

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## January 10, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

Present select board members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, Town Manager, Daniel Swain.  
Townspeople – Bob Jarvis, Dee Adams, Brian Turner, Jim Greenleaf, Rebekah Anderson, Tyler Adkins, Tim Bueschen

- 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**

Dee Adams brought up the snowplowing on the North Guilford Rd. She also stated that there is no accountability for the bus driver, who speeds and drives recklessly. Rebekah stated that there have been complaints for many years but when people complain, nothing is done about it.

Buddy Martin stated that he had spoken to Zack Herrick in the morning regarding how many times the roads were plowed during the 2 day storm. Zack said that they plowed 6 times and sanded once. Brian Turner stated that the Willimantic Rd was not plowed until about 4 pm. A short discussion was had about how the snow piled up very quickly during the storm. Daniel then mentioned that he had also spoken to Zack and Zack apologized for underestimating the storm. Everyone agreed that there was too much snow on the roads for a short period of time, but Herrick's has gotten much better.

Jim Greenleaf brought up the frequency of the select board meetings. He stated that he feels that twice per month is too often to hold meetings, and that the meetings used to be held once per month but changed to twice per month due to management issues. Buddy Martin agreed and said that many of the issues have been resolved and things have now calmed down. Eric Vainio would like to continue meeting twice per month until the Town Meeting, then change to once per month. Daniel Swain explained the issue that would be created regarding accounts payable but said there are ways around it. Bills can not be paid unless the warrant is signed by a majority of the select board. Meetings will be held twice per month until the Town Meeting. Public comment closed.

## TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee: Dee Adams stated that basketball is in progress and the cheerleaders will be having a tournament. There will be a sledding/hot chocolate day at the gym on 1/27/19.

Festival Committee: Dee Adams stated that everything is on track for Snow Roller Day. Buddy Martin mentioned that he has heard from people opposed to moving the location of the bon fire from the lake to the ball field. Daniel Swain explained that he had suggested to move the fire as he felt that it would be more appropriate to have it there since so much work had been done at the gym. Dee said that the business Committee was concerned that people would not be able to see the fire from the road when they drive by, therefore, they are considering moving it from the field to the band stand area. The band stand could then be used to serve hot chocolate etc, and the fire would be visible from the road. Dee feels that the lake is too inaccessible, and some people would feel uncomfortable bringing their children because of other people drinking alcohol on the ice. Rebekah noted that any alcohol from her establishment is served in solo cups, and most people who bring their own alcohol are very discreet about it. She said that people have been drinking on the lake for a long time and it hasn't been a problem. Bob Jarvis asked why there couldn't be 2 fires, one on the lake and one at the gym. Buddy Martin feels that the bon fire is a communal event and having 2 fires would split people up. Rebekah then stated that the biggest issue with changing the location of the fire is that it goes against tradition. The Business Committee feels that the fire should be on the lake. Buddy suggested that the decision be left up to the festival committee, Eric Vainio agreed. Dee stated that if the fire doesn't work out at the Gym, we can change it back next year. Rebekah stated that she will probably have her own fire.

Dee asked about the Burning Moose Festival and Rebekah said that they are no longer having the festival.

Bicentennial Committee: Daniel stated that the committee had had a meeting and that 2022 was the bicentennial year. There will be events held every month for that year. Fund raising was discussed and Dee stated that the recreation department would be willing to help raise money. She also stated that other towns have spent about \$40,000 on their bicentennial celebrations.

## OLD BUSINESS

Special Town Meeting Warrant – Fiscal Year and Town Meeting Date: Daniel briefly explained the warrant for the fiscal year change. The new fiscal year will be July 1 – June 31. The select board decided to wait for Brita to be present before signing the warrant.

Update on Gym Repairs: Daniel stated that the roofing company came and did the patch work on the gym roof. The roof damage was worse than anticipated so he's not sure what the final bill will be. Buddy Martin questioned what had caused the damage and was told that ice dams had caused it. Daniel spoke to Killams about the doors and was told that the cost would be \$300 - \$400.

Personnel Policy – Not addressed as Brita was not present.

#### NEW BUSINESS

New Fire Chief: Daniel informed the group that Eric Melia will not seek another term as Fire Chief and Phil Diolio will take over as of February 1st. Daniel will be speaking with Greenville about sharing a Fire Chief. Tyler Adkins asked what the benefits would be of sharing a chief with Greenville. Daniel said that it would bring more professionalism, better record keeping, more accountability and more administrative oversight. Buddy Martin feels that Monson needs better record keeping and scheduling of training.

#### ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Eric Vainio stated that the by-laws need to be updated, the town needs an emergency management plan and the ISO issues with the fire department need to be resolved. He then asked if there were any updates on the Center St. property. Daniel said there were no updates.

Daniel explained that, per Maine law, the town is required to have a contract for a sludge field. He asked if the select board would like to renew the contract with Dennis Patterson to use his field. Eric Vainio and Buddy Martin signed the contract.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.