

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## **February 24, 2022 – Select Board Meeting**

**Present** –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon, Jade Grenier,  
John Moore, Richard Allard, Rick Clawson, Jim Payne, Dan Dube

ZOOM- Sandra Hardy

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rick requested a briefing on the plowing, wanted to know if any complaints had been made and mentioned the lack of sand. Marti responded that there have been calls about scraping the ice/sanding on Spring Rd & Homer Hill that have been answered and no further complaints had been made. Eric mentioned the build up of ice is causing ruts that make driving difficult. Tyler stated that residents have mentioned the build up of ice, that we are aware of certain issues, but can only deal with what is brought forward by the public and public input is essential. He also mentioned a need for more sand on Degestrom Rd. Eric stated that the snow on Homer Hill Rd has been pushed back and divots placed to divert water and decrease erosion. Rick also mentioned ice issues on Willimantic Rd – the hill by the Turner's and the corner by Boyce's. Rick also mentioned that the roads should be winged back to allow water to run off the road and that the water on Water St runs down the road and should be diverted. Marti has spoken to Chad about winging back the snow. Eric stated there are pushouts for runoff by the Pullen's. Sue mentioned she appreciates when neighbor's contact her regarding issues and agreed that the ice is bad even with studded tires on Elliotsville Rd. She mentioned that the Willimantic Rd from the Turner's to town is treacherous. Sue stated she calls Marti when she hears of concerns and actively tries to keep her informed. Marti stated that it may be time for the grader as the contract states more than 1" of ice calls of removal. Richard stated concern about the missing Stop sign at the Steward Rd/Willimantic Rd intersection. Rick also questioned the compliance of the plow trucks which Marti verified are not in compliance. Rick questioned how the non-compliance situation would be fixed and if there is a back up driver. Tyler explained this was a discussion to be had with the contractor and not for public setting. Eric mentioned that if anyone wanted to review the contract it can be requested. Rick does not feel we are getting what we paid for.

## **SELECTBOARD REPORTS**

**Transfer Station New Pole** – Marti has called CMP twice, the pole was not placed where it had been staked out to be placed and is just 1’ over from original pole. CMP told her it would be done in 3 weeks, it was actually a month and a half before they did the pole and she did not know they were coming that day. Marti did check and saw the pole placement after the work was done. Eric stated we should have at least one person checking on projects as they are being done and when finished. The marker is clearly there, and the pole was not put in the proper place.

**ARPA Funds:** Sue questioned if the funds were sent in two phases. Tyler verified and Marti confirmed the first payment was sent. Sue questioned if we had to apply for the second phase as well, Marti explained the applications are all filed and there is no more to do. Sue wanted to know the amount of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase payment. Tyler stated it was paid half in the first phase, half in the second and Marti stated it was somewhere around 60K. Eric asked about the plans for the second payment. Tyler explained the board has not voted and mentioned the offset of the broadband contribution. Sue asked if it could be used for roads and Marti explained it cannot be used for roads. John Moore mentioned that he read an article that stated it could be used for road repairs but not new construction. Sue stated we should get clarification, so we are not missing out.

**Public WIFI:** Tyler explained we have three nodes in town – Town Office, Church, and the Gym. There is no service issue in sight of the nodes, but the church node is not broadcasting well due to the shape of the cupola.

**Audit:** Sue asked if we are still working on the audit, Marti verified.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Bicentennial** – Sandra stated that Snow Roller Day was a tremendous success. Tyler mentioned that there was a good crowd at the bonfire. Tyler asked what the event for March was, Sandra stated there would be a Finn Dance at the gym on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Beautification** – Sandra explained there will be a presentation on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Tenney Hill House. Someone from the County Extension office will be discussing Invasive & Native Plants.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Code Enforcement Officer Compensation** – Eric has done some research into towns with similar populations to Monson (700-1000 range), with comparable waterfrontage and or population growth. The average pay is \$2000-4000. Tyler asked about number of permits issued

per year. Eric said the average is 20-22 per year (27 in 2021) and most towns have a similar average. Tyler questioned the budget for CEO. Marti explained there is \$600 budgeted for the CEO position, plus the CEO keeps the permit fees. Permit fees range based on square footage, typically \$30-50 per permit. Tyler stated we should have some guidance on compensation. Marti feels that that is important before posting the job. She has discussed the position with 4 or 5 towns and most CEOs are too busy to take on another town. Marti also said it had been discussed about sharing the CEO from Greenville, but they are not interested in doing this. Marti stated that if needed she will continue to hold the position until June. Eric explained that some towns pay the CEO monthly since the work slows down in the winter and some towns pay the stipend during busier months then pay hourly during the slower season. Sue expressed concern that what we offer is below average of the surveyed towns. Marti stated that the first thing people ask is what the position pays. Tyler said the main concern is they have not budgeted for this type of pay. Eric brought up the point the person also responsible for ordinances and follows up on the enforcement of the ordinances, which is a larger job in this area. Marti verified the CEO needs to clarify and enforce the ordinances. She also explained that there will be items in the near future that will need to be addressed. Tyler stated we should post the job for the remainder of the term and the next term will be budgeted for compensation in the \$2000-4000 range. Eric stated we should allow and authorize someone to research the public works, town clerk, etc positions and consider competency when compensating such positions and consider the state of the union when discussing the budget.

**Town Manager Search** – Marti explained the position has been reposted and 4/5 new resumes have come in. There are a few applicants from the first round who stand out. Tyler asked if they could start interviews next week to which Eric and Sue agreed. Marti stated she would email the selectboard members so they could give input on dates/times they would be available to conduct the interviews.

**Office Help** – Marti was pleased with the progress made last week but Alaina was out this week. There has been headway made in organizing paperwork and files as well as making the manager's office area more user friendly. Eric mentioned the budget process and where that stood. Marti stated she had planned to work on that this week with Alaina but was unable to. Marti said she & Alaina will print out and start working on this next week and once everything is ready, she is hoping to be ready to start discussing budget matters mid -March.

**Generator Update** – Marti explained that Piscataquis Community Emergency Management met with her and the grant for the generator was awarded. Tyler asked about the towns competing, so Marti clarified that there was a competition between towns within the county and 3 were available. Monson was chosen to receive one of them. Marti met with McKusick's on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for a quote on the propane work alone. They quoted \$895 for the propane work, piping,

and two tanks. Richard asked about the size, brand, and fuel use for weekly test. Marti explained she believes the generator is a Generac, 18000, and that we have two tanks to cover the fuel use. Sue asked about the foundation, so Marti clarified that there does need to be a cement pad in place and roof. Sue expressed concern that we make sure the cement pad is done correctly and is the proper size. Eric asked about any set backs from the building, Marti stated there are no problems and the pipes will be under the steps.

**Audit Training** – Marti spoke with Vernice, but she is not available to help at this time. The auditor sent a contract for 40 hours or \$5000 worth of training. Marti spoke with Levi from RHR Smith, and the training can be more targeted to our needs. Marti has reached out about a new contract and is hoping to receive it soon.

**Supplemental Tax** – The Selectboard signed the supplemental tax for the demolition of 8 Mitchell St.

John Moore asked about the status of the research requests to the bank. Marti explained the transfers were for the Soldier's Monument and the ACH returns are being researched.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm