

TOWN OF MONSON

"A Town Where Friendliness is More than Just a Word"

July 26, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

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

Town – *some* townfolk in attendance: Guest Speaker -Stacey Shorey, Brian Turner, Jim Greenleaf, Dee Adams, Dave Bjork, Bobbie Crockett, new Monson resident Ben Beverly, and 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 7:10 pm, Buddy Martin officially opens the meeting to **Public Comment**.
5. **Public Comment:** Dee Adams asked for the minutes concerning the *baseball field safety*, to be changed to read that the field was regarding two separate areas. Another correction was pointed out by Jim Greenleaf. Since he was not at the July 12th meeting, any comments listed under his name were made by someone else – possibly Brian Turner.

Town Reports:

5a) **Gym Committee:** Jim Greenleaf did however add that the contractor remodeling the gymnasium is on schedule and they are now fixing up the staging area and cleaning up the storage area for events. Jim asked if the American Legion could leave items collected for the A.L. annual yard sale in the storage area of the gymnasium instead of using only the trailers, so the “seniors” that do all the hauling and moving do not have to do it twice. Dee Adams wanted assurance that the Gym would be ready by Basketball season in November. Jim Greenleaf replied that based on the schedule of the contractor, the gym should be ready by September. Brita Cronkite mentioned it might be a good idea to have some sort of celebration like a potluck at the reopening of the gym. Daniel Swain went on to describe some of the duct work being installed to allow a better heating system. Daniel added that just today the Monson Alumni Association (MAA) generously donated \$500.00 to the town for the gyms renovation. (Thank you, MAA!) Answering a question from Eric Vainio, Jim added that a fair total for the heating system is \$12,000. Jim added that a lot of perfectly good items from the old heating system were dumped. He is going to try to find a buyer for some of the salvage.

5b) **Recreation Committee:** Dee Adams commented that Cheering was added to the Rec committee’s agenda as a possible future permanent inclusion to Monson’s recreation. Also, movies are always a welcome part of our Rec. activities.

5c) **Festival Committee:** Dee Adams remarked that this year’s Summerfest was the most successful and best ever, adding that the Monson Business Associations involvement was a big help to the Fest/Rec Committee. Also, Dee and Pastor Dave Ray determined the rules needed to be changed for the “Anything Floats Race” in the future. They will work on making the rules less complicated adding they need more flexibility. Dee also remarked that many shops and vendors selling kept their prices affordable - a big help to the many families involved. Another positive comment was that there were some recognized that our town manager and some of the selectboard were walking around in town, visible to the general public on that day, adding to the positive feel of the day for the observant public. Eric Vainio commented that any feedback he was able to gather during Summerfest as all positive. At this time Dee really complimented even more regarding the Monson Business Association (MBA) and their input. Also, that the Speed Sign added at the bottom of the Hebron Heights grounds was a big help in getting people to slow down. (Now, if we only had another one for the other side of town!)

Dan brought up the possibility of having a Harvest Festival. Some discussion revolved around the types of activities that could be a part of this Festival, such as Ax throwing, canoe racing, etc. Roberta Jarvis brought up the idea of having a town-wide Stone soup – that may go well even for Snow-roller day.

Buddy Martin congratulated Dee Adams for her hard work in coordinating Summerfest as well as the other events. We all give Dee a big pat on the back for her hard (and often thankless) work at these committees.

5d) **Bicentennial Committee:** There was no new news regarding this yet to be formed committee.

6. **Old Business:**

6a) **Former Library Space Update:** As we were having this meeting upstairs in the Old Library due to water problems in the usual meeting place of this town hall, Daniel described for us the intentions of the remodel of the old library, which will soon be an extension of the town office and a dividing wall will allow for needed upcoming space for the Fire Department offices. Some discussion revolved around safety, security, entryways, design, and heating issues. Regarding security, Daniel assured us all that any delicate office paperwork would be locked in the safe. Jim Greenleaf added that the American Legion still has a chair lift which they are offering to the town office as an option for the disabled. Some feel the ramps are the most practical and safest and way to attend the challenge.

6b) **Waterfront Development Update:** Since we did not get a rejection for our application for development, we were allowed to begin. Sixty yards of riprap were delivered and we are adding two boat slips/docks. Brian Turner assured us that we are not changing the shoreline or anything else. We are making necessary repairs and not hurting the environment. Dave Bjork asked who owned the property behind The Quarry (restaurant). Buddy Martin said we would be discussing that at the survey section of the meeting.

6c) **Greenville School District (RSU 68)** Superintendent Stacey Shorey was asked to give her presentation at this time. Ms. Shorey's presentation was written by hand on a large pad of paper and did not have hard copies for the group, see attached for numbers. David Bjork asked if anyone knew for sure if families involved wanted to change schools. A newcomer to Monson, Ben Beverly raised his hand and replied to David that he was one family, although his children were not old enough to send to school yet, but when they are old enough, he'd prefer Greenville. He remarked another family he personally knew felt the same as he did. Stacey Shorey said in order for anyone to change schools at this time, there was a process; first the family has to withdraw their child/ren from Dover-Foxcroft. Secondly, the state then has to approve the changes. Third, the town has to vote on the change. Stacey reiterated the withdrawal from the present school is always the first step. Some discussion wrapped around this subject for a few more minutes.

6d) **Survey of Town Lot on Mitchell St:** Since the town has sold off a small area of frontage, surveyor Boynton will do a survey on the lot behind the Lake Shore House.

7. **New Business:**

7a) **Opening of Bids for 32 Center Street:** There were no responses to the bid offer on this property. Since the opening bid offer was lowered twice, Buddy Martin was not in favor of lowering the opening bid cost as the Select Board are in agreement the property is more than worth the most recent starting bid of \$14,000. Daniel Swain offered to research what else we can do to advertise this unique situation.

7b) **Computer Service:** Town office computers are running slow and tend to glitch. Since the office uses the uncommon software called Trio, we needed to get help from someone who had some experience or familiarity with the program. Dr. Dan a computer repair service from Dover-Foxcroft had some understanding of Trio and was able to "clean up" the office computers.

7b1) **Accounting Help:** Daniel asked the select board if they could outsource some of the accounting to Vernice Boyce who at one time was the accountant for the town. Eric Vainio expressed his concerns with our budget being thinned out over these many items like outsourcing help, the shoreline repairs, the leaking roof and other water problems with the town office building. However Daniel assured Eric we had the budget/money and there would be no problems. Eric wanted to see if we need to take a closer look at next year's budget and how the money is distributed.

Regarding the leaking roof and water problems, Daniel talked to the Killam's (contractors) and they said it could be costly. Daniel said he had called for help when it all first began when he was the interim Town Manager. Prior Town manager Fred Krone had tried to get the insurance company to help foot the costs, but they said to Fred they would not help. Discussion revolved around how the roof became leaky in the first place.

7c) **Corrected School Budget:** Once again Stacey Shorey presented the incorrect numbers that had been mistakenly 'cut and pasted' and read incorrectly on the budget, thereby requiring a correction; a simple clerical error. This correction requires us to call another town meeting simply to inform and revote the same budget with the correction. This correction is on paper only, as we already had budgeted the money to pay as it was

understood from the beginning. Buddy Martin made a motion to call a special town meeting to correct the school budget. Brita Cronkite seconded the motion. Jim Greenleaf asked how much it costs our town to hold a special unplanned meeting. Also Jim added since we can not ask the town to meet in the Monson Arts Center, and since the Gym won't be ready, Jim offered the use of the upstairs of the UCC Church over where the American Legion leases on the No. Guilford Rd. Stacey Shorey offered to post the info in the paper.

7d) **Sullivan Family Housing Asst:** The town is not responsible for paying the Sullivan's move to Jackman. This was a problem brought to the town when Fred Krone was TM. Fred apparently made financial promises to the Sullivan's landlord but he acted alone (wrote letters) and did not seek approval from the select board in his dealings with the Sullivan's. Fred also used/promised money from the Chapin fund (an account set up by the Chapin's intended to help out needy of Monson residents). Using money for the Sullivan's also did not have any approval from the select board. Daniel contacted MMA and was told that if the select board did not approve the expenditure then the town had no obligation to pay. Daniel will send a letter to the landlord stating this and that Fred Krone can be contacted by the landlord if they should wish to.

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

There is a Playground/Park Dedication sign that seems to have been misplaced. It is made out of slate and Lucas Butlers father even made housing to frame this sign...somewhere in town. Daniel will try and locate the sign and the frame.

Eric Vainio, following up with a list of past subjects asked about the outcomes of the following items – First, the results of the sand test. Daniel explained the sand passed with a .7% ratio of clay to sand, usually up to .5% us acceptable, but a ratio of .7% sand to clay seemed within reason.

Eric then addressed the ATV's: He had asked a game warden who was available for questions on Summerfest if there were any issues. The Warden explained some ATV riders drove all the way to Shirley not realizing they were breaking the law. Also some went all the way down Pleasant Street and down to Indian Point Loop Rd., not knowing they were not allowed there. It was determined we need better signage, and the ATV riders need to be reminded or reeducated.

Eric then addressed Daniel as the TM to give the board more time to discuss the issues particularly the issues involving financial decisions.

Eric then asked for an update on the canal fence. Daniel told us that he had contacted the Allen fence Co., and they will be taking a look at the fence as well as other fences. Some other discussion came up during this time as to what happened to the fence at the transfer station.

Eric asked about the possible need to reeducate the public on recycling, especially the part-timers who may be unaware of what Monson practices. Some discussion revolved around Fiberight and their machine that can separate the recycling.

Eric asked about the leaky roof that is only getting worse by the day. He wondered if we could get someone else to look into fixing the roof – even if it is Home Depot or Lowes. Someone piped up that HD has a list of contractors to draw from Buddy Martin added that this was a good idea, wondering if Monson had some sort of “Angies List”.

Brita Cronkite asked about the brush-cutting along our roads. Daniel had tried contacting Chris Roberts but was getting no answer.

Amelia Trader remarked that in back of the town hall, under the bridge there seemed to be a dislodged large piece of granite and wondered if the town board was aware of this possible problem. Buddy Martin offered to look into it. Jim Greenleaf remarked that probably Jim French could fix it.

Turning Page Farm: Some question arose about the Bouchen's farm because as they grow, they would like to have a tasting room giving out samples for Tim and Joy's home brewed beers and also be able to serve snack-type foods like pretzels. The laws require the farm to have certain things in place first and Brian Turner will be following through with the Turning Page Farm to help them get the licensing information and privy requirements.

Andy Lowell – has placed a “Do Not Block My Driveway” type sign on the road at the end of his driveway. Since it is illegal to put signs on state roads, the Department of Trans. (DOT) has to follow up.

- The next meeting date is scheduled for August 9th
- Buddy Martin called the *public portion* of the meeting to a close at 8:53pm, executive session ended at 9:42pm.