

# TOWN OF MONSON

*A Town Where Friendliness is More than Just a Word*

**February 22, 2018 - Select Board Meeting**

Present were: Select board – Brita Cronkite, Eric Vainio, and Town Manager, Daniel Swain.

- 1) Then they spent a few minutes reviewing previously unapproved Meeting Minutes for approval. During this time, one change was pointed out from (February 8, 2018), where it read in the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph “...*Ed Hoovler asked for clarification and possible hindrances, to which the reply was ...*” – changed to “...*Alan Melia asked for clarification and possible hindrances, to which the reply was...*”
- 2) The public portion of the meeting officially began at 7:06 pm with Brita Cronkite opening for **Public Comment**:
- 3) **Gym:** Jim Greenleaf brings up the Gym Committee’s decision regarding the reconstruction of the Gym and their plans to remove the stage area and remodel for bathrooms, along with a new kitchen area. Discussion revolved around the alterations and things like the elimination of the ramp, repairs to stairs, storage, the basement area, use of sheetrock, general costs, and the news that the discovery of the outer wall not having mold after all and was only warped. They are looking toward May – June as a date for construction with Jerry Killam as the overseer of the project. Some discussion about the cost came up and Daniel explained that we already had the funds for this project and described the funding in more detail, and that we have a Community Center Improvement fund.

Brita Cronkite asked if there was an argument against the renovation to which Jim Greenleaf replied “There was none except for those who don’t want to change it.” Apparently some felt that because the gym always had a stage – for example, so we should keep the stage. This was deemed as not a good argument for progress or practicality. We were encouraged to learn all the electrical wiring and old pipes would be replaced. After a bit more discussion about funds, and the lack of funding for demolition, the conversation became focused on demolition.

Eric Vainio suggested gathering a crew of volunteers for the gutting of the gym. We all seemed to think this could be a good idea...especially if we could organize a group of younger people to help, and that it could be an opportunity for the town to make it a fun time. Bob Jarvis asked how we were to select which weekend to do the demo. Lucas Butler said the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April would be the time to start. Jim mentioned that we were going to hire Killam Builders of Blanchard to rebuild the gym.

**Roads:** The conversation then progressed to the substandard side roads and Jim Greenleaf mentioned down where he lives in Indian Point was pretty bad. We were told that a gave up the opportunity for their lunch just to make the formal complaint that their truck went off the road following a complaint that their very road was shoddy and unsafe to drive. Soon the discussion then gravitated to the sand problem, in that we don’t have much left to use. Lucas commented that we have gone through a lot of sand and wondered why and where it had all gone. He also mentioned that sand is a good visual for most people to be able to see it and be comforted by the sand and its alleged usefulness, but that salt is really the best for doing the job. We agreed that a good mix is the best overall.

#### 4) **Old Business:**

- a. **Fire Department** – Daniel Swain had a discussion with Eric Melia regarding the old fire truck that Eric no longer wants in his barn. Also, Daniel informed us that any and all monies the Fire Department raises will be routed through the Town Office and reallocated to the Fire Department in order to create a proper paper trail for protection and accountability of the department.  
Daniel also informed us that he will be meeting with Eric weekly and Eric will be bring all training records to review. Dee Adams asked Daniel if he was familiar with all the laws regarding the Fire Department to which Daniel replied and assured us all that in prior years he was an overseer of many Fire Departments, and was very familiar with the laws.

#### 5) **New Business:**

- a. **Town Report:** With only ten more days until the posting of the town meeting, some discussion was about the deadline for posting. As long as it is done one week prior...All information must be compiled no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> for the report to go to print. There are still a few kinks to be worked out regarding all accounts and

surplus information that needs to be reconciled to the General Fund. There seems to be a large amount of money to work with. (\$175,000 in fact.) Daniel Swain told the group the Skowhegan Press will be printing the towns report after all. They will be printing 200 copies and said they'd be finished with the printing and send it the following Friday (March 1<sup>st</sup>).

- b. **Spring Road:** There was a question concerning a vote on a warrant regarding the Spring Road exit, the area of the Storers land just south of the now defunct Harry's Bait Shop. Eric Vainio replied that Spring Street is part of the old route 15 and if it is a throughway we as a town would be obliged to fix it. Lucas Butler asked if we could just remove the old culvert and simply have a north Spring Street and a south Spring Street. He added that for this one job to replace that culvert could total as much as \$12,000 for our town. After some minor discussion of what our position might be legally, we determined the Selectboard would have to have another meeting regarding this subject and budget.
  - c. **Trio Upgrade** – Agreed with and encouraged by our auditor, in regards to the accounting portion of Monson's Town Accounting System, the Trio upgrade will be upgraded to SQL. Microsoft Access will not be supported in the near future. Trio will be on the web eventually and asking other local towns to sign up. There are already 520 other towns signed on but are using different programs. There is a cost of at least \$2000 to do this. Another competitor TylerTech, or "MUNIS" is good but has a lot of 'bells and whistles' we don't really need [at this time]. We have about a year before the SQL upgrade deadline as Trio will need everyone possible to sign up by 2019. Daniel added it to the budget, but we can hold off if needed, as this is a contract that needs a vote. For now the discussion was tabled for a future meeting.
  - d. **New Remote Deposit Contract:** Regarding towns 'same-day' depositing contract...most of what we do is online using Trio. Our current interest rate is 1%. Camden National Bank can catch checks written incorrectly, catch fraud and we'll have access to all accounts. There are other benefits as well as security concerns that need to be verified. This, however, will require another separate contract and there will be a cost. However with the accrued interest from other accounts should amount to enough to cover all the extra fees. Daniel is ready to do it but needs to clear the path with the selectboard's approval and signatures. Jim Greenleaf asked if will still need a currier for other bank runs, and the short answer is yes for cash only.
  - e. A **General Assistance Ordinance (GA)** was passed around to be reviewed and signed by the selectboard.
- 6) **Items Not on the Agenda:** Office clerk Nancy Putnam gave her notice of resignation from the town office. Daniel said that eight people have already applied for her job. March 19<sup>th</sup> is her last day. The next hired clerk will have more duties for the town. The selectboard had to sign off for Nancy to be Deputy Registrar for a few weeks by law.

**Axiom plan:** Brita brought up the fact that where she lives (Steward Road area) had concerns about her computer connections and had questions about the Axiom plan that Christopher Winestead from the PCEDC (**P**iscataquis **C**ounty **E**conomic **D**evelopment **C**ouncil) brought before the town as an option for us to use. Chris told us that they would have meetings for us and help to guide us all through this program. Thus far, we have not heard back but we need to move forward and consider our options. Jim Greenleaf added to this that certainly Libra wants Monson to move on this.

With some final discussion about Squaw Mountain, and because the chatting digressed, the meeting was called to end at 8:20pm.