

Town of Monson - Select Board Meeting Agenda

January 11, 2018

Present were: Select board – Brita Cronkite, Eric Vainio, and Daniel Swain.

Several Town members attending (primarily because of the previous budget meeting): Cindy Turner, Brian Turner, Nancy Putnam, Andy Sterling, Lucas Butler, Jim Greenleaf, Bob Jarvis, Roberta Jarvis.

Meeting began at 7:09 pm.

Brita motioned the meeting to open for *public comment*.

Jim Greenleaf opened the public comments with his concerns of the poor job the Herrick Bros. Co. is doing with the plowing, salt and sanding of our roads. Daniel Swain remarked that due to the high volume of calls he received regarding road conditions caused him to personally go out and check the roads for himself. Although he did feel that the salt and sanding were beginning to work, he noticed there were definite problems especially on the North Guilford Road (Pineland Farms area) and Steward Road. Lucas Butler, Chris Latter and Daniel Swain all took rides around our general vicinity such as Abbott and found their roads better maintained. By comparison, Monson roads seemed generally unsafe for public use especially in an emergency, with much unattended snow-drifting and blowing with many narrow areas that should have been widened. Cindy Turner commented that out on the No. Guilford Rd. near Pineland Farm she had to pull over to let oncoming traffic pass before she could use the road herself.

Daniel called Herrick and spoke to Travis Herrick to convey his concerns. Travis remarked that Daniel was new to Monson and didn't realize that the same people complain over and over and are trying to make them lose money. Daniel commented on the attitude during his conversation with Travis and because Daniel felt Travis was confrontational, he found it difficult to have a meaningful conversation. Others at the meeting added their observations and were in agreement that the roads were indeed a problem and some of the residents had to clean the roads themselves. Some remarks were added that there seemed to be a waste of sand being used on roads that should have been widened and plowed beforehand. Eric Vainio reminded us all how bad the roads were on Christmas day, and that it was several hours before even the first plowing was done. Lucas Butler was particularly troubled by the problem as the author of the contract, as he clearly wrote it to eliminate any question about how we wanted things done. The meeting revolved around this subject for some time. It was finally left with Daniel's affirmation that because of the growing list of ongoing complaints he is ready to begin the process of drafting a letter explaining the breach of contract between Herrick Bros. and the Town of Monson. Daniel will meet with the selectboard first to approve the letter.

Brita Cronkite asked for any other Public Comments. Lucas Butler commented on the Pineland Farm and talked about the buildings they had purchased thus far and are currently working on. They have no concrete plans to make any more purchases in Monson and will spend the year working on their goals with properties they have.

Along with some cross talking and random comments, Eric Vainio asked about the budgeting process.

The discussion veered to the signage in town and whether Libra/Pineland expects our signs to have a certain quality. Lucas Butler assured those involved in the conversation that there were no requirements for Libra and they do not have any expectations. He also said the town doesn't need to "help" Libra, but it is nice to be working together [toward common interest].

Brita closes the Public Comments part of the meeting, and we move to *Old Business*.

- A) Cameron Paving invoice was brought to the selectboard's attention by Daniel. It seems there is a charge of \$3,860.00 they say is past due for a patch job they did on the North Guilford Rd. Because we believe this payment was already taken care of, Daniel has tried contacting them via telephone with no luck and

was not able to leave a message. One issue was their claim to have used 22 ton of Asphalt for this fix and we believe this was incorrect and wanted to challenge their invoice.

- B) Accounts Payable/Payroll Policy: Daniel says we can pay new past due accounts weekly. But for non-past due, we need to get an invoice, review the process on Tuesdays, and pay on Wednesdays. Eric Vainio can sign for, and send out checks as selectboard legally has to sign off before payments.
- C) Holiday Snow Closures: Daniel updated us in that for the sake of consistency and simplicity, the town will follow the State of Maine's declaration of holiday closures, unless it is a local emergency. Brita suggests adding this information to our website. Nancy Putnam is willing to post notes on the door if we are closing. Motion seconded and passed.
- D) Gym Repairs: Daniel questions who was looking at the repairs. Daniel says Libra will have a structural engineer come and check the building. Lucas says he'll work with the Gym Committee who is looking at floor grading, mold check, and other major issues. The town may be able to piggy back off Libra's engineer

Meeting was moved to *New Business*

- a) The Tax Collector is to release Fred Krone as Town Manager and recommit it to Daniel Swain.
- b) There is a lien on 118 Tenney Hill Road and at this time the town owns the property which will force us to claim it. Because the town does not wish to own real estate, we need to formally decide what to do about it. One option, Daniel advises, is to sell back the property for the price of the back taxes. Another option is to repurpose the property or just sell it out to the open market. At this time the taxes are for about \$1300.xx. Daniel can draft up a quick claim deed and absolve all liens. Brita suggests including anticipated future costs to the quick claim deed. The selling price is at the discretion of the town. Brita added the ongoing problems of animal complaints, and the many warnings the owner has had to make changes. It is the opportunity to say that this is the time to deal with the animal problem in exchange for this near gift of the town allowing them to buy their property back for the low cost of back taxes paid back, and in addition, that this property is not even zoned for livestock. That said, it was understood by all present that this owner would take care of the animal problem. Daniel will draft up the contract, and it was said they would allow them five days to settle up.

Eric asked about this time about whether a light issue on Water Street was our problem or not, and if Daniel heard any more regarding the ISO Rating. There was no discussion on either one as there was no new information. However, Jim Greenleaf commented that his insurance did indeed increase due to this ISO rating. Daniel offered to try and get a copy of the report from the State Farm agent. Lucas said it was a "messy rating on paper", and added that we were basically stuck with whatever they claim. Daniel reminded us that much of the rating is due to the fact that we are rural, and a lot of the rating is based on "response time" from the Fire department.

For the cemetery survey: It is not the town's responsibility to dispute the survey therefore we accept their findings as is.

Not On the Agenda: 'Comprehensive Plan, Cindy Turner remarked that when Julie Anderson was the Town Manager, she got a person for a new plan six years ago, but it was abandoned. We need to do a new Comp Plan because we are changing. Our priorities, roads, buildings, everything is changing. We need new Land Use ordinances and update. Kennebec Valley Council of Governments can help with this process, Brian and Cindy Turner will contact them. Daniel commented that Planning Boards often get involved in these things.

Rose asked why we have to buy cemetery plots four plots at a time? Cindy remarked it was created back when most people were buried and not cremated. Daniel says we need to update the cemetery map. Brita asks if we can research it, and with all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.