

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

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

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

ZOOM-

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:03 PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Richard mentioned his concerns regarding the plow truck being without brake lights/blinkers. Tyler explained it is being discussed with the lawyer and contractor. Richard also questioned the replacement of the missing STOP sign on the Steward Rd. Marti had Steve check for the sign, but it has not been found yet (under the snow?). Dan Dube asked when the paving will be finished on the Willimantic Rd by the town line and expressed concerns about the additional cost of having the company return to finish. Marti explained the contract states to the town line but there was question of where the town line is. Eric measured with the wheel, but the wheel was slipping/not measuring accurately. Tyler explained that the paving company is paid based on material used, so we did not pay for more work than we received. Eric stated that the previous road commissioner did not do their job in regards to this project and Tyler added that the road commissioner also gave inaccurate information to the paving company.

### **SELECTBOARD REPORTS**

Eric questioned the ordinance regarding the community bulletin sign, whether it should be surveyed at town cost or wait for the state to do work in that area to determine where the line is. If the sign is improperly placed the sign would have to be moved at our cost. Marti asked when DOT may be doing work in town – Eric mentioned when they are in the area to address how to slow traffic in town. Sue stated that we should check with the attorney regarding the current ordinance. Richard was concerned about making changes to the ordinance being deceiving, but Marti clarified that this is not a change, just the ordinance just needs to be enforceable. She will be taking this on to clear up confusion and assure that the ordinance is being enforced properly. Eric asked if CMP had been contacted regarding the misplacement of

the new pole and if it was marked correctly now. Marti has spoken to CMP, they have agreed it needs to be moved but the new placement was/is marked correctly already.

Eric mentioned the audit and asked whether it would be a good idea to re-audit some of the past year as well, due to the change in office staff. Marti asked if there was anything in particular to be checking for – Eric wanted to know if there were any concerns about discrepancies. Marti explained that most issues were in regard to timeliness and if there are any specific concerns she will bring them to the auditor, otherwise, they will likely just proceed with the regular audit. John added that he met with Marti on Monday and mentioned no real concerns, other than excessive spending. Marti clarified that the ‘missing’ checks are ones that have been voided and failed ACH transactions explain why there was extra money still in the Maine Highlands account. John brought up the two checks that had the same number but after speaking to the bank Marti has verified that was a bank error. Eric asked if there had been an answer from the insurance company in regards to liability providing water to the public using an outdoor faucet. Tyler stated that there are the concerns of providing water, suitability for use, and the liability of the town. A concerned citizen brought it to Eric’s attention that no one is slowing down from the Hillside Cemetery to town and suggested speed bumps. Eric feels the area needs signs. Tyler added that the DOT has a community affairs division that is ready to help offer both short and long term options to slow traffic at no charge to the town. Eric mentioned checking for erosion around the culverts placed last. Eric brought up property maintenance issues at a North Guilford Rd. residence – Marti stated there has been a dumpster at the property, some effort has been made and she would talk with Sue Hoovler about the progress and steps to take moving forward. Sandra clarified that the dumpster has been removed but there is more trash left behind. Eric verified with Marti that Steve has the town maintenance schedule. Tyler brought up summer work and the ditching. Eric mentioned that anything petroleum based will be more expensive this year and that the crack sealing is a short term solution as there are already new cracks on the Elliotsville Rd that follow the old crack lines. Rick suggested contacting Allstate to see if hot mix can patch the cold mix that was used. He also explained that we will get cracks in the winter, but they should resolve themselves in the summer. Tyler explained that the previous road commissioner was supposed to call Allstate about maintenance guidance – Eric explained they did come up but only saw a small portion of the work done. John questioned what they would charge to this, but Eric explained there is no cost. John then asked about a \$900 charge to DOT, Marti will look into this further. Sue asked about the purchase of mirrors to help at intersections. Marti explained we did buy them, have not found a suitable place to put them but have not returned them.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Bicentennial** – Sandra informed everyone there will be a Finn Dance on Saturday March 26 from 7-10pm at the Gym. April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date set for the official celebration. Sue added that

there have been many state and federal officials who have been invited to speak that day. Dawn is organizing a Memorial Day parade.

**Beautification** – Sandra explained that the presentation was enjoyed by those in attendance. There are bulbs being prepared for the town planters. April 16<sup>th</sup> is scheduled as a Town Clean Up Day. Marti questioned if this will be a free trash day at the transfer station. Sandra clarified that there will be a truck in town for trash. Dan questioned if people would be able to dispose of tires that day. Marti explained the dump does not take tires, but Eric felt we should look into an option for disposal. Sandra mentioned rolling it into the Clean Up day. Sue feels that a free trash day is a good incentive to get more people to participate. Marti asked if it would be all trash (demo, household, etc) – the Select Board verified.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Dangerous Building** – Marti has reached out for a template for putting demolition out to bid. She will edit to make the document Monson specific.

**Audit Training** – Marti informed everyone that the training will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> while the office is closed and will hopefully be wrapped up in one day.

**Code Enforcement Officer Position** – Marti stated that there has been some interest shown in the position and next week she will be reaching out to those who have contacted her. One more applicant came in today, she is waiting for an email with more information.

**Wheelchair Ramp** – Marti explained that originally the ramp was going to be installed when the Town Office was planned to be moved to the back room. Richard stated we need it to be ADA certified. Tyler questioned whether we could remodel the front area to make the office accessible for less than installation of a ramp. Tyler suggested we speak to the lawyer to verify the details. John questioned if there was bond money available to do the work. Marti explained that the money was for work to be done on this building including mold removal, interior drainage/foundation repair, as well as work in the bathroom. Eric mentioned the windows and flooring was done as well, but the outside looks dilapidated. John questioned the electrical expenses – Eric stated that the power board was taken out and moved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget Committee Meetings** – Marti stated that the budget committee meetings will be held every Thursday in April at 5pm–Select Board meeting nights they will have to be kept to one hour but some areas will take longer. The Fire Department budget will be discussed during the last meeting in April. If necessary, the final meeting can be held the first week of May but no later to allow time to create/print the warrant and town report. The Select Board signed the

budget committee appointments. Tyler asked about the materials –just need reports, a list of topics and the dates the items will be discussed.

**Supplemental Tax** – has not been updated to provide the new owner with a tax bill – this was land bought from the state that was not previously taxed.

Dan asked if we have anyone lined up for the Town Manager position. Tyler explained there had been 6 interviews, they all have different pieces of the pie, but no one candidate was 100% what they were looking for. Hoping to be wrapped up in the next month. Richard mentioned they should be good with the public, which Sue and Eric agreed was a major concern.

Eric brought up the fact the sign for the coworking space has been damaged. Marti explained that it was split in half but unsure how it was damaged. The company had been called and would be in to get the sign for repair. Tyler stated that most of the signs have three hooks – Marti verified that the guy said sometimes he puts 3 hooks. John mentioned concern of the cost of the sign (\$1500) – Tyler explained that it was done at no cost to the tax payers, the expense was paid by grant funds. The expenses go through the town but are not coming from town funds, the town manages the funds for the grant group. Rick questioned how much the original grant was for. Tyler clarified that the grant was \$60,000, of which about \$25,000 is left which will be used for various events as well as creating a new town website. Richard questioned the ETA of the website – Tyler estimates June of this year.

John asked about the location of the old fire truck. Marti and Eric explained that it is in the garage to avoid freeze up and is still being used. Eric asked about the needs of the fire department which Marti stated should be a discussion at a future meeting .

Sandra explained that the rope system on the office flag pole may need to be fixed or replaced. Marti stated she may have another clasp. Rick asked about putting a fresh coat of paint on the pole.

Marti believes a key has been found for the flashing speed sign. Steve will try the key when it comes in.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.