

TOWN OF MONSON

"A town where friendliness is more than just a word"

December 27, 2018 – Select Board Meeting

Present select board members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, Brita Cronkite Town Manager, Daniel Swain.

Townspople – Bob and Roberta Jarvis, Paul Desjardins

- 1) Meeting opened at 7:00 PM
- 2) Select board reviews warrants and unapproved meeting minutes.
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roberta Jarvis asked if the town had decided where to dump snow since the decision to no longer use the Spring Creek BBQ lot. Daniel explained that once all the locations on Main St are filled, Chris will dump the snow at the transfer station. Roberta then inquired about dumping snow at the old nursing home and Buddy Martin stated that it was too far away.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee – No one present – No update

Festival Committee – No one present – No update

Bicentennial Committee – Daniel Swain stated that there will be a meeting on Jan. 3, 2019 at 5 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

New Fiscal Year Discussion: Daniel stated that the 2/1 – 1/31 fiscal year is antiquated. He suggested that the town consider changing the fiscal year to Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, or July 1 – June 30. He also suggested holding a special town meeting a few weeks prior to the official town meeting to vote on the matter. He will write budgets to accommodate all scenarios for the public to vote on. The pros and cons were discussed briefly and the select board unanimously decided that the July 1 – June 30 fiscal year seems like the best option. Daniel will draft a warrant to be signed at the next meeting.

Gym Hours: Daniel stated that the Gym will be open for public use each weekday morning and evening. Sue Deloia will be in charge of the morning hours (7 am – 10 am) and Evaughn Holyoke will be in charge of the evening hours (6 pm – 8 pm), effective 01/03/19.

Mitchell St. Survey Results: Daniel presented maps from the surveyor and it was determined that the town's lot is further back than originally thought. Per Daniel, there is plenty of space to put in a dock, as well as have a few parking spaces.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2020 Budget Schedule: Daniel presented the budget meeting schedule for 2020. Capital Projects and the municipal building were scheduled for 1/17 but Brita will not be able to attend that evening, so Daniel will reschedule those topics for 2/07. Buddy Martin suggested properly venting the town manager's office rather than replace the roof. Daniel stated that the current goal for the downstairs will be to have the front section to be used for Public Works storage and the kitchen area to be used as an office for the Fire Dept. Eric Vainio suggested budgeting for some ventilation downstairs as well due to gas fumes.

Discussion with legislator about HAD #4: Daniel informed the group that Norm Higgins had stopped by the office after speaking with hospital staff and Paul Davis. None will sponsor a bill to change the charter with H.A.D. #4 that will take voting rights away from the public. Daniel explained to Norm that Monson is not against the merger, only the vagueness.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Daniel Swain submitted the fire contract which had been returned by Willimantic. The select board added their signatures to the contract.

Daniel stated that the back taxes on the Erickson's foreclosed property on Chapin Ave. have been paid for 2016. The select board signed a quit claim deed to return the property to the Ericksons.

Buddy Martin asked how the winter sand is holding up, Daniel stated that the town has about half of the sand left. Buddy then mentioned that someone from Blanchard had asked about taking sand from the shed and was told no by Jim Bohrer.

Buddy Martin expressed disappointment that the Burning Moose Festival has decided to keep its name and that they are not will to change the date. He stated that at the initial meeting they had seemed willing to cooperate with the town, but now that seems to not be the case. However, if the festival is on the lake or private property then the town has no say. Eric Vainio

stressed the importance of making sure that the Rec. Committee gets their portion of the ice for Snow Roller before the Burning Moose Festival gets it.

Eric Vainio also stated that if people (especially older people) are going to be using the gym, there needs to be a cleared out fire escape.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm