

# TOWN OF MONSON

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

## **December 12, 2019 – Select Board Meeting**

Present select board members: Buddy Martin, Eric Vainio, Tyler Adkins Town Manager, Daniel Swain.

Townspople –Bobbi Crockett, Ricky Clawson, Brian Turner, Joy Bueschen, Tim Bueschen, Ron Vainio, David Bjork, Tim Anderson, Bob Jarvis, Dee Adams

- 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 an omission in the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes stated that Daniel told her that she could purchase screws at any hardware store with which the Town has an account, but they did not state that she said no, she will not get the screws because Daniel had already told her that he would do it. She also asked Daniel if the signs, located at the Transfer Station are trash. Daniel told her no they are still in good shape.

David Bjork stated that 6 – 7 months ago he had asked Daniel about the damaged fencing by the canal and that Daniel had been going to investigate it. He asked if the Town was going to fix the fence. Daniel said that he had spoken to Lucas about the fence and that Libra was going to fix it, but they haven't done it yet. Daniel also said that he has pricing from contractors to fix the fence if Libra doesn't do it, but that it will be expensive.

Bobbi Crockett asked how the Kris Kringle event went. Eric Vainio informed the group that Annalee Libby had moved the bleacher seats to the basement herself and that he and Ricky Clawson had helped with the metal. The bleachers have not been set back up as there will be a wedding reception in the gym at the end of the month. The bleachers will be put back after the first of the new year.

David Bjork thanked Eric and Ricky for putting up the Town Christmas tree and asked what had happened with the vandalism at the gym. Daniel explained that 2 local kids had done the vandalism and that one has since moved out of town and the other one has been spoken to.

Ricky Clawson brought up the following concerns:

Who is in charge of the lights at the gym. Daniel stated that no one oversees them since Evaughn stopped opening and closing the gym due to vandalism. Dee stated that she had also sent Daniel an email about the lights being on for 3 mornings.

The gym side exits were not shoveled out for the Kris Kringle fair. Daniel will make a list of shoveling that needs to be done after storms.

On a Monday morning after an ice storm, kids were walking in the road because the sidewalks were icy. There was also a lot of ice in front of the Post Office.

Ricky commented that the new plow contractor is doing a good job and asked about why the sander is placed so far forward on the Public Works truck. Chris will be asked why the sander is not placed further to the front of the truck.

David Bjork asked if the box trailer was still out behind the municipal building and if the Town is plowing the Doctor's Office. Daniel stated that the box has been mostly cleaned out, except for a snowmobile and that the Town does not plow the Doctor's Office. David stated that he has seen Chris plowing there a couple of times.

Tim Anderson mentioned again that there is no crosswalk anywhere in the Town. He feels that it is important to provide a safe crosswalk for the kids. Daniel said that he has spoken with DOT several times and they have not sent the application.

Joy Bueschen stated that she has spoken with Colleen Pinkerton about the wreaths on the light poles. The existing wreaths are in poor shape and need to be replaced. Colleen has offered to provide real wreaths for \$30.00 each. She suggested starting with 8 or 9 wreaths for this year. The cost for the wreaths and extension cords would be approximately \$300.00. Daniel said he can probably find the money somewhere and Dee offered to approach the Recreation Committee about donating some money as well. Buddy Martin motioned to approve \$300.00 to replace the wreaths, seconded by Eric Vainio.

David Bjork mentioned that there used to be a Christmas tree on the municipal building lawn. Ricky Clawson said that everything had been downsized many years ago. Eric Vainio feels that the space between the church and the entrance to the Community Center would be the best spot for a tree.

**PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED**

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Daniel stated that the only new thing that was not listed on his report was that he has spoken with Affinity and the new lights should be delivered sometime shortly after the beginning of the new year.

## **SELECTBOARD REPORTS**

Tyler Adkins posed the following questions to Daniel:

What is the timing on the grant for the Town WiFi? Daniel explained that the grant is for \$7,000 and the quote from Axiom is \$8,000. Axiom has agreed to do the work for \$7,000 but would like to begin asap. Also, all the potential locations for the hot spots are owned by Libra, so he is working with them to try and work something out. It is possible that it will be done by the end of the year.

Where are we on the road plan? Allstate gave Daniel a tutorial on the software from Maine DOT. Daniel will drive around and do a road survey before the next storm. He will put the information into the software, which will produce a road plan. He stated that he should have a road plan by the next meeting or meeting after.

Will the clock on the municipal building be repaired? Daniel stated that he now knows how the clock works and will try to figure out if it's a mechanical or electrical problem.

Buddy Martin asked if the town trailer had been located. Daniel stated that he had forgotten that he had loaned the trailer to Chris Later. A short discussion ensued regarding personal use of town equipment and keeping an inventory of all items valued over \$500.00. Ricky Clawson stated that there used to be an inventory list and Daniel stated that all items valued at \$500+ are noted on the insurance policy. Buddy Martin motioned that tools, equipment and all other town property will not be loaned out for non-town use, seconded by Eric Vainio. The policy will be added to the employee handbook. Ron Vainio asked if the snowmobile club will be allowed to use the trailer. Eric will investigate it further and let him know.

Brian Turner then asked if the policy applies to MUD as well. MUD and the town have been sharing equipment for years. Eric will investigate that as well.

Eric Vainio presented the following concerns:

The transfer station gate needs to remain closed so no one can vandalize the solar panels.

When the job descriptions are complete, he would like for the select board to review them.

During past meetings, it was stated that material for the backstop was double ordered. Where is the rest of the material? Daniel stated that it was downstairs in the municipal building and that some of it had been used to build the garage step.

Has the plow contractor purchased his own loader? Daniel stated that he has not, and that the town is now charging him \$25.00 per use for the town loader, if Chris is not helping. Chris and the contractor are keeping track of the usage. The contractor has stated that he will be purchasing his own loader after he receives his December contract payment.

Waiver of Breaks – Eric stated that per MMA, a Waiver of Breaks should only be signed if under collective bargaining or if approved by the select board. It's not a good idea if the employee is operating equipment, for safety reasons. Eric will investigate it further.

## **TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recreation Committee** -Dee Adams stated that not enough kids signed up for basketball but the Rec. Department will be starting clinics next week so the kids will still have a chance to play and brush up on their skills. She also mentioned that the department has received \$52.00 from Pickle Ball. Daniel will deposit the money into the Recreation account. She also requested that the blue taped lines be left on the gym floor until Pickle Ball is over.

Snowroller will be held on February 15. The Fire Department will take over the bon fire. Buddy Martin asked where the bon fire will be held. Dee stated that it will be held on the lake, towards the boat launch, with a smaller fire for kids by the gym. Ice fishing will be held along the shore.

Dee then informed everyone that she will need to wait until after Jan. 1 to speak to Bill Greene's production manager about doing a segment on Snowroller.

The Rec Department will make posters for businesses to sponsor Snowroller events. Dee presented a list of suggested donations and suggested the possibility of having a dunk tank full of foam packing peanuts rather than water.

**Bicentennial Committee** – No report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Review of Gym Use Policy** – Daniel reminded everyone that the gym was no longer open daily due to the vandalism that occurred. He asked how the select board would like to proceed with future use of the gym. He suggested updating the policy to state that people would need to sign up in order to use the gym and that someone over 18 years of age would have to be present. A short discussion was had, and Daniel will work on fine tuning a new policy.

**Approval of Emergency Operation Plan** – Bobbie Crockett expressed that she feels the plan is well written but that it needs to have some education with it as well. She stated that FEMA has headquarters in Alabama and that they offer extensive training courses for no charge. Bobbie feels that someone should attend the training, whether it be Daniel or someone from the Fire Department. She also suggested that there be a hard copy of the plan as well as a computer file. Daniel stated that there are hard copies available and that the Emergency Director for the county will offer a one-day training course.

Ron Vainio expressed concern about first responders taking too long to arrive at a call because they live too far away. Daniel stated that a couple of people on the Fire Department are currently taking EMT courses at Mayo.

Dee Adams asked what the chain of command will be in an emergency if Daniel is unable to get to town. Daniel stated that Amanda Melia from Dover would be the next person and if she is unavailable it will be Phil Diolio.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Works Concerns:** No further concerns

**Possible Special Town Meeting for snow plowing:** Daniel stated that the snowplow contract went over the approved budget. He said that if the town decides to proceed, the public works budget will be way over spent, or a special town meeting can be held to vote on appropriating from the surplus to cover the overdraft. The budgeted amount was \$110,000 and the contract is for \$147,000. Buddy Martin motioned to hold a special town meeting on Jan. 23, 2020 at 6:00 PM, seconded by Eric Vainio.

**2017 Foreclosures** – Daniel submitted a list of properties that have been foreclosed due to unpaid taxes for the board to review.

**Not on the Agenda-** Daniel then mentioned to the group that although town employees are paid with tax money, it does not give citizens the right to follow them around and speak badly about them. He mentioned that certain citizens have been seen following and watching the Public Works employees. He also stated that Chris Later is a good employee and that the town will likely lose him as he constantly feels harassed.

Dee Adams feels that this could all have been avoided with better communication. Eric Vainio agreed with the comment on better communication. Daniel explained that he and Chris are currently working on putting new procedures in place so there is more accountability. Since the office has no way of communicating with Public Works, they are making a daily calendar of what will be worked on and where the Public Works crew will be. Bobbie Crockett said that is what people want. They don't often see the Public Works crew and they just want to know that they are working for the money they are being paid. Eric Vainio also mentioned that Public Works sometimes works odd hours in the winter due to weather conditions.

A short discussion was then had about the next selectboard meeting. Whereas the next scheduled meeting falls on the day after Christmas, it was decided to skip that one and meet again on January 9, 2020.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.**

