

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## March 14, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

Present select board members: Buddy Martin, Brita Cronkite Town Manager, Daniel Swain.  
Townpeople – David Bjork, Brian Turner

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Bjork asked what is going on with the Fire Department as only 2 men showed up for his chimney fire. He stated that the firemen said that money had been cut from their budget and lots of people are quitting. Daniel said that as far as he knows there is no problem with the Fire Department and that the Melia family, who made up about half of the department have moved to Dover, so they do need to recruit more people. He also said that the Fire Department is being reorganized right now. David then asked if Blanchard and Elliotsville contribute financially to the Fire Department and he was told yes. He then mentioned that the school budget will increase by \$12,786.53.

### **TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recreation Department:** No one present – No report

**Festival Committee:** No one present – No report

**Bicentennial Committee:** Daniel stated that the Bicentennial Committee met last week and worked on a schedule. They are working on a 12 month schedule and would like to schedule 1 event per month. They would also like to incorporate Monson, MA into the celebration but they feel that it is too early in the planning to contact them.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Snowplow Bid/Plowing** – Daniel presented the bid contract to the select board. Buddy and Brita read it over. David Bjork asked if the town is still considering doing their own plowing/sanding. Buddy said that it is always a consideration and that the town has also been

considering splitting up the bid. He is aware of one local contractor who is interested in doing the in-town roads. Daniel then read through the contract out loud and after making a few revisions, stated that he will send the bid out tomorrow.

**B. Time off part of personnel policy** – Daniel explained that the way the policy had been revised means that all employees will receive the same earned time off, but that it would accrue at different rates depending on the number of hours worked. Buddy Martin motioned to approve the policy as written, seconded by Brita Cronkite.

**C. 2019 Annual Town Meeting** – Buddy Martin stated that he would like to reintroduce prayer at the start of the Annual Town Meeting. Brita wondered if some people may be offended and Buddy said that they would have the option to either participate or not. It was decided that Buddy would bring up the subject before this year's meeting and try to get an idea of how people feel about it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

David Bjork stated that he does not feel that Tenney Hill is the best spot for a cell phone tower as it would be too visible. Brian Turner said that he feels that it *would* be the best spot because it would provide the best coverage. Buddy Martin then went on to explain that there are beautiful views in all other directions, but if the tower were to be put on Tenney Hill it would not be obstructing any views. A short discussion followed about what other towns are doing. David asked if the tower would cost the townspeople any money and he was told no.

David then asked how much the tax assessment will cost. Daniel replied that it will cost \$12,600 but that it will not be a full valuation. The assessor will go to all the houses but will not take any measurements and will not have to go inside.

Daniel stated that Eric Vainio had asked him to mention a few things at the meeting as he would not be present.

1) He asked Daniel to request that Buddy be the one to speak about the library at the Town Meeting.

2) He would like to hold off on approving the final personnel policy

3) He has received a lot of complaints about the roads. Daniel explained that Chris has been working on the roads every day but cannot drive fast in the loader. Brian Turner stated that Chris is doing all he can do.

David Bjork asked if there has been any discussion about cell phone boosters. Brita said she believes that only individuals can have them, but Daniel said that towns can have them on their phone poles.

Another short discussion was had regarding the library. David Bjork likes the library but feels that they should be doing more fundraising. Buddy Martin would gladly make a private donation but does not feel that tax dollars should support it.

Daniel mentioned again that he is working with Phil Diolio on the reorganization of the Fire Department

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

