

# Town of Monson - Select Board Meeting Agenda

**January 25, 2018**

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

Several Town members attending: Cindy and Brian Turner, Jim Greenleaf, Mike Witham, Georgia Underwood and Chris (reps from PCEDC), Eric Melia, Rebekah Anderson, Bob and Roberta Jarvis.

Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

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

Mike Witham asked the select board to sign his liquor license, to which they did. Mike commented to Daniel that he was very pleased that Daniel had actually called him to invite him to get his license signed.

Most of the public comments revolved around the unsatisfactory job Herrick continues to do with our roads, including excessive sanding that seems spread by someone careless or untrained. Plowing that is not kept up, and icy roads that continue to be neglected. Daniel mentioned one of their trucks had broken down, and another had gone off the road at Homer Hill, and there was much cross-talk among the town members about how things could have been handled better. Daniel comments that he had been inundated with many phone complaints, and thereby, Daniel, along with Eric Vainio had a face to face meeting with Travis Herrick which seemed to be a fair meeting that went well. Travis continually makes claims they will fix this or that, and try harder in the future, but since then have continued with poor plowing practices overall.

Brian Turner said in forty-seven years he had never seen our roads as bad as they are now. Even more discussion about the plowing, sanding, salting, scarifying, using flaps and lowering spinners—much wishing among the townfolk for several minutes. Some discussion regarding hiring a grader came up for a time.

Following Public Comment was a presentation from Chris Winstead and Georgia Underwood, both from Piscataquis County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC) of Dover-Foxcroft. Chris presented Axiom, a Regional Technological Plan for Monson and the surrounding areas need for internet speed along with other tech benefits. With Libra bringing in Premium’s broadband fiber already, we now have Axiom’s plan opportunity for us to consider and identify what our technological needs are as a community, and Axiom is presented as a plan option. PCEDC will help us with grant writing as we may need to match the costs as a town should we choose to use Axiom. One way to get the information out to the community will be to post the Axiom plan will in the town’s webpage for anyone to review. Other ways could, and any hard copy brochures available, or to contact PCEDC. We all need to create a vision for our community by word of mouth to help our neighbors and friends understand what we could have once we understand it ourselves. Chris explains to us that Libra brought in the “installers (broadband)”, and Axiom are the “planners”. He also expressed that all our communities would benefit if we were all interested in this plan together. It would be cheaper and easier to all have the same plan rather than several plans. Chris finished his presentation at 7:50 and discussion switched to the possibility of forming a Tech (IT) committee, especially in order to get all this to the Monson website.

**Old Business:** Discussion on the Agenda was followed in order:

- A) Cameron Paving: it was found that Buddy Martin had taken care of this billing issue in the past and after contact with CP, we do not owe any money to them.
- B) Accounts Payable: Correct dates and signatures were all that was necessary.
- C) Liquor License: Already taken care of at the beginning of the meeting (Spring Creek).
- D) Town Manager Search: A few possible qualified candidates- but the select board chose to discuss this subject during the Executive Session.
- E) Snow Plow Contractor meeting: Already discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

**New Business:**

- A) Town Meeting date: March 19<sup>th</sup>. Daniel will speak with Cori and Marcia regarding the dedication. We need to be sure and post the information about the town meeting at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.
- B) Gym Use: Town needs to get a policy and procedure in place for the rental or use of the town gym to prevent issues or concerns (such as alcohol use) not being outlined to the public. We also need to identify someone who will be in charge of the keys for opening and closing and possibly overseeing any party that may need to use the gym.

**Items not on the agenda:**

Cindy Turner brings up the need for town policies and procedures that would include information for the users to know who to contact for the use of their fireworks. It was discussed that some folks think just because fireworks are legal in Maine they can do as they deem fit; and determined as a town we should at least have some kind of ordinance in writing to help enforce some guidelines regarding fireworks.

With that, the discussion quickly digressed into stories of past fireworks experiences and heartwarming memories...and the meeting ended at 8:15p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.