

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## August 23, 2018 - Select Board Meeting

Present Selectboard Members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, Brita Cronkite, and Town Manager, Daniel Swain.  
Townfolk in attendance: Brian Turner, Jim Greenleaf, Tyler Adkins, Bobbie Crockett, Bob and Roberta Jarvis

1. The Selectboard meeting, this one time located in the sanctuary of the UC Church above the American Legion on the No. Guilford Rd., began earlier because it was followed by a special town meeting. The town meeting, sparsely attended only took a half hour. The Selectboard decided to stay and follow up with the regular Selectman's meeting – beginning at about 6:30pm.

2. Selectboard reviews warrants and unapproved meeting minutes.

3. Selectboard signs off all approved and necessary warrants and unapproved meeting minutes.

4. At 7:05 pm, Buddy Martin officially opens the meeting to **Public Comment**.

5. **Public Comment: Tyler Adkins** a local, independent candidate, running for a seat in the 'House', and a resident of Monson, expressed his interest in the whole Piscataquis County area and the many problems confronting the aging population, the infrastructure, and even the problem of broadband, as well as other issues. He spoke for a just few minutes and stayed behind for questions. Public Comment closed afterwards (by Buddy Martin) since there were no other issues.

### 6. Town Reports:

6a) **Gym Committee: Jim Greenleaf** commented the project is on schedule and moving right along. They are still hoping for the on-demand water heater, which is \$2500, about \$1000 less than they thought. Bathrooms still need doors installed, as well as other random doors. The Libra Foundation donated cabinets from the Anne Holmbolm house. Floor tiles are down, and all is coming together well.

6b) **Recreation Committee:** Bobbie Crockett remarked there was nothing new to report.

6c) **Festival Committee:** Bob Jarvis remarked that he had purchased 2 inviting banners for each end of town, since the

6d) **Bicentennial Committee:** When the time comes, Glenn Poole will bring us an update.

### 7. Old Business:

7a) Daniel Swain called at least fourteen contractors and left many messages. He was able to make one appointment with one contractor (TC Hafford) to look at the roof since the Town Hall Building needs repair and has water damage to the foundation. Buddy Martin explained the problems with the municipal building and drainage problems, and inadvertently commented about the urgency to get this done...and by the time he was through, had also warily offered to fix it himself recognizing the urgency, and offering (if necessary) to resign temporarily as a selectman. Daniel assured Buddy he need only not vote on items regarding the job. All were extremely relieved that Buddy was able to make a commitment to fix the major problems in the town hall! Our many thanks to Buddy Martin.

7b) **Waterfront Development Update:** Dan Swain expressed that we already have 20 culverts and had a budget of \$10,000 but did not need it all. There is still time to search out a surveyor for Mitchell St., however Eric Vainio expressed his concern about waiting until spring as he feels it's better to get it done this year. After some chat about this subject, Brita suggests they table the topic and come back to it nearer the end of the meeting.

7c) **Animals:** Daniel found out that any state registered officer is subject to the town selectboard who are authorized to discipline the offender if necessary, and in this case, the dog officer. The county dog officer could be subjected to a fine of \$50 to \$500.00 if the dog officer is proved to be negligent of their duties. Buddy Martin brought up the subject of ordinances for the zoned areas of farm animals. The animal control officer has full authority to serve a summons to the family of 118 Tenney Hill Rd. Additionally, even without a summons, the officer can remove the animals as well if they pose a danger. Daniel had tried contacting the Animal officer but the phone goes to voicemail every time. The board will follow up. This same family (Smiths) reportedly have had times when their dogs were free to chase the deer as well, and has happened many times and has been witnessed by many surrounding neighbors who are familiar with the situation. Usually the game warden is called, and if the dogs are indeed caught, the family receives a fine. However, it keeps happening and nothing has been done that has made any impact on this family.

7d) Daniel had contacted Vernice Boyce, a previous accountant for Monson, who he wants to have here come to office for a day and work with him on a few items such as bank reconciliation and general accounting clean up.

8) New Business:

8a) Board discussion revolved around the **temporary employment of Chris Melia and Lynn Henderson**, both hired to do road work. Much ditching was already done on the Elliotsville Rd, Homer Hill, Pleasant St., and Monson Hill, by the Willimantic town line. Also 2000 yards of sand has been mixed and stored away. Buddy Martin remarked he had looked and did not see that the shed was full. Brian Turner said the shed does not hold all 2000 yds. Some discussion revolved

around this subject, as well as noting the clean-up at the dump. Because it is already late summer, Daniel recommends we keep these two men on through October. They were hired out as temps and not a bided job. Next time we will plan and put the jobs out for public bids.

Brita Cronkite made the motion to continue with Lynn Henderson, to extend his employment through October 15th. Buddy Martin seconded.

8b) **Steward Rd.** – Literally, part of this road has crumbled and is gone. Daniel offers some options: #1 Fully pave the road where it is gone (about one miles worth) and put up for a bid. 1 ½ hot mix and a fill, then skim...could get us through winter, and follow up with a chip seal. (hot coat). #2 Grind up the road and do a Pack and Pave. (\$100,000) Brian Turner said a company from two years ago (who never came back) had done a regular hot top. A cold mix works pretty good – so far (1.9 miles), and we were told it may be what works best for our area. #3 Cold Patch by hand (shot down right away.). Buddy Martin expressed the need to do this correctly and quickly and put it out for a bid. Buddy made the motion to do so and Brita seconded it.

9) Items NOT on the Agenda:

9a) Glenn Poole had come in later and updated the board with the work being done to the Historical Museum building. Much was done by TC Hafford. There was some discussion between the board and Glenn.

9b) 32 Center Street issue came back to haunt us since there is still some problems with the family that owns it and their bank. At this time, Tracey Stebbins, the only person who has bothered to take this problem thus far, still cannot clear the title.

9d) Ongoing concerns regarding the playground area. Putting up fencing seems to be our only option.

9e) Ongoing Survey's: A motion was made by Brita Cronkite to spend up to \$2500 for survey Mitchell St. and the playground area on Water St. Buddy Martin seconded.

9f) Daniel remarked that he had asked Ed Gagnon to do the mudding and painting of the old library area of the town hall which would be \$1200 – \$1500.

The meeting ended at 8:05 pm, with the next meeting set for September 12<sup>th</sup>.