

TOWN OF MONSON

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

May 26, 2022 – Select Board Meeting

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

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:06 PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard – the Fire Department was requested to remove the hose prior to the repairs. They were charged \$825 for removal because they did not do this. He was also concerned that the Fire Department should have been told during Budget Meetings that they do not get to vote – Marti clarified that their votes do not count. Richard was also concerned that his FOA requests are not being filled. He has called the MMA and was told to file a complaint. He stated this is the Town Office's last chance before he takes legal action.

Lorette –showed Marti documents from the National Park Service earlier in the day and will provide a copy for the town lawyer (brought to the meeting as well). The property owners on Doughty Hill Road want the town to discontinue the section of the road that is still owned by the town (upper section of the road already discontinued) and turn over to property owners.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Eric – Hill on Willimantic Rd – edges of the road are eroding. Needs to be filled and slope sides for water runoff. Tyler noted that Alan Melia has also mentioned this.

Sue – Monson Collaborative decided to postpone the dinner before the Town Meeting due to mask requirement. Considering tables off to the sides to provide information on various town committees and groups. The Plant Sale will be postponed until Sunday 5/29. They will be available Saturday morning to collect donated plants. Sue also mentioned concern over North Guilford Road traffic going too fast through residential area. Used to be 35 mph sign by Sheldon Slate Co. driveway but was moved to the curve by the guardrail – sign should be moved back to cover residential area before Sheldon Slate driveway and possible have two orange flags placed on top for attention.

Tyler – met with Marti and Steve regarding the grading bid to discuss road sections, conditions/priority and decided to do what we can do to shore up roads with a focus on

foundation work. Decided to skip Spring grading and do it in the Fall as the roads are acceptable for residential travel. Eric mentioned that Degestrom Rd could be graded, is bony at the end – Pleasant St could be graded – Indian Point is past grading – Barrows Falls needs a lot of work. He also mentioned seeing a pull along grader for sale that could be used if the road is soft enough. Tyler explained its purchases vs contracting costs. Tyler stated the grading is on hold. Tyler also mentioned Axiom will be adding new equipment and has received permission from property owners to move the middle hub from the church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bicentennial Committee – Sandra mentioned Nosing Around in June. July activities consist of a town wide BBQ and Summerfest. The big parade will be in August. There is a calendar raffle that will be done – 31 chances to win, \$10 a ticket, with 2 prizes drawn each day.

Beautification Committee – Plant sale has been moved to Sunday. Flowers have been planted and the flags are up. People needed to weed flower beds.

Old Business

DOT – Sue and Tyler met with DOT to walk around town and discuss the issues with traffic. DOT feels Monson is a good candidate for the Gateway Program. There are two focuses – smaller, immediate and medium/larger, long term plans. Longer term planning will require a grant and take multiple years. Short term: Rte 15 will be getting a quick pave this summer and crosswalks painted. Longer term – road widening working with the area provided and sidewalks. They also discussed the North Guilford/Rte 15 intersection and changes to slow traffic – change of signage, changing intersection by island. Plans need to be discussed with the board and to formally kick off the process and invitation needs to be extended to DOT. Priorities need to be mapped out and determine how funding will be worked out (grants). Planning Partnership Initiative – first step is getting engineers involved to determine details and a formal invite will allow for more in depth discussion. Rte 15 is on DOT priority list for next 3 year plan – not a complete rebuild, just taking the road down to the bed and recycling the material which is more cost effective. Improving the road may lead to more speeding so the solution will require enforcement of traffic laws. There are clues that make it visually obvious you are entering a village and drivers *should* slow down.

Water Street Demo Bid – 4 sealed bids were provided to the Select Board. The board opened and reviewed the bids. Due to inconsistent scope, there is a wide range of bids so more clarification needs to be provided on what the bid covers (filling the hole and leveling the property after demo). The Select Board reviewed the bid package paperwork. The owner will be billed as a supplemental tax – a lien will be placed if not paid. Tyler had a concern that bidders will change their bids since it has been made public so Marti tried to call the bidders who did not specify if their bid included filling the foundation but was unable to reach either. Tyler stated we need to clarify the scope and have bids submitted again after revising the package to

be more specific. Decided that all bidders need to provide a new, sealed bid for the next meeting including the cost of filling the foundation and leveling the surface after.

New Business

ATV Usage Contract – request for select board signatures to use the Barrows Falls Rd from Abbot Explorers ATV club. Confusion if this is a renewal. Sue mentioned we need a consistent policy for ATV use of roads and the requester should attend the meeting.

Town Meeting Warrant -Tyler stated we should discuss a few of the articles (Articles 4-13). Warrant articles 4 – 13 were read aloud and approved. Tyler motioned to approve, 2nd by Sue. Article 4 – Marti stated that she believes the commitment date could be moved earlier than August 1st to July 1st. Article 10 – Eric mentioned that value of items should be assessed prior to sale. Eric stated this has been a crazy year, as others have been - in other towns they have the warrant out a month ahead of town meeting to give citizens time to review.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm to Executive Session