

TOWN OF MONSON

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

December 2, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon,
John Moore, Richard Allard, Rick Clawson, Dan and Diane Dube, Steve Vainio, Mike Witham,
Joanne Adkins, Sue Hoovler, John Wentworth, Sheriff's Deputy Kyle Wilson,

ZOOM- Brian Turner, Jenne Johnson, Bob & Roberta Jarvis, Sandra Hardy, Sheila Grant, Tim
Bueschen, Kathy Johnson

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Public WiFi Update– The WiFi is still having trouble. Axiom has assessed the system and determined that it is working but not fully functional. They are working on options to resolve the problem.

Road Inspection Report: Pete Coughlin from Maine DOT inspected several town roads but did not have time to do them all. He is hoping to arrange time to inspect the rest of the roads. He did mention that the culverts should be rip-rapped but there are no environmental violations.

Approval of Lakeshore House catering permit: The selectboard reviewed and signed the extended liquor license permit for the Lakeshore House for the Bicentennial kick-off event at the gym on 1/1/22.

Regarding the sign ordinance, Eric Vainio stated that the inability to identify marked property lines makes it difficult to determine whether or not signs are in compliance. According to a state surveyor and a state engineer, Route 15 has been widened and as long as a sign is 33 feet from the center line of the road, it is in compliance.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: No report

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: John Wentworth noted that the committee has events scheduled for every month of 2022. The first event is scheduled for January 1 with a bonfire on the ball field. Food and drinks will be served in the gym.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Sandra will have a table set up at the Kris Kringle Market to raise money for the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Works List Update: The updated list was reviewed by the Selectboard. All approved.

Rules of Order: Eric noted that per MMA, it is advisable for Selectboards to adopt rules of order for meetings. Robert's Rules of Order are not advisable for selectboard meetings but are better suited for Town Meetings. Tyler then explained that the rules are usually re-adopted after each town meeting when a new selectboard member is elected. Sue Chase motioned to adopt the rules of order as written, seconded by Eric Vainio.

Speed Sign Update: Marti stated that no one has been able to open the speed sign to check the battery because there is no key. Rick Clawson said that the key used to be kept in the garage with the manuals. Marti will have Steve look for it.

NEW BUSINESS

CEO Resignation: Marti informed the group that Brian Turner has resigned as Code Enforcement Officer. The town will begin searching for a new officer.

Local Health and Welfare Matter: Sue Hoovler stated that conditions at 25 North Guilford Rd have deteriorated. DHS paid a visit to the residence, but Sue is not sure of the outcome. She feels that the conditions are very unsanitary and dangerous and are a risk to the children's health and safety. The Hoovlers would appreciate it if the town would contact the owner of the property to request that the property be maintained and cleaned up. Tyler stated that the main concern is the safety of the children and that there are State agencies who take care of that. He also stated that the town could consider adopting a new land use ordinance which would require that properties be maintained to a certain standard. Sue is considering doing an inspection as the town Health Officer and if she decides to do this, requested that a selectboard member go with her. Tyler agreed.

Town Office Relocation: Marti explained that the previous town manager started a discussion with Libra about leasing the old clinic at 7 Greenville Rd. According to Daniel, Libra offered to lease the building to the town for \$1500.00 per month, utilities not included. After a brief discussion it was decided that the town office will remain where it is for now.

Town Manager Permanent Position: The selectboard reviewed the draft Town Manger job description. The job description was approved and will be posted on Facebook, The town web site, the MMA website and Indeed.

Public Meeting Mask Requirement Policy: Tyler read the proposed mask requirement policy for public meetings aloud. Eric Vainio motioned to accept the policy as read, seconded by Sue Chase.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyler explained that according to the new rules of order, going forward, public comment will be held at the end of the meeting and that anyone who wishes to speak during public comment will need to sign up before the meeting and will be allowed 2 minutes to speak.

Mike Witham challenged the rules of order because the taxpayers were not included in writing them.

Rick Clawson stated that he has many issues/complaints and would like to know how to have them addressed. Tyler stated that he should bring his concerns to the town manager and if they are not resolved, he can bring them to the selectboard. Tyler also asked Rick to be specific about his concerns. Richard Allard noted that he had brought complaints to the town manager and the selectboard but nothing was done about them.

John Moore suggested putting a stone tablet inscribed with the 10 commandments near the new veteran's memorial.

Jenne Johnson asked if the selectboard is considering expanding internet access in Monson. Tyler explained that there is a plan in process and that the town will be contributing \$50,000 to the project which should be completed in the spring. He will provide a map to show where the extended service will go.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

