

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## September 12, 2019 – Select Board Meeting

Present select board members: Eric Vainio, Buddy Martin, Town Manager, Daniel Swain.  
Townspople –Brian Turner, Bobbi Crockett, Tim and Joy Bueschen, Jim Pullen, Dee Adams, Roger Foster, Bob and Roberta Jarvis, Dawn McPherson-Allen, Sue Connors, Paul Desjardin, Dick Marshall

- 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**

Dawn McPherson-Allen stated that there has been a lot of talk about the Honor Roll being down. There was a donor who had been willing to donate money for the new Honor Roll but was considering backing out because it seems as though nothing is being done with it. The historical society will be sending out letters asking for donations, but they need to also show good faith that the town is doing something with it as well. The Historical Society will be doing fundraising and are hoping that Libra will give them some space behind the gallery to put the Honor Roll. Eric Vainio offered to pay the cost of the postage for the letters. Dawn will bring the letter to the town office and have copies made.

Sue Connors expressed concern about the Degestrom Rd in the Spring. It gets very muddy and last spring she was unable to have propane delivered. She is also concerned about first responders being able to get down there in case of an emergency. Daniel stated that the road had been graded twice in the spring but that it had rained immediately after, both times, and it will be done again in another week or 2. A new plan will be made in the spring.

Bobbi Crockett reminded Daniel that there is still brush blocking the signs on the North Guilford Rd.

Roger Foster expressed concern about there not being enough room for traffic on Tenney Hill/Greenville Rd when cars are parked on the side of the road, and that it's hard to see traffic coming when pulling out of the Post Office. Eric Vainio asked Daniel to address the issue with Maine DOT because it's out of the Town's jurisdiction.

**PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED**

## **SELECTBOARD REPORT**

Buddy Martin stated that he has received calls about shimming the sides of the roads. He then asked about the dry hydrant plans for Shawn Nelson's property. Daniel explained that an easement needs to be signed but that Shawn wanted to have his lawyer look at it first. Daniel has added the easement to the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Buddy then asked if Alaina Woodard (Deputy Clerk) leaving took advantage of the new personnel policy. Daniel said, no because she never actually took any maternity leave, she just gave her notice and will not be returning once her baby is born.

Eric Vainio asked how many people had been hired to replace Alaina. Daniel explained that Laurie Wing was hired to replace Alaina, but that he had also hired Roberta Jarvis to be a fill-in person. Eric also asked for updates on the following:

Paving the small section at the end of Water St – Daniel stated that this section will not be paved as the road has no base. He will also check with the paving company about smoothing out the bumps in front of people's driveways.

Labor Department Inspection – Daniel is still waiting to hear back from them but overall, the inspections went well. Tim Bueschen stated that there were only a few minor issues found with the Fire Department, mostly training related.

Smith's animals – Daniel stated that the court date is scheduled for October 3.

## **TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recreation Committee** – Dee Adams said that the plans for the Hunters Breakfast are still moving forward and there were not enough sign-ups to proceed with soccer.

**Festival Committee** – Dee stated that she got a response from Bill Greene about covering Snow Roller. She needs to reach back out to him again in January. She also mentioned that the snow roller needs to be put under cover so that it's not covered in snow for the festival. She is also looking for some horses to pull it but that will probably cost money.

Bobbi Crockett presented guides for the proposed Community Sign. She gave quotes for the different designs to the selectboard for review. Dee would like the sign to be paid for out of the donation account. More research will be done on the height of the sign and further discussion will be had at the next meeting.

**Bicentennial Committee** – No report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**SNOW PLOW CONTRACT** – The selectboard informed the group that they are still working on it, and remain hopeful. There is no word yet on a potential contractor. Daniel will look into lease options for plow equipment and the possibility of hiring an additional Public Works employee. Buddy Martin asked Daniel to compare those costs with that of a contractor.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT** – Daniel presented the warrant for the special town meeting. Selectboard signed the warrant.

**ADDING SOLAR ARRAY TO TOWN INSURANCE** – Daniel spoke to Vaughn Woodruff who recommended putting the solar panels on the town insurance policy. The town was guaranteed 10% cost, so the price would be adjusted to include the cost of the insurance.

**DECIDE ACTION ON PETITION FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE** – Daniel recommended sending this to the Planning Board. Brian Turner stated that other much larger towns have these ordinances and they are very restrictive and include lawn mowing. They also have Police Departments to enforce them. He stated that Monson already has several ordinances which are almost impossible to enforce. He feels that if an ordinance is created it should stand alone and not be an amendment to the land use ordinance. Brian also feels that the matter should be brought before the townspeople before an ordinance is created. He also stated that the Planning Board is currently busy with the Comprehensive Plan and other projects. He suggested forming a committee of 5 people who signed the petition to work on it. Joy Bueschen suggested forming a committee to help people in the community clean up their yards if they are unable to do it themselves. Eric Vainio stated that he would vote “No” on an ordinance. Buddy Martin suggested moving it to the Annual Town Meeting and putting it to a vote. The matter will be added to the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**APPOINTING RSU MEMBER** – Daniel stated that David Bjork resigned, and Jim Pullen is willing to finish out the rest of the term. Buddy Martin motioned to appoint James Pullen, seconded by Eric Vainio.

**APPOINTING M.U.D. TRUSTEE** – Daniel stated that Bette Stevens resigned from the MUD Board. Buddy Martin motioned to appoint Vern Darling to the board until the next Town Meeting. Seconded by Eric Vainio. **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM.**



