

TOWN OF MONSON

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

November 30, 2023 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Sue Chase, JD Walker, Marti Gagnon, Bill MacDonald, Ryan Laplante, Giovanni Lauro, Chuck Beane, Gabrielle Huettner, Jonathan Pullen, James Pullen

ZOOM: Sandra Hardy

1) Meeting opened at 6:00 PM

SOLAR ORDINANCE HEARING

James Pullen explained that the Planning Board is working hard on the ordinance and speaking with State Reps and MMA. They are also reading through other solar ordinances. The goal for the next meeting is to decide what sections and subsections should be included, at which time the board will discuss and edit the ordinance. The document will then be submitted to the town attorney and MMA for review to make sure there are no conflicts. The board plans to meet weekly or bi-weekly in February to get the ordinance drafted. They are also thinking about short-term rentals. The Planning Board hopes to have the draft complete and ready for approval by the end of February.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and Consider Extending the Solar Moratorium: The Selectboard agrees that it makes sense to extend the moratorium and JD wondered if there will be an opportunity for a Q & A session for the public. James believes a public hearing will be required for public comment. Jonathan and James said they could consider a subcommittee of people who are not on the Planning Board to participate in the discussion. Tyler Adkins motioned to extend the solar moratorium for an additional 120 days, seconded by JD Walker. Vote 3 – 0.

Consider Sending the Following Warrant to Special Town Meeting:

**Town of Monson
Special Town Meeting Warrant
December 14, 2023**

To Jade Grenier or any other resident in the Town of Monson, in the County of Piscataquis and the State of Maine.

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Monson, in the said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Monson Town Office, in said town, on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at five (5 p.m.) in the evening then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

Article 1

To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting and to be voted by written ballot.

Article 2

To see if the Town will:

(1) Appropriate a sum not to exceed \$666,586 to acquire a new Fire Department truck, (the "Project"); and

(2) Authorize the Select Board to allocate \$75,000 from the Fire Equipment Reserve to pay for a portion of the Project; and

(3) Authorize the Treasurer and Chair of the Select Board to issue general obligation securities of the Town of Monson to finance the remaining costs of the Project in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$591,586, plus any additional premium, and the discretion to fix the date(s), maturity (ies), calls(s) for redemption, refunding(s), place(s) of payment, premium(s), form, and other details of said securities, including execution and delivery of said securities on behalf of the Town of Monson, to provide for the sale thereof, and to execute any and all other documents and agreements related thereto.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total Town Indebtedness*:

A.	Bonds outstanding and unpaid*	\$ 1,252,485.12
B.	Bonds authorized and unissued:	\$ 0
C.	Bonds to be issued if this Article is approved:	\$ 591,586

Total: \$ 1,844,071.12

At an estimated interest rate of 6.8% for an estimated 12-year maturity (Dec. 15, 2034), the estimated costs of this bond issue will be:

Principal:	\$ 591,586.00
Interest:	\$ 297,361.50
Total Debt Service:	\$ 888,947.50

* Total Town Indebtedness, A., and C., all include current bonds and vehicle lease/purchase agreements.

The Registrar will be open regular office hours, Thursday, December 14, 2023, for the purpose of correcting the list of voters. You must be a registered voter of the town to vote at the Town meeting.

Given under our hands this 30th day of November 2023

Tyler Adkins

Susan Chase

John Walker III

True Copy Attest

Martha Gagnon, Town Clerk

The Selectboard reviewed the proposed warrant. JD wants to make sure this is the right path for the town as the price point is surprisingly high. Ryan Laplante agreed that the price is high and that it may be best to consider a used truck until the capital reserve account can be built up. Also, a new truck is larger and won't fit in the building and the existing truck most likely won't last another 2 years while the new one is being built. He then stated that used trucks sell quickly so a comfortable price range will need to be determined so the department can begin looking for a truck. Ryan recommended not moving forward with the warrant.

JD agrees that the new truck is cost prohibitive, but the need is there, and time is of the essence. He would like to put together a committee to create a feasible plan. Sue asked if the old truck could be sold. Ryan said yes but probably only for scrap value. Ryan asked the Selectboard what kind of timeframe to expect before a dollar amount is reached. Tyler feels that February or March is a reasonable expectation. JD motioned to authorize the Town Manager to draft a charter to form a committee which will consider the purchase of a lead engine for the Fire Department, seconded by Sue Chase. Tyler Adkins motioned to cancel the Special Town Meeting, seconded by JD Walker. Vote 3 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm