the berm needs to be removed so water can go into the ditch. He also noted that when the select board has questions about the road work being done, Daniel, as the Town Manager and Road Commissioner needs to check on the work.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: No report

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: A meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

Continuation of Allstate Payment Discussion: Daniel explained that he spoke with the new attorney, Mike Hodgkins, who feel that the case is not necessarily a “slam dunk” because the town did not tell Allstate to stop paving after the quote error was discovered. The matter will be discussed further after Mike has had a chance to review the contract and all the select board members are present.

Water St/Mitchell St. Dangerous Building Update: Daniel was unable to contact the owner of 36 Water St but feels comfortable moving forward with the demolition of the building, after the owner has been contacted. The owner of 8 Mitchell St. has not yet been served.

Proposed Policy for Purchasing and Bidding/Ordinance Violation Fines: Daniel submitted updated policies for Purchasing and Bidding/Ordinance Violation Fines. Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the purchase and bidding policy as written, seconded by Eric Vainio. The ordinance violation policy was postponed until the following meeting.

Public Use Phone: Daniel researched the public use phone program and found that while it is still an active program, there have been no updates from the PUC since 2006. He will inform Bob Keyes that the program has ended.

Ordinance Discussion; PACE, Fire, Property Maintenance: Daniel explained PACE and asked the select board if they would like to discuss the matter at the annual town meeting or hold a special town meeting. Also, up for discussion would be the matter of whether to charge non-residents for fire/rescue service as a potential ordinance. Daniel also stated that there have been lots of complaints about messy properties and asked the select board if they would like to explore an ordinance. Tyler does not feel as though there have been enough complaints. Tyler also wondered how much insurance money will potentially be lost by waiting until the annual town meeting to vote on charging for fire/rescue services. It was decided to wait a couple of months before deciding.

NEW BUSINESS

Bids for Roadside Mowing: Daniel submitted the bid for roadside mowing. The bid was opened, Tyler Adkins motioned to accept, seconded by Eric Vainio. Steven Vainio was awarded the bid for roadside mowing for three years beginning spring of 2021 for a price of \$2,100 for the first year.

Town Attorney Training: Daniel informed the select board the one of the attorneys from Bernstein Shur offered to meet with the select board, free of charge, to provide a general overview. Daniel will arrange the training schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm