

TOWN OF MONSON

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

February 13, 2020 – EMERGENCY Select Board Meeting

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

Townspople –Bobbi Crockett, Ricky Clawson, Brian Turner, Andy Stirling, Bob Jarvis, Dee Adams, David Bjork, Mike Witham, Bill Ranta Sr.

Meeting called for the purpose of properly signing the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

1) Buddy Martin officially opens meeting at 6:20 PM

Eric Vainio Motioned to postpone the Special Town Meeting. He proceeded to read some of the MMA rules pertaining to signing/posting warrants. According to the rules, the warrant is supposed to be signed in public and while some towns do allow the selectboard to come to the office to sign when they are able, one of the signatures was done off site.

Buddy Martin asked Daniel to comment on the posting of the warrant.

Daniel stated that he had brought the concerns to MMA Legal and they told him that based on when the warrant was posted, adequate notice was given for the meeting. Daniel then told them that the selectboard had voted to have the meeting on January 23, 2020 and that it had been decided that he (Daniel) would come up with the accurate dollar figure for the warrant. He explained that that could be done as the warrant is an "open warrant", meaning that there was no dollar figure in the warrant article, only a selectboard recommendation. There is nothing in the law that states that it can't be done that way, but it is not recommended.

As for the warrant not being signed in public, that is not allowed but MMA recommended having an emergency selectboard meeting prior to the Special Town Meeting to properly sign the document in public.

Eric then said that this is not the same information that he got from MMA. He then read from the MMA manual how the posting date should be calculated and according to what he read the posting was 15 ½ hours short.

Tyler Adkins stated that the meeting had been discussed at several selectboard meetings. Eric said that what matters is that the law is set so that town business is conducted in public. Tyler

feels that the intent of the law has been met and if the warrant was not signed properly, a remedy has been offered to rectify the error. Tyler opposed the motion to postpone the Special Town Meeting.

Eric then stated that 20 days had passed since the last selectboard meeting and there had been plenty of time to get the warrant signed and posted and things should not have been so rushed. He feels that he and others are being disenfranchised. Eric also feels that a breakdown of the money needed should have been provided so people would be clear on how the money is being spent. Mike Witham agreed.

Daniel explained that he has other things to do and needs to prioritize his job, that is why it took so long.

Buddy Martin stated that he appreciates Eric's points and also appreciates Daniel calling him and informing him of the issues with the warrant. He also stated that if MMA is satisfied that the requirements are being met, he is satisfied as well. He feels that everyone should learn from their mistakes and move on with the town's business.

Eric then asked why he was disenfranchised and not asked to come in and sign the warrant. Daniel stated that it was because he had refused to sign the first warrant and it was assumed that he would not want to sign this one either. Eric mentioned that he had been the one to motion to hold the new special meeting on February 13.

Buddy Martin motioned to move forward with the Special Town Meeting, seconded by Tyler Adkins. Buddy and Tyler both initialed their signatures before the public.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.