

TOWN OF MONSON

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

March 10, 2022 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon, Jade Grenier, John Moore, Richard Allard, Rick Clawson, Jim Payne, Kathy Johnson, Nick Fusco

ZOOM-

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Johnson wanted to thank the selectboard and Marti for their help with the issue regarding her neighbor's lights. Marti explained she sent a letter and made a phone call to the property owners. On March 11th she plans to meet with the homeowners and go to the property to view the issues for herself. Marti will speak with Kathy after the meeting. Kathy is concerned the lights will continue – the Sheriff told her it is a code issue. Kathy asked a couple of zoning questions.

Nick Fusco mentioned having a new foundation for the Lakeshore House done. He wanted to bring this to the attention of the selectboard as he knows he will need permits, wants to hook into the footing drains, was concerned about encroachments in relation to the sidewalk as well as the driveway needing to be closed for the work to be done. Nick also mentioned a concern about locals staying at the Lakeshore House who are doing/dealing heroin, having multiple visitors, and leaving needles in the trash. They have contacted the Piscataquis Sheriff Dept, but have received no response. Lakeshore has begun to deny lodging to callers because it is making business uncomfortable. Eric suggested speaking to the Maine State Police and expressed concern about the theft/robbery this could bring to town. Sue mentioned earlier this winter a skier found a needle in Fierce Chase driveway so they have installed signs/lights to deter and feels we need to be vigilant as drug trafficking is on the rise.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Road Concern - Eric was made aware of numerous large rocks in the road on N. Guilford and Steward Road. Eric removed many of these rocks. Marti questioned Chad about where the rocks came from – Steve checked for rocks in the sand pile and did not find any. Jim Payne stated that this happened a few years ago as well.

Recycling –Sue provided an update on what is happening with the Municipal Review Committee and the Hampden facility.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bicentennial – The committee is getting ready for the official celebration on Saturday, April 23rd

Beautification – On Saturday, March 19th there will be a plant presentation by the County Extension office. This will link into discussion on pollinators. There will be a town cleanup day in April.

OLD BUSINESS

Dangerous Building – Marti stated that the building at 31 Water St. was deemed dangerous. The owner had several notices and opportunities to fix the issues, but nothing has been done. Complaints regarding rodents, trash, and children in the building have been made. The owner asked if the fire department was able to burn the building, but they could not. Eric mentioned the landowner should be made aware – Marti stated a letter will be sent to Mr. Lyons to provide opportunity to remove his belongings from the property before demolition. Tyler questioned if the last one put out to bid, Marti does not believe so. Tyler motioned to move forward, seconded by Sue. Marti will put the project out to bid.

Snow Plow Contract – Tyler stated he has made multiple calls and left voicemails regarding the compliance issues. During a brief conversation Chad stated that the vehicles were registered when the contract was awarded but not now. Marti has discussed the issue with the lawyer regarding the options keeping in mind the concerns/considerations about the time of year. The lawyer was not available to attend tonight's meeting. Eric voiced concern about the amount paid out over three years and that the money was paid to have serviceable equipment when contracted.

ARPA Funds – Marti stated that Monson's total will be \$63,178 – half of the allocation was received in the amount of \$34,589 in September 2021. The remaining half will be paid out one year from the first payment – September 2022. Sue verified we do not need to apply, and Marti confirmed.

Code Enforcement Office Position – Marti explained the position has been posted and will be for 30 days. There have been several inquiries but only one applicant.

TRIO Training – Marti explained that RHR Smith offered a contract that will bill for only the service/training used. Eric questioned the cost. Marti stated that they know we are looking for

audit specific training and it will be \$125 per hour, costing about \$2000-\$2500 for approximately 20hrs of training (2.5 days). The training will have to be done when the office is closed or when Jade/Alaina are available to cover the office. The selectboard reviewed and signed, Marti will schedule.

Budget Meetings – Marti explained that she and Alaina have made some progress getting numbers sorted and hope to start budget meetings March 31st. She suggested March 31, April 7, April 27, and May 5 to meet. Marti would like to have the meetings finished by the beginning of May, to insure plenty of time to create the warrant and get the Town Report printed. Eric clarified he will be gone during the April meetings. He also expressed concern that we should research salaries for the various positions, that members from each department should come in for preliminary meetings to discuss their budgets (ex. Fire Department) so we can know what the problems are in order to solve them. Sue verified this was helpful last year. Marti explained there are rules around spending money from reserve accounts and that she and Alaina need to familiarize themselves with these reserve accounts. Eric questioned what the \$22,000 repair bill for the fire department covered. Marti explained the statement references a PO but does not specify what work was done. She will try to get an itemized bill from the repair company. All agreed that the Fire Department should have discussed this repair with the Town Manager before getting the work done. Tyler stated he will be traveling in the off weeks (that we do not have selectboard meetings) but will be available to meet remotely. Marti stated she was not sure how long the meetings will take, but Tyler stated time should be limited to 1 hour per meeting. He also stated we should appoint the committee at the next meeting. Marti stated it would be posted to Facebook and the website that sign ups for the budget committee would be open.

Meeting moved to Executive Session for personnel matters at 6:55.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.