

TOWN OF MONSON

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

March 11, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, John Moore, Bobbie Crockett, Bob Jarvis,
Bob Keyes

Zoom –Brian Turner, Steve Breault, Monica Applebee

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Moore asked if the audit has been completed. Daniel stated that it is done, and he has a copy for John.

Bobbie asked if there are still signs of mice in the gym. Daniel checked today and there was no sign.

Daniel stated that Steve Breault would like to open an ATV sales and service business on the Greenville Road, however, the property that he is considering buying is zoned for industrial use. Daniel spoke to Brian Turner about re-zoning the area to industrial/commercial. The matter will have to be voted on by the town. Brian suggested that Steve take the matter before the planning board. Steve will work with the planning board to get the process started.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following:

Colleen Pinkerton will be cleaning the gym once per week.

Steve Vainio is back from vacation and has been working on cleaning up downed trees. The roads have been posted but if local businesses or the public need to schedule deliveries, permits may be issued for one time use of the roads. Chad Davis did a great job helping with the plowing while Steve was on vacation and went above and beyond what was expected of him by also helping with tree clean up.

The proposed budget is complete and all selectboard members will be getting a binder with the budget and meeting dates/topics.

Revision has submitted their quote to CMP for the electric vehicle charging stations. The quote is within the amount of the grants as the town will be doing some of the trenching/digging themselves. Eric stated that the project was not supposed to cost the town any money so that work will need to be included in the grants.

Daniel is working on getting quotes for the ADA ramp. The leftover money from the bond will be used for the project.

Daniel has been working with Geneve Parrish on the website. They are currently focusing on the home page and a page for Monson businesses to be listed.

Connect Maine has opened grant applications. Daniel will be applying for a grant to have Premium Choice Broadband brought to town.

The audit is complete and can be approved at the next meeting. There is approximately 5 months worth of money left in surplus.

Daniel noted that he will need selectboard approval to sign the contract for the electric vehicle charging station.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric researched the laws regarding communication between selectboard members outside of a public meeting. They may communicate with each other but they may not deliberate or make any decisions. He wanted to make sure that information about such things as road wash outs may be shared with other selectboard members. Daniel stated that there is a certain amount of leeway in that law for selectboards with only 3 members. Eric also noted that there is a lot of debris on the Elliotsville Road from the brush cutters and asked how many other new businesses are in town besides Steve Breault. Daniel informed him that Lily Bay Antiques bought the antique store on the Greenville Road and that Bob Keyes is interested in starting an electronics business at his house. Tyler mentioned that there is also a young couple in Blanchard who would like to open a photography studio.

Tyler asked for an update on the GIS. Daniel explained that the next step will be to scan the maps and add the zoning information in Trio. This should be done by May.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: No report.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: The committee met this afternoon and is working with an advertising specialist to design a coin for the bicentennial. Once the logo is designed, the committee can have an online store for about \$10.00 per month to sell mugs, t-shirts etc.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Policy Changes: Discussion was postponed until Buddy Martin is present.

8 Mitchell St Update: Daniel stated that 10 days after the property owner has been served the findings, the town may enter the building and determine a course of action. He will check with the deputy and find out if the papers have been served yet. Tyler expressed concern that the process is taking too long, and it has already been 2 weeks since the selectboard issued the findings.

NEW BUSINESS

FY22 Budget Process: Daniel submitted the list of Budget Committee appointees. Tyler Adkins motioned to nominate all appointees, seconded by Eric Vainio. Daniel then explained how the process will work and stated that the budgets in the binders do not include any revenues yet. The town will be receiving approximately \$65,000 of COVID stimulus money, as well as several other revenues that will be discussed at the budget meetings. Daniel also proposed taking 1 more bond to finish the paving on the Elliotsville and Willimantic Roads. Tyler expressed concern about the timing of employee performance reviews and expressed that he would like to have them separate from the budget discussions. Daniel stated that he has begun working on the staff reviews and if the selectboard wants to do his review prior to the budget discussion, he can revise the schedule.

Assessors Agent RFP Responses: Daniel sent out 7 requests for bid and received 1 response from RJD Appraisal. The bid was \$600.00 per day for approximately 16 – 20 days. Daniel mentioned that he requested in the RFP that the agent spend 1 to 2 days per week in the town office. Tyler suggested getting a price for a contract on an annual basis, rather than a daily basis. Daniel will speak to RJD about it.

Bob Keyes asked about the reviewing of the IT bids. He would like to submit a bid to bring the number of bids up to 3. He has 40 years of experience, but no municipal experience and he is not familiar with Trio. Everyone liked the idea so Bob will submit a quote.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.