

TOWN OF MONSON

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

January 14, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present – Buddy Martin, Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio (via Zoom), Daniel Swain, John Moore

- 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 the audit should be complete by the middle of February and the budget meetings will begin in April. The audit is taking longer to complete due to the change in the fiscal year.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following:

The new public works employee is doing well, plowing is also going well, no complaints so far.

Several IT companies are working on bids to provide services to the town.

The electric vehicle charging station is moving forward. There is enough power at the pole, but service will need to be installed from the pole to the charging stations.

Daniel emailed Hamlins regarding the RFP for assessing services but has not received a response.

The Monson Better Health Trust Fund and the Chapin Trust for the Needy are two trust funds that the town has never used. No one seems to know much about them, and the town will have to decide what to do with the money at the next town meeting.

The county tax is listed incorrectly in the commitment. It is listed as \$103,356 but the actual tax is \$105,356. The \$2,000 difference will need to be taken from surplus.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric noted that the town Christmas tree was put in a good spot this year, but the solar lights were very dim. Next year they should be plugged into a power source.

Tyler asked Daniel to provide updates on the following:

ATV use on Elliotsville Road: Daniel spoke to the deputy chief regarding law enforcement on the road. He will follow up with the sheriff's office.

GIS Parcel Viewer: The new tax maps are now online and there are printed copies in the office. The mapping firm will now take the data and put it on the web site. People will then be able to view the maps and property information. The work should be completed by the middle of February.

Dangerous building on Mitchell St.: Daniel contacted the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office regarding the public hearing notification being served to the property owner. If the owner is not served within the next week or so, Daniel can run an ad in the newspaper announcing the public hearing for 3 weeks and that will satisfy the town's obligation. Buddy asked if the buildings can be burned if they are torn down and Daniel stated that they cannot because they are too close to other buildings.

Buddy noted that he had been expecting a list of tasks that the public works employee is responsible for. Daniel will create a list and include it with the job description. Buddy also asked for an update on charging non-residents for emergency services provided by the fire department. Daniel has drafted an ordinance and it will be ready for the town meeting.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: A downsized version of the snowroller festival is scheduled for February 20, 2021.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: Daniel noted that the committee met earlier today. They have planned the events and are starting to work on the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Beautification Committee Acceptance: The beautification committee charge was read, Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the charge and appoint a beautification committee, seconded by Buddy Martin.

Abatements for Map 27 Lot 14 and Map 19 Lot 4: Daniel explained that applications for abatements were submitted for these two properties but were not addressed. One tax bill has already been paid so a credit will be issued. One has not been paid so Daniel told the property owner that he would waive the interest charges after the abatement has been issued. Buddy Martin motioned to accept the abatements, seconded by Eric Vainio.

Abatement and Supplemental Tax for Map 24 Lot 4-1: Daniel explained that this property had been owned by Dana Noble and was sold to Bob Keyes a couple of years ago. The change of ownership was not updated in the town system, so the tax bills have been in the wrong owner's name. Buddy Martin motioned to accept the abatement and supplemental tax, seconded by Eric Vainio.

NEW BUSINESS

2018 Foreclosures and Quit Claim Deeds: Buddy Martin motioned to accept quit claim deeds for Amelia Trader and Anthony Lancisi for back taxes paid, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

New Employee Paid Leave Law/Personnel Policy Update: Daniel explained that any employer with over 10 non-seasonal employees must now offer paid leave at 1 hour for every 40 hours worked. 8 – 10 of the Fire Department employees work at least that many hours in a year. This new law would add about \$500 per year to the Fire Department budget. Daniel is waiting to hear if this money will need to be paid out to the employees at the end of the year. The personnel policy is being reviewed by the town attorneys and they will add new language to the policy to ensure that the town is in compliance. Brian Turner, Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector will now keep track of his hours worked as this new law applies to him as well.

Universal Solid Waste Options: Daniel noted that Electronics End is going out of business. He has contacted 2 other firms for quotes. Give IT-Get IT from Waterville will pick up the universal waste for \$50.00 plus 75 cents per mile. ERI offers the same service for a minimum charge of \$375.00. Buddy Martin motioned to accept the bid from Give IT-Get IT, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Finishing Fiber Line Installation: Daniel explained that the Libra Foundation paid Premium Choice to install fiber lines when they moved to town which enabled residents in the downtown area to have access to the fiber. Bill Varney, owner of Premium Choice has offered to partner with the town to bring fiber to the rest of the town. Premium Choice will contribute \$200,000, the town will pay \$50,000 and grant money will cover the rest of the cost. Premium will conduct a survey to make sure there is enough public interest. Daniel drafted a letter of support to begin the survey process. Buddy Martin motioned to accept the letter as written, seconded by Tyler Adkins.

Meeting moved to executive session for 1 MRSA Subsection 405 (6) (A)- Personnel matter and Poverty Abatement at 8:25 PM.