

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## February 14, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

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

Townspople – Dee Adams, Bobbi Crockett, Brian and Cindy Turner, Tyler Adkins, Andy Stirling, Kelly Wilhelm

- 1) Meeting opened at 8:30 PM
- 2) Select board reviews warrants and unapproved meeting minutes.
- 3) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting to public comment

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tyler Adkins mentioned that he had attended a forum about the Ice Arena in Dover. The arena should be operational this summer. He stated that while most people who attended the forum are from Dover, the Libra Foundation folks made it clear that the arena is not just a Dover project, but a county project. They would like to have more involvement from other communities. Tyler was asked to relay the message.

Tyler also spoke to Pierce Chase who is wondering if the town can help out with the plowing of the parking lot for his cross country ski trail. Daniel stated that he is not comfortable using town equipment to do the plowing, but as a show of good faith the town did open the parking lot after the first snow. Brian Turner stated that it might be a liability for the town to plow the parking lot. Currently, skiers need to park on the side of the Elliotsville road when using the trail. Daniel will speak to the Business Association again to see if they can assist Mr. Chase.

### TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Recreation Committee** – Dee Adams reminded everyone that there will be a kids basketball game at 6:00 pm on February 15 to kick off Snowroller. The adult game will be at 7:00 pm.

**Festival Committee** – Dee Adams recapped the list of Snowroller events and stated that she had met with Katahdin Fitzgerald regarding what he will contribute to the festival. He will be in charge of the burning of the wooden moose on the lake, the curling contest and the lit costume contest. Daniel stated that the fire department is not comfortable issuing a burn permit for the

moose. He has placed a call to a game warden to see how to proceed but has not heard back yet.

**Bicentennial Committee** – Daniel Swain stated that the committee was unable to meet this week so there is no report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Implementation of special town meeting results:** Daniel asked if there were any questions. No questions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Winter Sand:** Daniel stated that the town's sand supply has run out and that Herricks has sand that they will sell to the town for \$12.00 per yard, delivered. Brita asked how much sand will be needed and Daniel said about 500 yards. Jim Greenleaf asked how we know how much sand is in the shed. In past years 2000 yards overflowed the sand shed and this year there was extra room in the shed. Buddy Martin will measure the shed to see how full it should be. Buddy also noted that the sand should be used more efficiently and that it should be bought earlier so it can be put in the shed while it's dry. He stated that the Steward road had been scraped and pushed back while the Willimantic road had been pushed back but not scraped. The more it's driven on the icier it gets. It was decided that the town will buy 500 yards of sand from Herricks and the town will mix it with the salt.

## **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Brita presented a chart that showed the previous paid time off offered to town employees compared to the proposed amount in the new Personnel Policy. She pointed out that there was a significant reduction in paid time off offered in the new policy. Previously employees were offered 2 weeks vacation and 12 days of paid sick leave. The new policy offers 2 weeks combined total of vacation and sick time. Eric Vainio said that he would not be opposed to keeping the old policy and separating the vacation and sick time but would still like to see an increase in years of service before being eligible for the proposed vacation time. He would like to discuss the matter further at the next meeting as he would like time to do more research.

At the previous select board meeting Eric had expressed concern about the Town Manager section on page 4 of the new personnel policy. He felt that the town manager should report to the select board prior to dismissing a town employee. This change was made but Eric feels that it now leaves no discretion to the town manager. This topic will also be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.**