

TOWN OF MONSON

A Town Where Friendliness is More than Just a Word”

March 8, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

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

Town members attending: Brian and Cindy Turner, Rebecca Anderson, Bobbie (Roberta) Crockett, Alan Melia, Ed Hoovler, Jim Greenleaf, and Bob and Roberta Jarvis.

- 1) Prior to Public Comment, Daniel Swain had informed the Select Board will be going to review and sign the March 19th Annual Town Meeting warrant. As they reviewed, changes were made and reprinted for approval. Afterwards they also signed the accounts payable and any other necessary warrant.
- 2) The townsfolk along with the board spent a few minutes reviewing previous Meeting Minutes for approval. During this time, Brian Turner suggested (from the February 22, 2018 meeting), to change miswritten names Jerry Killam to GARY Killam (paragraph 3, and under point 5a, Harrys Bait, to HENRY’s Bait Shop.
- 3) Buddy Martin opened the *Public Comment* section of the meeting, although the meeting began at 7:00pm.
- 4) **Public Comments:** The only public comment made was by Bobbie Crockett, who had words of praise, not only for the town office, but expressed positive and respectable comments about Daniel Swain. She remarked at Daniels willingness to explain anything she had difficulty with. Also, regarding some idiosyncratic discussion between she and Daniel, Bobbie wanted all of us to know she was personally happy with the way Daniel handled her questions and comments. *[Go, Daniel!]*
- 5) a) Select board approves all warrants, and Daniel passed out to them the town meeting warrant and the Managers Request Worksheet to review as well.
There was some discussion revolving around the review of the Town Warrant, Brian Turner asked about a Reserve Fund. More questions about whether nominations required written ballots or if we were going to raise hands. Cindy Turner commented that only the Select board needed written ballots. Any other voting or nominations were up to the moderator. A few minutes were taken talking about setting the date for Article 5 – Tax Bill because the Auditor recommended to Daniel to set the date for September 1st. Some of the townsfolk felt it best to keep the date for July 1st. The compromise was set for August 1st. Some discussion was regarding the wording of some of the Articles. We agree to try and keep it simple and the same or near to what it was, mostly because this is what we (the town) was accustomed to reading. Also, discussion revolved around positional increases for the clerical workers, the Fire Department and Mutual Aid, as well as other small changes to the budget, and talk about the Solid Waste issues and whether or not we should or could check for less costly places to dispose of our solid waste.
Eric Vainio brought up the Gym and whether or not any of the surrounding towns still “borrow” our Gym for their practices. Bobbie Crockett replied that they no longer use our gym. Alan Melia also remarked the lock still does not work.
As the Selectboard finalized their approval of the budget, and as the corrections were made, the room was filled with lively, friendly chat among those not involved as we waited for the word to move on.
- 6) At this point the meeting moved to **New Business:**
 - a) Daniel commented that as soon as deemed reasonable weather wise, Daniel and Chris Later are planning to ride all the roads in Monson to take inventory, check all the culverts and other damage. Buddy Martin mentioned that on the Steward Road a plow accidentally cut into the tar creating yet more damage to the already disheveled road. Daniel suggested that we start a Road Committee. Eric brought up the Kates family that lives down by the Moose horn area and how that road needs gravel work for example. This is the only family on the road and they live a ways down. Abbott shares the plowing with us because they need a place to turn around. Daniel will post a sign-up sheet to form a road committee.

b) Regarding the cemetery brush cutting, there was no issues discussed, but Brian Turner had a question about brush and trees hanging over at the Cemetery and to clean them up so they don't hit the stones. Discussion revolves around this issue of tree branches and brush that needs to be cut back. They decided to revisit the topic after assessing the situation. It was agreed that Daniel would talk to Chris that he could begin cutting back brush but to hold off on the trees.

c) Regarding Cutting Torches, a concern as to whether the town would lease their Cutting Torches. Some discussion about the lease, cutting edges, and where/how to keep the tool locked up. The town will be leasing the acetylene cylinders and Chris would be using his own torches.

- 7) Items Not On the Agenda: Daniel will contact other surrounding towns to gather information about their Plot fees so we may take another look at what Monson charges for plots in the future.

Someone brought to our attention that the Town of Greenville is interested in having our children educated in Greenville. There was a few minutes of discussion as to whether or not to pursue the subject. Eric Vainio thinks it is worth looking into. Some discussion revolved around the financial subject. One person felt it was important to consider what schools are better at educating the kids. Cindy Turner and Eric suggested checking the penalty costs should there be a change.

Buddy Martin and Daniel chatted a little about the gym use, and the clean up when others are using it. As others began to chime in, the discussion was focused on who uses the gym regularly, and whether anyone who does use the gym donates to the town/gym afterwards...such as the American Legion for example. It was not known at this meeting at this time.

...As the discussion faded away, the public portion of the meeting was called to an end at 8:50pm.