

TOWN OF MONSON

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

February 25, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present – Buddy Martin, Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, John Moore

Zoom – Bobbie Crockett, Brian Turner

- 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 asked if the audit has been completed. Daniel stated that it is done but is currently going through the quality assurance process. It should be complete by next Friday.

Bobbie noted that the gym is very dirty. Daniel informed her that it has recently been cleaned.

Brian noted that the Planning Board has received the plans for the cell tower, and they are planning to hold a meeting at the beginning of March.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following:

Colleen Pinkerton has taken on the cleaning position for the municipal building and the gym.

Work continues on making the meeting room a shared work space. There is still some bond money left for the municipal building that can be used for the project. Daniel has two quotes for carpet/flooring, one from Dave's World for \$5,978.00 and one from Harmony Home Décor for \$6,000.00 - \$7,500, depending on the color. The prices include flooring for the meeting room, stairs, and entryway to the town office. After a short discussion it was decided that Daniel will get quotes for non-carpet flooring as well.

A lot of money has recently been spent to repair the loader. Daniel will discuss quotes to replace it at the budget meetings.

Jim Bohrer has returned to work at the transfer station.

Daniel spent some time working with the comprehensive plan consultant and they made good progress. They are now working on capital projects and the fiscal survey.

Daniel met with Northern Light Health about using the gym as a vaccination center. It looks like there will not be adequate parking and the gym is not ADA compliant by hospital standards. Northern Light is exploring other options.

Eric asked if the new businesses and the public will be part of the comprehensive plan meetings. Daniel explained that the meetings will be public.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric stated that it was decided at the last meeting to begin budget meetings in mid-March and it has now been changed to late March. He would like to stick to the original plan and would also like the meeting topics and budget to be sent to the budget committee in early March. He would also like to review the budget before it is sent out. Daniel said that all selectboard and budget committee members will be getting a binder with the budget in it, Eric said that was good so we can write down the thing Daniel agrees to. Daniel explained that he will not have everything ready until the second selectboard meeting in March, which would be March 25. Buddy then asked if Daniel could have everything ready sooner than that. Daniel said he can if he has to, but he would rather stick to his schedule. He explained that his plan is to appoint the committee members at the March 11 selectboard meeting, distribute the proposed budget to the committee members by mid - March and have the first meeting on March 25. Eric reiterated that there needs to be clarity and communication. He then motioned to appoint the committee members and set the topics for discussion at the March 11 selectboard meeting and begin the budget meetings on March 15. Buddy Martin seconded the motion. Daniel stated that he will have everything ready.

Eric stated that he heard a rumor that the Business Association had been approached about taking over the Festival Committee. He noted that the Festival Committee's term expires in 2022 and he would like to see them be able to finish out their term. Daniel explained that he is aware that the term expires in 2022 and he has simply started a conversation with the Business Association about possibly taking over festivals. No decisions are being made they are only discussing the possibility. There is no plan to abolish the Festival Committee. Eric stated that it must have been a misunderstanding.

Eric then mentioned having a list of common seasonal duties for the public works department so that no tasks are overlooked. Daniel stated that he is working on a list. The other selectboard members agreed.

Tyler asked for an update on the electric car charging stations. Daniel spoke to CMP and Revision and CMP is waiting for Revision to finish their quote. Daniel further explained that the CMP grant will cover \$4,000.00 but because of additional trenching and wiring, the cost could be around \$9,000.00. A short discussion ensued about the town doing the trenching and digging themselves and the possibility of using existing conduit.

Eric asked if Daniel has looked at the electricity charges as they seem to have gone over budget. Daniel has looked at them and the usage is the same as last year. He then explained that the town receives a flat bill from InSource each month and at the end of the year they make a correction when actual usage is determined. So far, the budgets are over but there may be a big credit at the end of the year.

Buddy noted that in the future the town could use some equipment that digs as well as loads. Daniel stated that one of the quotes he received is for a backhoe/loader.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: Bobbie stated that the Snowroller Festival went well, and she received a lot of positive comments.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: No report.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: The committee will be hanging banners in town and replacing the whisky barrels for the flowers.

OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Policy Changes from the Attorney: Daniel made all changes that were discussed at the previous meeting. There had been previous discussion about requiring employees to give any jury duty pay received to the town if they were paid by the town for the day off. Daniel instead modified the policy to state that employees will be excused from work for jury duty but will not be paid.

Signing notice of findings for 8 Mitchell St.: Daniel read aloud the findings from the public hearing regarding the dangerous building at 8 Mitchell St. which will be served to the property owner. Tyler asked Daniel if the owner has complied with the orders and Daniel stated that he has not received any signed contracts. The selectboard signed the notice. Tyler reiterated the importance of having the dangerous building policy and enforcing it, so things won't get to this point in the future.

Reviewing IT Bids: Daniel explained the bids and fee structures for the two bids that were submitted for IT services. He also noted that both firms are aware that the awarding of the bid will be contingent on the budget process/approval. Of the two firms, Daniel recommends Snow Pond Technology Group because they have experience working with other municipalities and are familiar with TRIO. Buddy Martin motioned to award the bid to Snow Pond Technology Group, contingent on budget approval. Eric asked why there were only two bids as he thought that according to the bidding policy there should be three. Daniel explained that he sent the bid request to thirteen companies and these were the two that responded. Eric believes that the policy requires having three bids in hand and would like to review the policy further before making a decision. The discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Meeting moved to Executive Session for 1 MRSA Subsection 405 (6) (F) – Poverty Abatement at 8:40 PM.

Motion to exit Executive Session was made at 8:55pm. Buddy Motioned to grant poverty abatement number 2021-1, Tyler seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm.