

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room in the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street. In attendance were John R. Morrell and Edward S. Harrison. Dr. Richard M. Smith was absent. Also present were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

This was tabled until Dr. Smith could be in attendance as Mr. Morrell was absent from the meeting being approved.

Monson Fire Department Paramedic Recognition:

This item was also tabled.

Keep Homestead Museum Update:

EmyLadd Shepherd approached the Board of Selectmen and invited them to the opening reception of the Alan Robert Phillips Sculpture Garden at the Keep Homestead Museum.

Ms. Shepherd explained during the tornado, Alan Robert Phillips was a sculptor here in town and his property on Upper Hampden Road was severely hit. In order to clean up the trees and debris on his property, the twelve outdoor sculptures of various sizes and constructed of steel designed to rust, as well as stainless steel, had to be moved out of the woods surrounding his home. Through an agreement amongst the Town, Monson Arts Council, and the sons whom are the heirs of Phillips' estate, it was agreed the Keep Homestead Museum should be entrusted with the sculptures. The sculptures are now pretty permanently held down on the Keep Homestead Museum property.

On Sunday, April 3, 2016, the Keep Homestead Museum will host the opening reception from 1 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, with the dedication ceremony being held around 2:00 p.m.; everyone is invited to attend. This is free to attend and refreshments will be served and a donation jar will be out for anyone wishing to leave a donations. Rep. Brian Ashe and Senator Ann Gobi have responded they will be in attendance and will bring citations for the sons, Stephen and Mark Phillips.

Mr. Harrison suggested the Board of Selectmen come up with a proclamation of some sort to present as well.

Mr. Morrell and Mr. Harrison thanked Ms. Shepherd for coming in.

Purchase of Flags:

Mr. Brassard explained from time to time, new American and POW/MIA flags need to be purchased to replace worn out flags. This request is to purchase two American and two POW/MIA flags to be split between the Town Office Building and Memorial Hall. The last of our backup flags was recently used and we are looking for \$420 out of the Gifts to the Town Account to cover that expense.

It was noted the flags are storm rated and we get approximately six months out of them, with the winter months being a little bit tougher on them. The flags are lit and fly 24/7.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to allocate \$420 from the Gifts to the Town Account to purchase the flags as requested. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was so VOTED.

Appointment of a Call Firefighter/Paramedic:

Mr. Harrison read the request from Fire Chief Laurent McDonald into the record for the appointment of Michael Konetzny as a call firefighter/paramedic effective immediately through June 30, 2016.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was so VOTED.

Open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Mr. Brassard noted the Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 9, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Granite Valley Middle School.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was so VOTED.

Mr. Morrell said he and some of the other departments are submitting articles that are not in the omnibus budget, and wondered if those departments should be present for the meeting on April 12th to answer any questions the Board might have for them. Mr. Morrell said he knows there will be two proposed bylaws that the Board might have questions about and also felt it might be good television exposure prior to the Town Meeting, possibly saving some questions there as well.

Mr. Brassard said he would shoot this out to all the department heads.

Open the Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting warrant, also to be held on May 9, 2016, inside of the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was so VOTED.

Correspondence was read and completed.

New Business to Come Before the Board:

There wasn't any new business to come before the Board.

At 7:23 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session. Mr. Morrell seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Edward S. Harrison, Clerk