

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## November 12, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

**Present** – Buddy Martin, Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, John Moore, Ricky Clawson, Greg Vaillancourt, David Bjork, John Tatko, Wendy ?, (2) Bodfish Valley ATV Club Members

- 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**

Daniel stated that there have been multiple complaints regarding ATV use on the Elliottsville Road. Eric noted that he has also received complaints about people driving more than 45 mph on the road. The club members feel that it is not possible that people are driving their ATVs that fast and they do not want to lose the use of the road, especially since the complainants are not coming forward themselves with their complaints. Eric asked the club members for their contact information so he can have residents contact the club with complaints. Tyler would like to see what the town can do to support the trail network to cut down on ATV road use. Daniel will contact the Sheriff's Department and ask if they can have a deputy patrol the road more often and the club will work with IF&W to see if they can help with enforcement.

Ricky Clawson asked Daniel where the help wanted ad is posted for the Public Works Position as he did not see it in the newspaper. Daniel stated that newspaper ads are too expensive and that the job is posted on Facebook, the town website and Indeed. Ricky expressed concern that the last Public Works employee did not fulfill the job requirements and he wants to make sure that the town will not have the same problem with the new hire. Tyler noted that he understands Ricky's concern and asked for support for a little while longer. He also stated that the select board cannot listen to the same conversation week after week about the Public Works Department. The select board discussed the possibility of having a work session to fine tune the job description. Buddy suggested that Ricky make a list of the job requirements to assist with the job description. Eric noted that he does not want residents to feel shut out or unheard.

John Moore presented a diagram that he drew of the 18-month tax bill. He feels that whereas the new bills went out one year later there is 6 months' worth of money unaccounted for. Daniel explained the change in the fiscal year and how the old fiscal year created a cash flow problem. He will meet with John after the audit is completed to discuss the matter further.

John Tatko noted that while he appreciates the grading that was done on the roads, he suggests hiring a new contractor to do the grading. Daniel stated that the grading will be going back out to bid.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED**

## **TOWN MANGER REPORT**

Daniel submitted a plan for the remaining bond money and stated that he would like to have the wheelchair ramp to the meeting room professionally engineered. Plymouth Engineering, who specializes in ADA compliance can draw the plans for about \$2,000. He also explained that the town had been grandfathered until over \$50,000 was spent on repairs to the town office. He expects to have a price for the next meeting.

Daniel and Dan Bouthot will reach out to some blacksmiths in the area to begin the design work for the new canal fence. \$5,000 has been budgeted but the cost will likely be higher. Eric would like to see some history of the town incorporated into the new fence.

When the free public WiFi was put in place the intent was to use the splash page for advertising of local businesses. Per Axiom, the splash page is limited so it is likely that users will have to be routed to the town website instead.

2018 tax foreclosures will happen on December 4, 2020.

Daniel has spoken with the realtor who is listing the Moosehead Manufacturing building. He requested permission from the select board to stay in contact with the realtor as to stay up to date on what is happening with the sale of the property. He also suggested that the realtor attend a select board meeting to discuss options for town involvement. The select board agreed.

The next scheduled meeting date falls on Thanksgiving. All agreed to have the next meeting on December 10.

Wendy asked about having a new streetlight installed on Wilkins Street behind the General Store. The area is currently very dark, and she is concerned about the safety of her employees. Daniel stated that Affinity will look at it and provide a price as the town will have to pay for the light. The select board gave approval to proceed.

## **SELECTBOARD REPORT**

Eric stated that he spoke to John Moore about the rock on the Moosehorn Road. John spent some time working on it and was able to get it to wiggle. He feels that the rock can be removed easily and offered to try to get it out over the weekend. Daniel noted that Steve Lawson does not want to plow the road until the rock is removed.

Tyler asked for updates on the following:

Leftover bond money – Daniel is working on a plan. The ramp is the only project left on which the money was intended for.

Fire Department charging non-residents for service; how much money is being lost by not doing so – Daniel will add the topic to the next agenda.

WiFi range of service – Daniel has not yet followed up with Axiom but will have an update for the next meeting.

Website updates – Daniel spoke with Amelia Trader and explained the changes to be made. They have not been done as of this afternoon. Daniel noted that the changes will be made by the next meeting or a plan will be in place to have someone else do the work. Tyler requested that the work be completed by the next meeting.

Buddy asked if more work had been done on the culvert on the North Guilford Road. Daniel stated that the culvert has been completely re-done and just needs to be paved.

## **TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:** No report

**BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE:** A meeting was held this afternoon and plans continue to be made for the Bicentennial year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Allstate Paving Decision:** Daniel submitted updated legal advice to the select board regarding payment to Allstate. It was decided that the select board will go into executive session and speak with the attorney after the meeting.

**Road Plan Available:** Daniel submitted copies of the revised road plan, completed through 2036. Eric suggested having a pre-review of the work to be done to make sure all the work does need to be done so the town is not spending unnecessary money. Tyler agreed.

**Water St, Mitchell St. Dangerous Buildings:** The owner of the dangerous building on Mitchell St. will be served the Notice of Hearing next week. The public hearing date is set for December 10, 2020. Daniel presented the select board with a Findings Order for them to sign regarding the dangerous building on Water St. The select board signed the order and Daniel will follow up with the owners to confirm that no additional work has been done to the property.

**Proposed Policy/Guidance for Ordinance Violation Fines:** Select board agreed that there should be enforcement policies for ordinance violations. Policy was signed.

**Public Use Phone:** Select board does not feel that it is necessary to install a state funded public phone in town. Daniel will not pursue the matter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Medical and Recreational Marijuana Law Updates:** Daniel presented the updated state laws regarding marijuana retail establishments. The town ordinance passed in 2017 is now void because state law supersedes town ordinances, however, the town needs to opt-in to allowing establishments for recreational and medical marijuana sales. Any establishments that are now in business are grandfathered, however, Monson does not have any.

Meeting moved to executive session to discuss legal matters pertaining to Allstate Paving at 9:30 PM.

Select board exited executive session with no vote or decision for the Allstate Matter

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm.