

Town of Monson - Select Board Meeting Agenda

December 19, 2017

Present were: Select board – Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, and Daniel Swain (Interim Town Manager).

Some town members attending: Jim Greenleaf, Mike Witham, Rebekah Anderson, Martha (Marti) Gagnon, Andy Sterling Delores (Dee) Adams, Chris (Snow Plow guy), Amelia Trader, Robert (Bob) Jarvis, Roberta Jarvis.

Public Comments:

The meeting began at 7:00 pm; a general opening with ITM Daniel Swain asking for any Public comments. Jim Greenleaf started off the comments asking what happened to the Town Decorations in general, and also mentioning that we usually start decoration right after Thanksgiving. The Selectmen and Daniel expressed that due to the timing of the holidays and the office changes, there was much confusion along with a change of priorities. So this was one area that was overlooked. Additionally, Dee Adams was concerned and asked whose responsibility it was to start things rolling as far as the town decorations go. Dee, the head of both the Recreation and Festival Committees got a message to be the one to call the fire department and ask them to hang the decorations, but was unaware of this additional task, and it seems we need to make it official as to who is going to be responsible for initiating this event. Regardless of who was supposed to call the fire department, somebody in the fire department did hang the town wreaths! New lights were purchased to insure good lighting. However, it appeared they were not all up, and those that were up most were not properly working. Andy S. suggests that the electrical boxes on the poles were old and probably the real reason for the light failure. Much more discussion revolved around this subject and we concluded with Daniel Swain looking into the matter this week.

Marti Gagnon, the new town clerk, spoke up on behalf of Vern with a message regarding his concerns at his redemption center. Vern's said that during some construction, a working streetlight was removed and was not put back. Vern was hoping the light would be put back or replaced as he had safety concerns because he was still open after dark. The selectmen and Daniel will find out more information to answer Vern's questions.

A motion was moved (Eric Vainio) and seconded (Daniel Swain) to move the agenda to the **regular session**.

Rebekah Anderson will be leasing the Libra-owned, fenced in area next to her Lakeshore Pub from Libra, in order to offer space to parties such as wedding receptions, reunions, and the like. She was offered this opportunity last year via a form that has since expired, as she didn't need it, and now would like to get it extended (or renewed) from May 2018 – October 2018. Rebekah needed the signatures from the town to extend this opportunity. Some discussion revolved around certain concerns for safety e.g. exits, entrances, parking, etc.

Mike Witham asks the Select board and ITM Daniel to waive the need for a public meeting regarding his current liquor license as they are in their 5th year serving liquor. He had a 4th year meeting where no-one came, so his license was waived, and asked it be waived again. If there are no public issues with this the select board may choose to waive this without a public meeting. Daniel and Eric will double check.

It was asked and assured by the select board, that town meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month unless otherwise moved.

Daniel commented that the select board asked him to extend his stay through February after the Town Meeting, because of the budget. It is simpler to keep Daniel in place as we work through the Budget meetings. Daniel confirmed that he would indeed stay on, and also expressed he applied for a permanent seat.

The next discussion was regarding the gate repair at the Transfer Station, done by Travis **Herrick**. Apparently discussion between Travis and Daniel was unclear, as Daniel, though understanding that the job would be approximately \$2500.00, was waiting for Travis' itemized list on the entire gate repair process and what the

costs were going to be, and then he (Daniel) had planned to run it by the select board for approval, and relay the select board's decision back to Travis. The problem came when Travis instead began the actual remake of the gate without full authorization (or understanding), and when finished sent a bill for \$2200.00, (which was \$300.00 less than his original quote of \$2500.00). Adding to the confusion, the undercharge may have taken the edge off the misunderstanding for the board. However, the job done was found unsatisfactory and now we are stuck, especially since the Herrick company has no competition. Lesson learned for all, as Buddy Martin pointed out, all town jobs should be supervised by a qualified person who can identify unsatisfactory workmanship. Now we just have to find all these qualified supervisors!

Rebekah suggested we begin documenting all infractions any time we are dissatisfied with the work we hire. Track all mishaps, mistakes, and other unforeseen costly errors even around jobs like plowing, sanding and the like. There was added input from Dee and others regarding the contracts and asked if we need to add some things to them as they may be too simple. Mike Witham suggested adding to the contract surcharges for inferior work or non-contract work, especially since there are no other contractors we can hire at this time. Rebekah reiterated that we ought to document infractions anyway and should some other new company rise up, then we'd at least have documentation – something in writing that may allow us to break our contract. Daniel commented that the town clerks write everything down if they become aware there's a problem.

Chris comments that he'd noticed the state roads were not plowed well – particularly the shoulders and that in places he had been doing it because it was needed. However Chris does not want to use town equipment or his own to do a job that should have been done by the state and some asked for a phone number so someone could call in a complaint. Some other discussion revolved around this subject.

There was some discussion regarding signage that Libra owns; where the property lines were for signs, and where our sign was for the Gym.

Buddy Martin brought up the sand issue in that there was one bucket per storm, per household. Some discussion regarding sand led to another discussion regarding the Seacoast company who will be providing security cameras at the salt and sand sheds.

New Business: Daniel asked some questions regarding the towns budget process; how often the meetings were held and such. The Town Report must be completed by early February for the Auditor who needs dates. The Towns Budget Meeting is slated for March 17, 2018.

Buddy Martin comments that his term for selectman is up this year and he will not be running again. If anyone wants to run or nominate someone, they have ten working days before the Annual Town Meeting to get their names added to the list.

Snow Roller Day: Some question was brought up regarding where/if we could have sledding. In previous years sledding was held on Brian Turner's hill. But now, due to liability, we can no longer allow sledding on private property as a town event. Therefore, the place for sledding will be the hill behind the gym.

Daniel comments about hiring a currier to make bank deposits so we do not have to lose our clerks all day long running to the bank. For a small fee we can hire a runner. It is secure and the bank will mail all receipts. Some discussion about this subject included discussion about a 'Repeater', which is a tool for communication.

The contract for dumping snow between the Town and the Witham's was signed.

The discussions began to digress when we chatted about things like the gym being renovated, hiring a carpenter to fix a roof, and who plowed over at Indian point!

At 8:03pm, Eric Vaino made a motion to move to close the Business Session of the meeting and move to the Executive Session. Daniel seconded. However, there was one more question from Rebekah Anderson regarding the taxes and the Libra Foundation. Following some discussion, as we understand – in a nutshell – any tax they pay is really a gift to the town, as they do not legally have to pay taxes. They did however promise to pay some

taxes, and we know they want to help Monson, but Libra did not say how much or for how long. Mike Witham pointed out that this is all public information that anyone of us can look at any time anyway, so after some discussion we left it that anyone who wants to know can come down to the town office and ask for the information. Our concerns were only meant for gathering information so we could know best how to plan our budget. Someone (I don't know who), will contact Craig Denakas to see if they can find out their intentions for our budget concerns.

At 8:16pm, the meeting was again moved and seconded to close, so the Select board could move to their Executive meeting.