

Town of Monson - Select Board Meeting Agenda

December 26, 2017

Present were: Select board – Buddy Martin, Eric **Vainio**, and Daniel Swain (Interim Town Manager).

Town members attending: Amelia Trader, Bob Jarvis, Roberta Jarvis.

Meeting began at 7:00 pm. Select-board and Daniel Swain had discussed that it was found upon investigation of the electrical problems outside the gym to the Christmas tree area, that by plowing that area they had inadvertently cut the electrical cord (extension cord) and was not noticed at first. To protect the cord, Daniel not only put up a marker for the plow, but also asked them not to plow that area until the tree was down.

Buddy Martin motioned the meeting to open for **public comment**.

Eric **Vainio** asked for the correct spelling of his last name (spelled three different ways incorrectly...) and this was rectified beginning with these minutes! 😊

Amelia Trader shared her concern for unleashed dogs. Our only resource for legal help is the Dog Officer Joe Guyotte and we recognize he has a large region to deal with. We also agree that it is hard to 'enforce laws not on paper'. Amelia suggests the Town of Monson post a friendly flyer reminding all dog owners to keep their dogs leashed, and safe. She suggests a list of safety measures for dog owners. Daniel Swain wondered if a postcard could be mailed out to all licensed owners and some costs were discussed. In conclusion we agreed to at least hand out a similar flyer or postcard when the dog owners register their pets. We also speculated the dog officer's actual job description. It was suggested documenting all infractions from the dog officer as well as the dog owners as this may be the only effective tool we have at this time.

Public Comments closed and the meeting we moved to **Old Business**.

Some discussion regarding the signage at the Monson Arts Center – We were informed that Lucas Butler says there is a plan for all the signage and Libra has some specific ideas. Also Lucas either has, or wants to talk with some from the American Legion regarding the Honor Roll.

There was some ideas regarding a new sign for the Gym, and a question as to whether we could put up a sign, where, and what it should look like. We all thought Greenville did a great job with their signs, in particular the rotating sign that allows repetitive dates and events to slide in and out as needed throughout the year. This would be expensive up front, but in the end a money saver as we have the same events frequently. For example, if there were a different event every month, that could equal twelve signs in one. Bob suggested we design any sign we order with large block letters, and easy to read. Roberta suggested using a no-rot material for the sign – very expensive, but is light weight and durable, as well as paintable *and* carvable.

The subject switched to the leaky ceiling in the town office. Daniel offers a list from the previous town manager. Buddy looked it over and suggested some revisions and clarity, and specifics to let the contractor know what it is we want.

New subject regarding certain lights and if Central Maine Power (CMP) is responsible to fix them, and if there was a public safety issue. During that discussion, Amelia points out the lack of streetlight between Rte.15 (Greenville Road) and the North Guilford Road (by Kennedy Slate triangle). Amelia said she had written to CMP a long time ago, as these lights have seemingly been out for months. CMP still has not fixed this problem and it is their responsibility.

Next, Eric Vainio brought up this ISO Rating that has to do with Fire departments and their Insurance organizations. They rate all Fire Departments 1 – 10 (10 being the worst). Usually rural towns get poor ratings with the highest numbers. Daniel asked for a copy of the report. The discussion revolved around some of our

areas that do not require water pressure, and we discussed Pumping stations and Dry Hydrants. Buddy Martin suggests we look into the area behind the museum again.

Another subject for discussion was the dirt piles on Spring St., in that they are too solid to move now with the freezing. Chris Latter (plows) said that they could move the dirt at some point but at this time the plows can not plow that area. Also the culverts are not safe.

Some discussion regarding plows having trouble turning on the Elliotsville Road and a couple other places need trees removed to be a safe area for turning. Some of these areas are on private property and the landowners need to give permission.

New Business: Daniel discussed with the select-board that the Auditor says we would be in more compliance if the select-board would first sign off for payroll for town employees and account payable.

Things discussed **not on the agenda**: Our current plow contract has a section with a clear clause that describes a breach. There were many areas of our town what were not cleaned up, such as the Kennedy slate area, and the brook area where the Steward and North Guilford roads intersect were neglected. Some of the townspeople who live in these areas have been cleaning these areas up themselves where Herrick is supposed to be doing it. Herrick has all the equipment, manpower, money paid, and contract, and *should be doing it*. For now, we can continue to document these infractions.

- 1) A motion to continue with Hamlin to remain as our assessors, voted unanimous.
- 2) Auditor RHR Smith as read that Daniel could sign the engagement letter for the new Auditor, voted unanimously.
- 3) Amelia – data for website...asks if she needs to list names and dates and terms, etc., about the town employees – and what to add to the towns website. It was determined that hirelings are not hired for set terms and there was no need to change/add anything. However the select boards terms may be listed.

Daniel went on to say he was now available for at least 30 hours weekly. He believes he can be in office Monday – Tuesday 8-1, all day Thursday, Friday 7:30 – 8:30. He also asks for the select board meetings to be moved to Thursday evenings instead of Tuesday. At this time, it was agreed by the select board that the new dates were acceptable and the select board meetings will be the second and fourth Thursday of the month, same time, until further notice.

Some new discussion revolved around the possibility of getting our Annual Town Meeting Budgets published (by Skowhegan Publishing) or should we continue to do this ourselves. Daniel will get a quote and he believes final costs may turn out to be about two dollars per copy.

Some final discussion regarding the date of Susan Deloias resignation date; and the select board voted to accept her resignation. Marti Gagnon officially began her term as the Town clerk on December 29, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.