

TOWN OF MONSON

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

June 24, 2021 – Select Board Meeting

Present –Tyler Adkins, Eric Vainio, Sue Chase, Daniel Swain, John Moore, Bobbie Crockett, Jackie Stevens, Diane Dube, Brian Turner, Buddy Martin, Colleen Pinkerton

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Colleen Pinkerton stated that she has been cleaning the town office and noted that the floor mats need to be replaced. She stated that there is a company that will swap out the rugs every so often and replace them with clean ones. She also noted that the bridge needs to be repaired and the front of the counter in the office looks very shabby and needs to be painted.

Bobbie Crockett noted that communication is still an issue. She was unable to find the town manager report or the prior meeting minutes on the website, and no one seems to be aware that the new dentist office is open. Daniel said that he will be posting the dentist info on the community sign.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

TOWN MANGER REPORT

Daniel provided updates on the following:

There were no bids for the ADA ramp and the doors at the gym, but he did meet someone new to town who is a contractor who is working on putting together a quote for the projects. The floor in the meeting room should be in a couple of weeks.

Public Works has been working on pre-paving work as well as repair work on the Degestrom Road, Pleasant Street and Barrows Falls Road. Chad is done with the pre-paving work that he was working on. Allstate does not want to begin paving until they are paid for the last work they did. Daniel mentioned that they sent a bill for the remainder for approximately \$75,000 but that they had previously agreed to deduct \$4,000 from the bill. Ron from Allstate told Daniel to send a check for whatever amount was agreed upon.

Daniel has been working on the equipment plan as well as implementation of the Fire Department restitution. There has been lots of progress on the communication tower, but it still needs power. The fire department may be laying the conduit themselves to save money.

Steve will be building a ramp at the transfer station so the electronics bin can be pushed into the recycling truck.

The federal government has updated the guidance on spending the recovery money. It may be used to recoup Covid losses, broadband, water, and sewer but it likely will not be able to be spent on road work. Daniel also mentioned that the state has asked for an extension for distributing the money. Monson's share will be approximately \$65,000.

Daniel has a map of the roads that will benefit from the Premium Choice grant. Premium Choice is ready to begin installing the broadband, but it will probably be a year or so before it is complete.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Eric noted the following observations:

The wooden frame around the fire department sign is dangling, the walkway over the canal needs repair, the slide ladder at the playground is still broken, there are two big rocks on the Degestrom Road that need to be removed, the flashing speed sign is only half lit (Daniel has spoken to the Sheriff's Department about it), it's important that the transfer station gate is kept locked to prevent theft of the culverts, the town might consider putting some gravel on the plow turnaround on Forest Ave as the area tends to get soft. A resident on Elliotsville Road is still upset because corrections still have not been made to his property information on the website. Daniel explained that the corrections will not be made until the commitment is done.

Eric also asked for updates on the following:

Clock repair – Daniel needs to submit photos and information to the repair shop.

Dog waste station at the boat launch – Daniel stated that it will be installed soon.

Sue Chase asked who takes care of checking on playground maintenance. Daniel said that he and Steve check on it.

Tyler Adkins asked when the GIS maps will be done and if the Route 15 road work has been approved. Daniel stated the maps will be done when the commitment is done, and the road

work has been approved but will not be official until the federal budget is passed. The project is still a few years away.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: Bobbie Crockett stated that Summerfest plans are still moving forward. Daniel stated that despite having looked everywhere they can think of he and Steve have been unable to find the Summerfest banners.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: The committee will be meeting again during the second week of July. They have chosen a design for the coin and the t-shirts and are currently working on fundraising.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Colleen noted that the flowers are all planted, and John Wentworth donated planters for the bridge. The plants left over from the plant sale are free for the taking. The committee purchased a wheeled watering system for watering the plants and are planning on setting up a table at Summerfest. They are also discussing the possibility of a sculpture in town and are hoping for input from residents and the business community.

OLD BUSINESS

ATV Access on Steward Road: Daniel noted that there is a petition going around to allow ATVs on the Steward Road. Sue Chase asked if since ATVs do not need insurance, will the town be liable if there is an accident. Daniel stated that the town will not be liable.

Road Work Update: Chad Davis is finishing up the pre-paving work. Allstate will be in town next week the scope out the work and order materials. The paving should take about 4 days.

Bjork Road: Daniel did more research on discontinuing roads and found out that to discontinue a road, no work can have been done to it for 30 years. The town attorney said that the town has no liability for not maintaining a road but would be liable for poor workmanship. Daniel also found out the taxes do not have to be abated if a person can't access their property. Whereas the Bjork Road resident owns a grader, Daniel suggested offering him a small fee to grade the road himself.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Time: It was decided that the selectman's meetings will now start at 6 pm instead of 7 pm.

Rules For Donated Town Dock: Daniel again explained the situation with the donated dock and suggested it be moved over by the Lakeshore House on town land. Buddy Martin suggested using it to extend the existing dock. It was decided that the dock will be used for a non-motorized boat launch, which can be used for kayaks and canoes and will allow limited parking time for boats. People who use the dock can park behind the town office.

Prior to meeting adjournment, Brian Turner presented the selectboard with photos of a deck that was built at Spring Creek BBQ without a building permit. Brian also presented letters that he has sent to the Withams, to which he received no response. He requested that the selectboard take legal action against the Withams. Daniel noted that he and the attorney would have to go to court to address the issue to enforce it. Tyler suggested waiting until the next meeting to discuss the matter further so it can be put on the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.