

TOWN OF MONSON

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

October 12, 2023 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, JD Walker, Sue Chase, Marti Gagnon, Bill MacDonald, Jonathan Pullen, Aaron Suomi, Don Dunfee, Sandra Hardy, Kent Rich

ZOOM: Sheila Grant, Brian Turner

- 1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM
- 2) Selectboard signs warrants

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Bill submitted the budget report and stated the comprehensive plan was mailed to the state on Sept. 29.

Poland Spring donated a pallet of water to the Fire Department.

Lori Osher, of the Community Resiliency Program would like to hold a workshop and is looking at November 13 for a date. The DOT Village Partnership says the town may be eligible to apply for federal funds in 2024. Bill would like public input and proposed the November 13 date to DOT and Gorrill palmer. He is waiting to hear back.

Bill spoke with the Sheriff's Department regarding enforcement of speed limits on North Guilford Rd. Maine DOT is supposed to provide additional signs and the town may also be able to order flashing signs from DOT as well. Jonathan suggested adding orange flags to the existing signs to get people's attention.

Bill has had no success reaching Kim at Axiom. He will be working with the assessor tomorrow on the GIS updates and has met with John Simko from Androscoggin Bank regarding financing options for a new fire truck. Sue stated she had read that there is a limit that towns have for debt. Bill said that John did not express any concern about the town's existing debt.

The weekend rain washed out the beach again, but the roads seemed alright. The patch work on Elliotsville road is almost complete. JD asked if the staff emails were working properly and was told they are.

SELECTBOARD REPORTS

Sue stated that since the town office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays the Selectboard would like to have the Town Manager Reports and Agendas on Fridays. She asked Bill if the bids have been sent out for the work on North Guilford Rd. Bill suggested starting the paving on Pleasant St. and replacing the 2 main culverts and doing the major ditching work (to be put out to bid) in the spring.

JD noted he had met with Bill and John Simco regarding the fire truck. The next steps are to utilize the information the Fire Department has brought forward and to negotiate with other vendors. The town's ability to apply for grants was also discussed. Further discussion on the matter will be had at the November meeting.

Tyler noted the new truck needs decals. He asked Bill how personal property taxes are applied to accounts. Bill will check with the assessor and provide more information at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee: The committee is working on holiday decorations. They would like to expand the decorated area.

Recreation Committee: The Recreation Committee is organizing ideas and will be meeting soon.

OLD BUSINESS

CEO Report and Actions: The Selectboard reviewed paperwork on several properties submitted by CEO, Kent Rich. The properties are 95 Greenville Road, 19 Center Street and the old Moosehead Manufacturing building. Tyler noted that all 3 situations are unique and that the rules need to be enforced. He feels the Moosehead Manufacturing building should be discussed in Executive Session which will be scheduled for the next meeting. The town needs to make sure proper procedures are being followed at 95 Greenville Road. Don Dunfee, the owner of 19 Center Street, attended the meeting. He stated that he sees value in the property and would like to fix it up. Tyler explained the building has been deemed dangerous and reminded Don that the town offered a 60-day timeframe in which he could fix up the building. This was almost 6 months ago. Don will ask the one contractor he contacted to respond to the Selectboard to let them know whether he is interested in the job. Tyler stated the town has authority to demolish the building. Bill will contact the town attorney to make sure proper procedures are followed according to state law. Tyler told Don he is welcome to fix the building in the meantime if he would like.

Rules of Order: Sue presented the draft changes to the Rules of Order. She suggests noting that meetings are held once per month, not twice, and changing section 4C to state that Selectboard members may participate in the decision-making process if they educate themselves on matters that were discussed at meetings they did not attend. The rules should also state that videos of the Selectboard meetings are posted on You Tube. Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the Rules of Order as amended, seconded by JD Walker. Vote 3 - 0

Bodfish Valley ATV Club & ATV Road Access Guidelines: Sue explained the history of this topic to JD and noted that the Selectboard should have guidelines to use when deciding whether ATVs should be permitted to use certain roads. She has researched other towns' policies and feels that a more official agreement with Bodfish Valley ATV Club is needed. The club needs state approval to drive on Greenville Road and will need a letter of support from the town. Tyler feels it would be fair for Bodfish to submit plans similar to those of the Abbot Explorers. He suggested proceeding as usual and addressing any issues that arise as there has not been much objection to what the Bodfish Valley Club has been doing. Bill will follow up with Bodfish and require an agreement to allow access on Greenville Road.

EV Chargers Status and Setting Charging Rate: EV Charger installation began today. The chargers will be powered off the bandstand rather than the gym. The units will be serviced by Charge Point. Bill suggested charging by the kilowatt hour rather than the hour. Tyler motioned to set the rate at .26 per kwh, seconded by JD. Vote 3 – 0. A ribbon cutting on November 16 was also suggested.

NEW BUSINESS

Sign Selectboard Documents: The Selectboard signed Beautification Committee appointments for Zark VanZandt, Colleen Pinkerton and Kim Witham.

Authorize Grant Opportunities: Tyler Adkins motioned to accept the Poland Springs water donation, seconded by Sue Chase. Vote 3 – 0.

Bill explained that Jeneve Parrish would like to pursue a Community Development Block Grant (administered by the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development) and that he needs authorization to proceed with the grant proposal. He will have more details on the business plan at the next meeting.

Tyler Adkins motioned to remove the Executive Session from the agenda, seconded by Sue Chase. Vote: 3 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm