

TOWN OF MONSON

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

March 14, 2024 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Sue Chase, Jonathan Pullen, Bill MacDonald, Alaina Zelkan, Marti Gagnon, Aaron Suomi, Glenn Poole, Gabrielle Huettner, Terry Gaudet, Sandra Hardy, Morgan Mareglia

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandra reiterated the need for better cell phone service in town. It's a safety issue and there is no communication when the power is out, or the roads are flooded. She suggested forming a committee to work on getting better service.

Aaron Suomi asked about the progress of the Comprehensive Plan. Bill stated that the state did not have an electronic copy of the plan but that it has since been scanned. Now they just need a Future Land Use Map. Bill requested help getting the map to the state. Aaron offered to help Bill get what he needs. Bill is expecting to have the plan back by Memorial Day and is also expecting a number of recommendations.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Bill stated he is working on budget development and has also been working with Jonathan on negotiations for the fire truck acquisition. The original price for the fire truck was \$349,000, the Fire Department got the price down to \$331,000 and Bill and Jonathan negotiated further for a final price of \$325.00. 3 members of the Fire Department will be flying to Alabama on Monday to look at the truck.

Sue noted the budget should be at 75% right now but it is beyond that. Bill explained that the items that are 100% buyout are already paid, such as the plow contract insurance, road repairs (from storm damage), etc. Bill is expecting reimbursement for the storm damage in 12 – 18 months.

Bill has been working with the Collaborative on eclipse planning. 4 porta-potties have been ordered. Managing the roads continues to be a challenge. Steve has been working on the dirt roads.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Jonathan noted that the work to purchase the fire truck is ongoing. He appreciates everyone's patience.

Sue stated she is still waiting for the fire department call data from December 2023. She needs the information in order to determine appropriate contract prices. She would like the information by next week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE: The open gym nights have become very popular. The committee had another movie night and bought some footballs. At least 25 people attended movie night. The committee is considering having open gym on Sunday afternoons as well. Jonathan asked Morgan if any kids from Kid's Club stayed behind again. Morgan said that Tony gave a couple of them a ride home recently because he wasn't able to stay and supervise.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: The Beautification Committee is considering leaving the lights up on the poles. They are also considering something other than flowerpots for downtown decorations this summer.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: The committee met yesterday for the first time. They plan to meet every couple of weeks. They are working on many things, but the main focus right now is lot sizes.

OLD BUSINESS

Vote to accept Tyler Adkins' resignation from the Selectboard: Sue Chase motioned to accept Tyler Adkins' prior resignation from the Selectboard, seconded by Jonathan Pullen.

Vote to accept JD Walker's resignation from the Selectboard: Sue Chase motioned to accept JD Walker's prior resignation, seconded by Jonathan Pullen.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider a warrant for a Special Town Meeting on March 28, 2024, to consider taking up to \$10,000 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account to install a larger overhead door on the fire station and to elect a new Selectboard member: The proposed warrant was read aloud. Sue Chase motioned to accept the warrant as read, seconded by Jonathan Pullen.

Sue motioned to appoint Sandra Hardy to replace Jonathan on the Planning Board, seconded by Jonathan Pullen. Meeting moved to Executive Session at 6:35pm.

Executive Session ended at 9:40pm. Sue motioned to adjourn meeting, seconded by Jonathan.
Vote 2-0