

TOWN OF MONSON

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

May 12, 2022 – Select Board Meeting

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick – asked about the \$1,600 for Fire Department – Marti explained the stipend was removed from the budget because the position isn't as involved as expected. Rick also asked about the cemetery budget – Eric provided the figures for the budget, what was expended as well as unexpended. Rick also mentioned confusion about the 18 month tax period as well as looking back further in the audit – Tyler clarified that it is an ongoing discussion with the auditor. Rick also asked about the gas costs for the Public Works truck and whether it would be cheaper to hire out for hauling gravel – Tyler explained this is a part of a larger discussion. Rick also mentioned concern about 20% increase in the Public Works payroll, not 8.5%. Eric explained that this will be voted on at the Town Meeting.

Richard – Asked about the missing mowing contract – Tyler stated there was a contract, but it cannot be found. Richard expressed concern about the mowing contractor not being bonded, not having lights, and not putting signs out and not having a registered tractor, as well as questioning the time limit for acquiring CDL license – Tyler stated that that is for a personnel discussion. Richard also had concerns that when a Town Manager is hired, they need to be professional and not someone that has to be trained as well as concerns about Select Board meetings being fair and professional.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Eric – provided a list of concerns regarding ongoing projects that are not completed yet. He also provided the cemetery budget for 6 years and explained the unexpended money went back into surplus. He also measured the paving section on Willimantic Rd that has been in question – average 4803' – 130' unpaved = 4933' total. The paving company stated 4925' but were not directed where to start and there was no follow up on the paving. Dan asked what the next step is and if it will cost more – Tyler explained the town needs to decide to pave and that we did not pay for the work that was not done.

Sue – mentioned the draft of the selectboard letter for town report – Marti is hoping to have it all done ASAP. Sue thanked Steve and Hunter for the work putting up flags. On May 3rd she attended a Broadband meeting in Dover-Foxcroft – digital equity and inclusion as well as training and support available were all mentioned. Tyler clarified Premium Choice should have access provided to all town roads by August. He also explained that the connectivity in town through Axiom has not been fixed but permission has been given to move the middle unit. Sue mentioned that with ATV season we need consistency for ATV access. She also mentioned the Monson Collaborative plans to have a potluck at 5pm prior to the 6pm Town Meeting. Rec committee was also mentioned – Tyler explained Davan Walker has shown interest and looking into what we can do.

Tyler – asked about getting the update budget information out to the committee members – Marti will have available at Town Office and email to those members she has addresses for.

Bicentennial Committee – Sandra stated the following events will be taking place in May: Gallery Opening on May 27, Plant Sale on May 28, a Fire Department Boot Drive on May 29th, and the Memorial Day parade will be May 30th.

Beautification Committee – Sue stated the plant sale will be held next to Lakeshore House from 10am-2pm on May 28th.

Old Business

Property Maintenance – 96 Tenney Hill Rd – Marti researched and found there are no residents currently living there, the conditions were unlivable, so Pastor Ray helped the family move elsewhere. Eric mentioned an truck with trailer was removing metal on May 12th. A letter to the homeowners is the next step. 137 Greenville Rd is another property of concern – multiple junk vehicles with smashed windshields need to be addressed.

Water Street Demo Bid – Marti explained it will be published May 13th in newspaper but has already been posted to the website and Facebook page. She has not heard from the owner, when status of certified letter was checked it had not been claimed yet but she will check again.

New Business

Grading Bids – Marti provided the one sealed bid received to the Select Board for review. She clarified that the bidder stated specs could not be met due to lack of gravel, that Moosehorn Rd was not on the list though the grading has been done on that section in the past, so the bidder provided a separate bid for that section. Sue mentioned that the plowing contract covered to Rte 150, possibly as a trade off for Moosehorn Rd section. Freeman Construction – bid \$7000

per year with additional fuel costs noted for years 2 & 3, \$778/mile for additional work. Tyler asked about culverts needed – Marti & Eric agreed that Barrows Falls Rd needs a culvert. Eric recalls that there were previous issues with this contractor – grading needs to be done properly. There have been a few years of improper grading leaving the roads ‘boney’ with many rocks in the middle. Eric stated we need to clarify what needs to be done to get the results we want as well as checking the work to make sure it was done properly. Tyler stated the concerns should be discussed with the contractor ahead of time. Marti had a conversation with Steve about lack of oversight and having Steve check the jobs. It was also mentioned that it should be in the contract that payment will be made to contractor only after road work is done satisfactorily. Sandra asked about money in the budget for gravel – Marti explained they need figures for projects. Steve has looked and agrees the dirt roads need a lot of gravel, Barrows Falls needs to be rebuilt. Tyler suggested comparing with Steve to decide what road plans should look like for the year.

Spring Creek BBQ Liquor License – reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.