

TOWN OF MONSON

A Town Where Friendliness is More than Just a Word

May 24, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

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

Town – some townfolk in attendance: Bobbie Crockett, Brian and Cindy Turner, Jim Greenleaf, Ed Hoovler, Jan Martin, Amelia Trader, Rick Clauson, Roberta Jarvis.

- 1) The meeting began at 7:05 pm., with Brita Cronkite opening
- 2) Selectboard reviews and signs off all necessary warrants
- 3) Review of unapproved meeting minutes.
- 4) At 7:15 pm, Brita Cronkite officially opens the meeting to **Public Comment**.

Public Comment: Jim Greenleaf praised the person(s) who had graded the roads commenting that he had done a great job noting Indian Point, Barrows Falls and Homer Hill. Brian Turner remarked that it was unclear as to the boundaries of the owner of Homer Hill vs. the town line as well as the Witmer's home and has since become a problem. Homer Hill owner Phil Sincotta was under the impression that town was going to fix the road, as he wants a longer culvert. The town is responsible for providing the culvert, be the owner is responsible for the maintenance of the culvert.

Daniel reports that the state sent us a letter asking us to make repairs to an old culvert at Gully Brook by the Dagle's ranch. Because it is considered a bridge and not just a road repair, as a town we are responsible to fix the problem which could run \$15 - \$20,000 or more. This is not the first letter and it has been at least 15 years since the first time we heard of it as a town. Unfortunately no town manager before did anything to get it off the ground due to the great cost for the town and the issue will be looked into more to see how binding the letter is.

- 5) There are no Town reports submitted to discuss.
- 6) **Old Business:**
 - a) Regarding the Wireless camera at the Transfer station, Daniel explained the wiring that would cost another \$1007.00. Brita Cronkite made a motion to pay for the needed wiring for the completion of the cameras wiring and Eric Vainio seconded the motion.
 - b) Daniel offered the update of the gym. He said the staging has been successfully removed, and is gone. Jim Greenleaf added that the workers involved bleached out all the possible moldy areas below the gym and fixed most of the walls. They put a door back where it used to be. The bulk of the work should all be done before the Alumni Banquet in July.
 - c) Street sweeping has become a hot topic since it is June and our streets are still dusty and sandy from the winter. Previously, a former town manager had rented a sweeper to try and do the roads himself, but the machinery was inferior. Daniel contacted a former street cleaner out of Waterville and he is booked up but will try and add Monson to his schedule. He has not called us back to say when.
 - d) Updating the news on the playground was just to add the Cheryl and Mike Woods who live in town were the ones who donated the woodchips. Some involved in the upkeep of the playground will spread the chips. A lilac bush was also donated and will be planted after the playground is finished off. Brita Cronkite suggested we hold a ceremony to rededicate the playground to its new location sometime during Monson's annual Summerfest. Those present agree it is a good idea. Amelia trader added that she would like to be given more information about the playground so she can add it to the town website.
 - e) Discussion regarding the Bicentennial revolved around who wanted to be on the committee and who should be on the committee. Some suggested to Daniel to first offer to those who were on the 175th committee as they have a lot of info and experience, and then add to their committee as needed.
- 7) **New Business:**
 - a) Library space in the town hall was discussed as there were many suggestions and ideas for use. The town office workers wondered if there was a way to spread out a bit into the now vacant room. However, it may not be possible at this time due to the American Disabilities Act (ADA), because there is no way a wheelchair at this time can go into the former library (now moved to the new Monson Arts Center). Some discussion revolved around the possibility of an office area for the fire department. After more ideas began to emerge, Bob Jarvis cautioned us to hold off as it may be too soon to make any decisions about the space.

- b) A brief description and discussion regarding the Rural Community Development Grant for helping our area with funds from \$50,000 to \$250,000 was brought to our attention by Daniel. He described all the areas in which the grant could be used. Daniel will contact Chris Winestead at Penquis for more information.
- c) Winter Salt/Sanding bids were publicized on Monday. By June 14, 2018, the sanding bids must pass the state sand test that checks for clay amounts.

8) **Items Not on the Agenda:**

Eric Vainio asks about the weedy willow tree growing by the public launch area...that has become a public nuisance. We can not cut the tree down due to shoreline regulations (but we may be able to trim the tree). Bob Jarvis remarked that the dock area was low on one side and wondered if there was something wrong. It is at least three inches too low on one side and Bob was concerned that someone could lose their balance or trip. Brian Turner replied that after his observation, he concluded that someone had actually stolen the aluminum panels that keep the dock safe and level.

Jim Greenleaf asked when the beach area will be put back together for the summer. The things we needed to do were the barriers for the parking area, and the outhouses. Daniel said he will check on it.

Eric asked about strategic flags being place around town.

Daniel suggested we hire an assistant for Chris Latter who has become overwhelmed with detailed work here in town. Many seasonal changes and call for repairs have waylaid him away from his regular work and he has become extremely busy.

With the many subjects arising, Jim Greenleaf offers to ask the American Legion as a resource to put up flags and such in order to help out the town and Chris (at least for the time being).

With the discussion winding down, Brita called to end the meeting at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting is slated for June 14th.