

TOWN OF MONSON

A Town Where Friendliness is More than Just a Word

July 12, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

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

Town – *some* townfolk in attendance: Brian Turner, Jim Greenleaf, Dee Adams, Bob & Roberta Jarvis.

1. The meeting began at 7:00 pm
2. Selectboard reviews...
3. ...and signs off all necessary warrants and the review of unapproved meeting minutes.
4. At 7:15 pm, Buddy Martin officially opens the meeting to **Public Comment**.
5. **Public Comment:** No Public Comment...Buddy Martin closed the Public Comment session.

Town Reports:

- **Gym Committee:** Jim Greenleaf explained since they are on schedule, there was not much left to report as they are doing some finishing work, like spackling and some rough plumbing.
- **Recreation Committee:** Dee Adams described some of the planned events for the Summerfest event, such as the Anything Floats Race and the teen's involvement, etc. Dee asked if there were any plans to mow or bush-hog the lower field as they need the space for soccer and other games and there is not enough room the way it is. It was also discovered that there is an 'out of control' amount of poison ivy in the field and especially surrounding area. A tree has even had time to grown quite large where even bush-hogging isn't going to work on the trees. They/it will need to be cut. Brian Turner offered to do some/all of the bush-hogging. Donations are needed for the backstop on the baseball field area. Hopefully, Dee remarked, Hammond Lumber will offer a donation. Chris Latter and Dee will work on the field goals for the soccer games so that in the winter they can use the area for a make-shift skating rink.
- **Festival Committee:** Dee Adams also asked about storage in the gym, and the moving of the bleachers. It was decided that all items will either be in the storage room or downstairs, also that the bleachers are fine to stay where they are. Otherwise the Festival Committee's plans are all on schedule. There are plans for many demonstrations and Arts-related events during Summerfest. There was a bit of discussion about blocking off Wilkins Street for safety reasons especially for the Anything Floats Race. There was some chat among the group regarding some of the "old time" events that some would expect to see in the north; Buddy Martin knew of many. Some mentioned were things like Kayak/canoe Races, Ax Throws, Moose Calling, and the like. There is always next year to add some new attractions. Dee Adams will also be checking out the possibilities for the future events, especially because they can print out 8' x 4' Canvas Banners (the same size as a sheet of standard) plywood, for under \$100.00. These Banners can come in varying weights and is a bit cheaper for indoor use. However the indoor/outdoor banners proved to stand up to our weather and heat. Vistaprint also offer full package deals for events that may include posters, flyers, biz-cards, and other forms of advertising which might save us time and expense down the road.
- **Bicentennial Committee:** Daniel Swain is working on rounding up a committee since only one person responded to Daniel's offers to the previous 175th committee.
- **Old Business:** Library Space Update: Daniel explained the new space divided between the Town Hall employees and the Fire Department. The area needs to be rewired and divided with at least some temporary walls. Ed Gagnon, Marti's husband (Marti, the new town clerk), has offered to help, along with Buddy Martin who would like to review the plans.
- **The Permit By Rule:** It is a fourteen day start project for our waterfront development. Daniel looked into the costs of 12 yards or so of riprap (8" minimum stones/rocks) at \$180.00 per load to be used in the area. Also, the need for boat slips.
- **Greenville School:** There is still some "pressure" for Monson to consider changing our children's education facility from Dover Foxcroft, to Greenville. The selectmen decided to invite the RSU 68 superintendent to the July 26th meeting for more information.

- **Survey of Mitchell Street:** Daniel searched for the book and page for the surveyor but was unable to find it, after it is found then the surveyor can work. The purpose of the survey is for any work the town does there is within the limits of the lot.
- Eric Vainio brought up the ongoing issue of Marijuana growers in the area. Although they are growing for medical reasons, it seems that Carl Vainio who owns a lot of property including the old Moosehead Factory is creating havoc around people who are traveling down the roads off of Janes Way and Ellen's Way by stopping potential trespassers. However, it seems people are simply cutting through even some who do not own property on Monson Pond, and these folks are uncomfortable with the illegal signage Vainio and his friends are putting up, as well as confronting people and asking their business in the area. Dee Adams asked about police protection...i.e...is there a sheriff we can call on to help us, or whether or not we are in a position to hire a sheriff to occupy office space in the town hall...was brought up as well.
- **New Business:** Winter Sanding bids came in and Gerald Jackson was one at \$12.00 per yard, delivered, and Bruce Thompson's bid came in at \$10.99 per yard, delivered, and a total of 2,980 yards total. Buddy Martin and Eric Vainio reviewed the bids, while Brian Turner reminded them to consider the sand testing. (We pay for that). Buddy Martin made a motion to accept Bruce Thompson's bid at \$10.99, delivered, and contingent on good testing results, Eric Vainio seconded the motion. Bruce Thompson won the bid.
- **Road Names:** Daniel discovered there are as many as one-hundred properties that have incorrect numbers on the lots or houses. This is also caused at least one road sign to be placed in the wrong area. The **Parrot Siding Road** has become a problem with whether it's a private way or a town road. Daniel, along with Buddy and Eric have been looking at our maps in order to resolve the problems. It all boils down to one road sign being moved to the correct area.
- **Road Crew:** Daniel remarked if the select-board votes yea, we could pay for the road crew doing road improvements from the road improvement capital project account. Some discussion regarding the use of excavator while we can. Buddy is concerned with supervision and whether the work will be done correctly. Since this topic was regarding personnel and was confusing, Daniel determined this discussion should be ironed out during the Executive session. Buddy Martin made a motion to hire Berlin Henderson for two months as temporary full time Road Crew, and to work full time with Chris Later; and, to hire Chris Melia for two months as part of the road crew. Eric Vainio seconded the motion.
- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Class Action Lawsuit:** Daniel brought up up to the board that there is a class action lawsuit that towns can opt into for payment out of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. This is a program that the federal government pays taxing entities a certain amount of money to make up for losses in tax revenue because of non profits being property tax exempt. The federal government was sued and lost, requiring it to pay out more from this program. The select board will decide at another time if they wish to take part.
- Buddy Martin moved the meeting to "**Items Not on the Agenda**".

Eric Vainio reminded us of the fence by the canal. No writable discussion followed. **Some light chat:** the subject of an outdoor auditorium was raised to be considered for the ballfield for outdoor activities. Buddy wondered if there was a need. Someone raised the issue of parking as a problem. Dee Adams remarked the stage in the Gym was only used once. No writable discussion followed. Adding comment to the auditorium idea, Dee described an amphitheater in Skowhegan.

Buddy Martin called the meeting to a close at 8:50pm after the executive session. The next meeting date is scheduled for July 26th.