

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

**December 13, 2018 - Select Board Meeting**

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

Town – some townfolk in attendance: Bobbie Crockett, Brian Turner, Dee Adams, George Geis, and Bob & Roberta Jarvis.

1. The meeting began at 7:00 pm
2. Selectboard reviews and signs off all necessary warrants and the review of unapproved meeting minutes.
3. At 7:15 pm, Brita Cronkite officially opens the meeting to **Public Comment**.
4. **Public Comment: George** *(Goat)* **Geis** wondered how many buckets of sand the townfolk were allowed to take from the sand shed. The official answer is one bucket per household, per storm. **Bob Jarvis** read on social media that the gym was going to be open for walking and other games such as PickleBall, and asked if that was going to happen. Daniel Swain had posted the suggestion to open the gym and had asked for a vote from the locals as to when they wanted to walk/play games, etc., and most of the responders voted for ‘evenings’. The town would need to find someone who would be responsible having a key to the door, (and monitoring the gym so they know when to close.) Until someone volunteers, the gym will have to remain closed. Someone suggested Sue DeLoia might be able to help. **Bob Jarvis** then asked what the results were for the dumping of snow at the Spring Creek restaurant area. As it turns out, the problem with snow dumping might resolve itself simply by finding new places to dump the snow. Brian Turner suggested depositing the snow at the Transfer Station by the dumpsters; a place where we had unloaded previously.
5. **Town Reports: Gym Committee: No Report.**
  - a) **Recreation** Committee: Dee Adams -Cheering is ongoing. Basketball for Snow Roller Day games between the Law and the Old Timers is planned. The movie “Incredibles II” has been selected for viewing. The Town Supper is planned at some point before the Annual town meeting. Dee expressed a need for a way to lock up Recreational equipment, and suggests a type of cage be constructed under the stairwell that locks. This way they can store the basketballs and other game equipment safely since it appears some things have been stolen. Some discussion revolved around the fact that some security cameras have been installed. Dee’s concerns are with the towns money being stolen by way of basketballs costing \$20 – \$30 dollars each, and 3 or 4 balls are unaccounted for. George Geis suggested camera signs that people can read and know they could be watched.
  - b) **Festival** committee is on schedule and will be updated at the next meeting where the information will be more complete since several people are working separately on their parts. Dee brought up the possibilities of selling ad space within the future flyers as a way to raise money. Eric Vainio generously donated the first \$150.00 to help defray the costs of the town banners that advertise Snow Roller Day.
  - c) **Bicentennial** Committee: Daniel Swain has rounded up five people to kick off the Bicentennial Committee. The committee (Daniel Swain, Cindy Ranta, Bob *{or Roberta}* Jarvis, John Wentworth, and **Amelia** ), is scheduled to have their first meeting on January 3, 2019.
6. **Old Business:**
  - a) **Sidewalk Plowing** – we are obliged to plow if we have used money from the Universal Road Improvement (URIP), which it seems we have. However the Libra Foundation has also been sharing the plowing which gets done between the Monson General Store and the Blanchard Road. We will continue to plow as we have been doing unless something changes.
  - b) **Cell Tower:** - Daniel has contacted US Cellular, and Verizon along with a few other companies that may have interest in building a cell tower in Monson. Bill and Cindy Ranta have offered their property for a cell tower and have attempted to make contact with potentials. Daniel reported the most of the time these companies do not bother researching areas unless there are a multitude of complaints from the same area. Eric Vainio contacted the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and spoke with Michael Liptenstein who expressed the town has no responsibility to get a tower installed, but petitions, and revised town ordinances do help should a company look into the matter. Brian Turner mentioned that Glass Hill has a tower. Brita Cronkite suggested contacting Senator Davis as a possible candidate for help. It was mentioned that Breakneck Ridge area has great service. Roberta Jarvis mentioned that we could build our own tower or rent a tower since portable towers are already in use by “the law” in remote areas when searching for cell phones of lost/kidnapped people, hikers and/or criminals. More discussion regarding cell towers were discussed for a few minutes.

- c) **Brush Cutting:** Chris Roberts has offered to brush cut for \$125.00 per hour. Ingstrom out of Dover-Foxcroft will do tree trimming for \$100 per hour, but if they do Brush Cutting and chipping they also charge \$125.00. Dee Adams mentioned Steve Daughtry will also do work in exchange for wood. We pay \$2500 for tree removal but Chris Roberts was hoping for \$3000.00. We really need trimming and cutting on the Elliotsville and No. Guilford roads. After some discussion, the decision was made to go with Chris Roberts.
  - d) **Gym Report update:** The combination lock was removed and a new lock with keys was installed. Daniel spoke with Roofing Systems of Maine. They do not quote unless the whole roof is being done. Daniel would like them to come and only repair the flashing. They charge \$70.00 per hour. There are enough funds in the TIF and Durham accounts to pay for the repairs. Only the edges are in need of repair at this time (particularly the south side of the roof). Brita Cronkite motioned to go ahead and hire the Roofing Specialists of Maine, and Eric Vaineo seconded. The siding can't be repaired until spring after the melt. Since there is a possible mold issue, the siding must be put back on securely.
  - e) **Cambridge Meeting regarding HAD #4 Merger with Northern Light:** Daniel attended a meeting regarding the hospital merge –and reported some of the highlights of the meeting, such as the town of Lincoln dissolved their HAD district a while ago which is the process that was trying to be followed by HAD 4. The bottom line is that there is no agreement yet. Bobbie Crockett commented the current information Northern Light offers is much too vague to be able to vote intelligently. Daniel remarked that this was not the final merger even though Gerald Nessman is pushing ahead as though it was a done deal. Also, Northern Light stated the reason for the vagueness is because it is still in the early stages of negotiation, which could be impacted if certain things were made public too early.
7. **Old Business:**
- a) Tracy Stebbins who has interest in purchasing 32 Center Street but is stalled by red-tape, has told Daniel if he wants to go ahead and put the property back out to the public for bidding she would be fine with that since she is having so much difficulty in resolving the problems with the previous owners. Daniel has placed the bid on social media, posted it in the post office and will be running the bid in the Gazette for three weeks in January.
  - b) Daniel remarked that on November 26<sup>th</sup>, four properties in town foreclosed. One, being 32 Center Street. The Smiths on Tenney Hill, Henry and Anne Erickson's on Chapin Ave.; (but new laws prevent the full process since they are both over 65 (in their 80's).) Also, Jesse Jones property, but they recently paid all their taxes. Therefore a Quit Claim deed was issued and signed by Brita Cronkite and Eric Vaineo.
8. **New Business:**
- a) FY2019 Audit Firm – a brief comment by Daniel that they get \$7400.00 per audit, same price as last year. RKO asks for \$10,500.00. Daniel interviewed five different auditing firms. Brita Cronkite motioned to accept RHR Smith and Eric Vaineo seconded.
  - b) New Fiscal Year discussion – February 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup> is the old (antiquated) date we have used in the past. Some chat about selecting a more feasible fiscal year. Daniel prefers to wait for selectman Buddy Martin to be present at the next meeting since there are many variables in the change that need to be discussed.
  - c) Banking RFP- Machias Savings Bank pitched an offer to Daniel for the town to use their bank instead. After some discussion and consideration, Daniel wonders if we should seek out other banks and what they have to offer.
  - d) Town Christmas Decorations – The town Christmas Tree has been assessed and critiqued for being much too small for a town tree. Daniel apologized for the tree. Much discussion began regarding the size and placement of the town tree. The wreaths have started to be put up by the fire department, although many of them do not light up. Susan DeLoia made some repairs to the wreaths. A few suggestions were made to try and resolve the problems, one being they were put up too late, and the town should have started decorating in early November, even before Thanksgiving. This way, many of the problems could have been resolved much earlier. Dee Adams remarked that they were missing an orange ladder – one used in the putting up of the decorations that costs between \$200.00 and \$400.00 to replace. It seems in this discussion, the women are more driven to get the decorations going!
  - e) Items Not on the Agenda – Eric Vanio passed out a list of several items that he wanted to bring up, most of which was discussed during the meeting. There was a short discussion about some concerns Eric had with the proposed new employee handbook, which will be discussed at a later meeting. Also discussed was that in the future the town will contribute more to the Kris Kringle event and be more open to helping set up for the event.
  - f) Adjournment was at 9:05pm

The next meeting is scheduled for December 27<sup>th</sup>.