

TOWN OF MONSON

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

May 27, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present – Buddy Martin, Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Daniel Swain, Brian Turner, Chad Davis, Billy Ranta, Sue Chase, Sandra Hardy, Tim Bueschen, Rick Clawson, Jim Thyng, Jackie Stevens, George Geis, Jenny Johnson

- 1) Meeting opened at 7:00PM
- 2) Selectboard approves prior meeting minutes and signs warrants
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Geis offered to make a donation to the fire department to purchase AED devices. Tim Bueschen explained that all the trucks are currently equipped with these devices but perhaps the town could put one in a centrally located public space for residents to use if needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following:

The town report will be completed and sent to the printer tomorrow. Reports should be available to residents one week before town meeting.

The fire department only had 3 calls in April. Public works has been working on the flag pole and the Degestrom Road.

The town was awarded a Connect Maine grant for fiber lines. Daniel is working on getting the clock fixed and needs to send photos to the clock repair shop.

8 Mitchell St. has been torn down and the bill will be added to the property owner's tax bill. Daniel is still working on the Spring Road subdivision issue but does not feel comfortable going any further with it without consulting the town attorney.

Dave's World would not be able to do the flooring in the meeting room until September, the other 2 bidders can begin in about 1 month. The selected product will have a 30 year warranty.

Buddy Martin selected King's Flooring to be the contractor, the other selectboard members agreed.

Daniel submitted an updated copy of the town meeting warrant with added changes for the land use ordinance. The selectboard signed the updated warrant.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric noted that there is a plugged culvert on Pleasant St.

Buddy noted that this will be his last selectboard meeting and thanked everyone for their support over the years.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: No report

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: No report

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Sandra Hardy stated that the committee has been planting perennial beds and would like to plant some tall perennials around the sewer pipe at the boat launch. They had a town clean-up day last Saturday and will be having a plant sale on June 5. They will also have a booth at Summer Fest. A dog waste bag dispenser will be placed at the boat launch. Also being considered are picnic tables, seasonal decorations and a public sculpture made of Monson slate. Sue Chase requested that the tattered flags be replaced before Memorial Day.

OLD BUSINESS

ATV Access on Willimantic and Steward Roads: Buddy Martin motioned to open the Willimantic Road permanently to ATVs from Narrow Gage to the town line, seconded by Eric Vainio. Daniel stated that he has had requests to open the Steward Road as well. Concern was expressed that the road is too narrow and too many animals live on it. Eric is not in favor and Tyler would like to get more feedback from residents before making a decision.

Road Work Bid/Schedule: Daniel stated that he spent some time with Chad going over the road work to see what can be done to stay within budget. Chad submitted a new bid and Daniel explained that 5,000 feet of ditching was removed from the scope of work and that Chad would focus only on crosspipes and not driveway pipes. The work will be done in early to mid-June and the Ellitsville Road work should take about 3 ½ weeks. Daniel has not yet heard from

Allstate about the paving schedule. Buddy Martin motioned to accept Chad's new bid for \$80,305.00 for work described, seconded by Tyler Adkins. Chad noted that the price does not include flaggers so the road will need to be closed for a short period of time while the work is done.

NEW BUSINESS

Bjork Road: Daniel stated that Rod Bjork has requested that the road be graded and asked if anyone knows why no work is ever done to the road. Buddy stated that it's because no one lives there. Brian Turner stated that he used to use a few loads of gravel on the road every year to smooth it out. Daniel then explained that Bjork Road is not in the budget or the road plan but Mr. Bjork states that if the town does not maintain the road, then it prohibits him from accessing his property. Daniel will get more information on the situation and the town will have to decide whether to maintain the road or discontinue it.

Winter Sand: One winter sand bid was received from Bruce Thomas. Daniel explained that he asked Bruce for a price for a 3 year contract. The pricing submitted was \$14.40 per yard for 2021, up to 2000 yards, \$13.50 per yard for 2022, 2023 and 2024, up to 2000 yards per year. Buddy Martin motioned to accept Bruce Thomas's bid for the next 4 years, seconded by Eric Vainio.

Grading Bids: One bid was received from Chris Gray for grading. The bid was for \$5,200.00 and there is \$3,500.00 in the budget. No references were given, and no one is familiar with Chris's work. Tyler would like to see references. Daniel will also call Zack Herrick to see if he is interested in bidding on the work.

Public Works Equipment: Daniel submitted 3 quotes for the backhoe loader. All are for approximately \$100,000 and the old loader can be traded in for \$10,000 - \$15,000.00. He then explained that Steve would rather have another front-end loader than a backhoe loader because the backhoe loader has a smaller bucket which would make snow removal take longer and the larger machine will not fit in the garage. Daniel then noted that Arvo Korsman has asked what price the town might consider for the dump truck. Brian Turner suggested getting rid of the dump truck and the ton truck and getting one good ton truck. After a short discussion the consensus was that a broader discussion needs to be had about equipment. Daniel will put together a plan and the discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.