

TOWN OF MONSON

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

July 13, 2023 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon, Bill MacDonald, Terry Gaudet, Ryan Laplante, Giovanni Lauro, Bryan Alchorn, Brian Turner, Kent Rich, Aaron Suomi, Sandra Hardy, James Pullen, Jonathan Pullen, Gabrielle Huettner,
ZOOM: Sheila Grant, John Walker

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Turner stated that the town paid a consultant \$9,000 to complete the Comprehensive Plan using state guidelines. The plan was completed 3 years ago and Brian wonders why nothing is being done with it. Tyler explained that the process got stalled in the Town Manager transition. He has met with the Planning Board to discuss the next steps and there will need to be a few public sessions. Aaron stated any issues with the plan need to be brought up at a public meeting after sending it to the state for review.

Brian then asked about road work scheduling and asked if any money is budgeted for the roads. Bill stated there is \$165,000 in the roads reserve account and Tyler stated the scheduling will be done with the Town Manager and Selectboard. Terry expressed concern about the culvert in his driveway.

Ryan informed the Selectboard that the lead fire truck is in the shop. The Fire Department would like to meet with the Selectboard to discuss a new fire truck. The department has several quotes for trucks and costs continue to rise. The Monson Fire Department now services the Town of Shirley as well as Elliottsville, Blanchard and Willimantic and the truck barely passed inspection this year. Tyler told Ryan that the Selectboard is supportive of the Fire Department but would like to see a long term plan. Ryan explained that they have a plan and are just waiting for a meeting. He will continue to work with Bill but would like to know what to do about the truck in the meantime as there is a 2 – 3 year build time on a new truck. Further discussion will be had at the August meeting.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Bill provided updates on the following:

Elliotsville Road sustained a lot of damage and washouts from the recent rainstorms. Lack of cell phone coverage was a problem during the aftermath of the storms. Piscataquis Emergency Management will be providing a T-Mobile phone which will hopefully work better during any future events.

Bill toured the beach with Maine DOT and Gorrill Palmer to see what improvements can be made. The group also toured the downtown area to gather information for the downtown proposal. Updated GIS information is needed but they can work off the tax maps for now. Bill is also waiting for a response from Axiom on pole selection for the WiFi.

The installation date has not yet been set for the EV charging station. There needs to be a new plan for placement of the charger as it will be in the way of snow removal if it is put where originally planned.

Tyler asked about the status of the broken streetlight on the Greenville Rd. Marti explained that Jade has been working with the supplier of the lights for almost a year and has had no success. The office staff will try to find a new supplier.

Bill has been working with Chris Later on a process for overseeing burials, and with Kent Rich on enforcement issues.

The Code Enforcement Officer and Sexton will now be paid on a monthly basis.

Tyler requested that Bill coordinate a work session to discuss priorities prior to the next Selectboard meeting.

The fire/EMS contract with the Town of Shirley has been implemented.

Bill was unable to meet the deadline for submitting an application for a \$50,000 grant from the Community Resilience Partnership. The next opportunity to apply for the grant will likely be in the fall.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Kent Rich stated that the situation at 96 Tenney Hill Rd will need to be turned over to the Selectboard. The Selectboard voted 3 – 0 to amend the agenda to include a report on the property. Kent explained that the bank took over the property and was going to clean it up but then he was informed that the bank is now putting the responsibility back on the owners. Tyler

suggested putting the matter off until the next meeting when more information can be provided. The Selectboard voted 3 – 0 to postpone the matter. Sue asked Kent to submit monthly reports that include more information on enforcement issues.

Sue Chase noted that the next agenda should include updating the Rules of Order and all future agendas should include a fiscal report. She also requested that specific items be listed under Old Business, so topics don't get forgotten.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: Bill suggested that the Recreation Committee should be encouraged to work with the Festival Committee. They are still working on organizing the gym basement.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Sandra stated the committee made \$1000 from the plant sale. They intend to purchase new planters and a bench to place near the bridge. She also noted the committee will begin meeting quarterly rather than monthly.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider a Quit Claim Deed for Cincotta – The Selectboard signed the quit claim deeds for back taxes paid.

Consider whether to place an article on a Special Town Meeting warrant, to be described as: “Shall the Town vote to approve an Amendment to the Town of Monson Land Use Ordinance, Section 5, Rural Residential District (RRD) Dimensional Requirements.”: Bill explained that a Special Town Meeting date needs to be set 60 days from now with a public hearing held beforehand. The article language needs to be posted 7 days before the meeting. Tyler Adkins motioned to set dates for the Special Town Meeting and Public Hearing, seconded by JD Walker. A Public Hearing date was set for August 10, 2023, at 5:30 PM and the Special Town Meeting date was set for September 14, 2023, at 5:30 PM. Vote 3 – 0

Consider the Comprehensive Plan Process: Tyler stated that he thought the Planning Board did not want to continue its role in the Comprehensive Plan process. James Pullen replied that if there is more to be done on the plan, they would rather have it be more of a public process than a Planning Board process. Jonathan Pullen feels that the Planning Board completed the process, but Tyler feels that the document is unfinished. After a short discussion about what needs to be completed, Tyler stated that the Previous Planning Board turned in a finished document and handed it off to the previous Town Manager to complete other sections. Brian, James and Jonathan all stated that the Town Manager was only supposed to plug in budgetary numbers, not add or change any content. All agreed that we need to find out what needs to be

completed. Bill will Reach out to Dean Bennet and report back at the next meeting. The Selectboard voted 3 – 0 to postpone the discussion until more information is gathered.

Brian mentioned that the Affordable Housing Act was passed, and the Land Use Ordinance will need to be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.