

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for September 27, 2016 – open session. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Appointment of a Full-Time Officer:

Police Chief Stephen Kozloski and Thomas Giordano approached the Board of Selectmen. Chief Kozloski explained the vacancy and why he was recommending the appointment of Mr. Giordano to fill this position.

Mr. Giordano explained his background.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint Thomas Giordano as a full-time Police Officer effective immediately, contingent upon the successful completion of his psychological exam, through June 30, 2017. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Early Voting Review with Town Clerk Mary Watson:

Town Clerk Mary Watson approached the Board of Selectmen and explained legislation was passed in 2014 to allow early voting for November elections only. The upcoming Presidential election on November 8th will be the first time Monson will be doing the early voting. The early voting will take place for eleven days, starting on October 24th until November 4th in the Town Clerk's Office, here in the Town Office Building. The Clerk's Office will extend their hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to accommodate the early voting; and will also have hours on one Saturday during that period from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The State has a grant incentive where the town will be receiving \$600 for election costs just by having that Saturday available for voters. The Clerk's Office will also hold hours on Thursday, October 27th at the Senior Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Watson noted as long as the resident is a registered voter, no application is needed. They have three voting booths set up in the Town Clerk's Office for privacy. Once the resident votes, they place their ballot in an envelope, seal it, and sign it. On election day, the Clerk's Office will process the ballot. There is no extra cost to the town for the early voting, as no election workers or Police Officers are needed. The deadline to register to vote is October 19th.

Ms. Watson said not all towns have the same early voting hours, and anyone from a different town is encouraged to check with their own Town Clerk. Every community has to offer early voting, but not every community has to offer extended hours.

Absentee voting is still available. The three criteria are: for anyone who will not be here on election day, anyone who has a disability, or a religious belief that will prevent them from going to the polls.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms. Watson for coming in.

Monson Arts Council – Structures at House of Art:

Peter Barnett and Reed Coles approached the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Barnett explained the full plan the Board of Selectmen had in front of them shows all of their future ideas. However, tonight is just for asking the Board for permission to install the sculpture in the back of the House of Art. It's basically one sculpture in three parts that form a group of crocuses in three different stages of opening, from a bud, to a half opened bloom, to a fully opened flower.

Mr. Barnett said there are actually two sculptures, one for outside at the House of Art and one for inside which will be displayed in the Monson Free Library. Both sculptures came from the Monson Developmental Center when it closed.

Mr. Barnett explained the artist is willing to conform the sculpture to fit the proposed area and change the color, as right now it's black. The sculpture symbolizes "hope".

Mr. Morrell said in the future, when the Arts Council is ready to proceed with the other ideas in the plan, to contact the Board of Selectmen and they, with the Town Administrator, will walk the property with them to see where everything is going to go.

Dr. Smith read the letter submitted by Highway Surveyor John Morrell into the record, as attached.

Mr. Harrison suggested possibly placing the sculpture in a cemetery, such as Hillside.

Dr. Smith said the Town has other sculptures located at the Keep Homestead Museum.

Mr. Barnett said the Keep Homestead Museum considered it briefly, however this sculpture isn't in the theme of sculptures they have.

Mr. Morrell said the Parks and Rec. Dept. maintain the grounds there, and thought this would be time consuming having to go around the structures, and wondered if they spoke to them. Also, he felt the art pieces will be hidden behind the building and won't be seen by many people.

Mr. Coles responded they have a different sculpture for the front that will be donated by a Monson resident. He also felt after working at the MDC, they represent a dark place and felt this was an appropriate place for them as people do travel behind the House of Art to get to the Fire Department, Highway Department, Water/Sewer Department, or to use the parking lot there.

Dr. Smith asked Mr. Morrell about the snow. Mr. Morrell replied it may work having the sculptures closer to the house.

Dr. Smith said he didn't have a problem with the location if it's out of Mr. Morrell way for piling the snow.

Mr. Morrell said he would meet with Mr. Barnett and Mr. Coles to stake it out.

Mr. Harrison said he was in agreement under those conditions.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the placement of the sculptures, subject to the Highway Department staking it out with the Arts Council. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Morrell suggested having the Town's insurance company MIIA inspect the spot, due to sharp edges, prior to a permanent placement.

Monson Memorial Classic:

Lee Williams, Reed Coles, and Jack Perry approached the Board of Selectmen in regards to the 21st annual Monson Memorial Classic Half Marathon. Ms. Williams explained the race and the purpose, which is the same as in the past.

Ms. Williams said she is requesting the use of Memorial Hall as the headquarters; use of the message board to notify and slow traffic down (located in the same spot as last year), and to have a banner across Main Street.

Ms. Williams noted they are expecting 400 runners, as in the past. She would like to reroute traffic down Cushman Street, over Pease Avenue, and on Hampden Avenue back to Route 32. She would like to close that portion of Main Street, between Cushman Street and Hampden Avenue, for the beginning of the race from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mr. Harrison said the Police would have to direct traffic around the closed section for that hour. Mr. Morrell stated the Highway and Fire Departments need to have access in and out of that area. Mr. Morrell noted it has worked in the past.

Mr. Coles requested having a "Monson Rocks" art show during the same time in the House of Art, linking it to the athleticism through athletic themed art, for the public to enjoy as well as those waiting for runners to finish. Mr. Coles said the art pieces displayed will be for sale, and any proceeds from the art show would go to the same cancer charity as the marathon's proceeds. Mr. Coles said anyone interested in submitting art can contact him through Facebook or by calling him at 413-537-0245.

Ms. Williams said this years' beneficiary will be Griffin's Friends which raises money for children who are undergoing cancer treatment at Baystate Hospital, allowing the children and their families to go to Red Sox games, purchase equipment for their play areas, or anything they need.

Ms. Williams asked, to help defray costs for the race so more money can be given to the charity, for a donation from the Gifts to the Town.

Ms. Williams noted she has been in contact with Police Chief Kozloski regarding the road race.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the Monson Memorial Classic Half Marathon as described, and to close the section of Main Street from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 13, 2016, contingent upon approval from the Police Chief and working out the traffic details with the Highway Department. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the sum of \$1,000 to help defray costs for the Monson Memorial Classic from the Gifts to the Town Account. Mr. Harrison seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Town Treasurer Interviews:

Tracy Scibaldi approached the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Brassard said he, Town Collector Dorothy Jenkins, Town Accountant Mary Lauria, Principal Assessor Alyce Johns, and Fire Chief Laurent McDonald conducted the interviews for the Town Treasurers position, with Tracy Scibaldi chosen to be here for a follow-up interview by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Scibaldi explained her background and answered questions from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint Tracy Scibaldi as Monson's Treasurer/HR person effective whenever she is available to start and contingent upon successful negotiations, through June 30, 2017. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

The Board welcomed Ms. Scibaldi to the Town of Monson.

Surplus Property:

Mr. Brassard said at the last meeting, the Board deemed a Big Tex trailer as surplus. It turns out that trailer belongs to the School Department and isn't the right trailer. The trailer being deemed surplus, from the Parks and Recreation Department, is a homemade trailer.

Dr. Smith made a motion to rescind the vote from the last meeting and deem the homemade trailer for the Parks and Rec. Department as surplus. Mr. Harrison seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Building Inspector Appointment:

Mr. Brassard explained proposed Building Inspector John Moran's background. Mr. Moran is out of the State until the end of the month and was unable to attend this meeting. Due to the need to fill this position, the Board agreed at the last meeting to allow Mr. Brassard and his committee to vet this candidate, and gave him the approval to make the decision in the Boards absence. Mr. Brassard is requesting Mr. Moran be appointed to fill this vacancy, and noted Mr. Moran will come in to the first meeting in November to meet the Board and the listening public.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to appoint John Moran as the Building Inspector for Monson effective October 28, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Hillside School Update:

Mr. Brassard explained the boarding project has begun at the Hillside Building. All the windows will be covered with plywood and painted a brick red. The total requested amount from the Finance Committee

was \$2,500 to complete this project. Mr. Brassard noted he met with the School Committee about removing the tank and was told that would be done.

Monson Disc Golf – Gifts to the Town Request:

Mr. Brassard explained we are in the process of building a disc golf course at Flynt Park, with five holes having been cut so far, and noted we are getting to the precipice of having to spend money on some things.

Mr. Brassard explained last year Tree House Brewery donated the proceeds from their 5k race to the Gifts to the Town account, which was about \$1,800 for the digression of the Board to use.

Mr. Brassard said he spoke with Damien, from the Brewery, about the disc golf course and they are very much in support of building that; therefore Mr. Brassard said he would like to request the use of the \$1,800 to start defraying some of the costs of that project. Mr. Brassard said they also have sponsorship money from some local vendors, that he'll be publicizing shortly, to pick up some more of that cost. A donor was found who is going to donate the \$7,000 expense for the 18 baskets needed for the entire course.

Mr. Brassard explained disc golf is played very much like golf, with the same rules. The baskets are hung on poles by chains, and you try to get the disc in the basket.

Mr. Brassard said the project cost about \$12,000 and was consolidated down to between \$4,000 and \$5,000 total.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the sum of \$1,800 from the Gifts to the Town Account to help with expenses for the Monson disc golf course at Flynt Park. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Board of Selectmen Strategic Planning Discussion:

This discussion was tabled.

Set Hours for Trick-or-Treat:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to set the Trick-or-Treat hours in Monson from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31st and allow the use of Memorial Hall for the annual Halloween festivities following the parade, sponsored by the Monson Rotary Club at the end of the evening. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

A/B Operator Contract:

Mr. Brassard explained the town has underground storage tanks behind the Highway Department. The Department of Environmental Protection has certain criteria the town must meet with testing and inspections. Currently, we don't have an A/B Operator, and Mr. Brassard noted we need to hire one who will come out on a monthly basis to inspect our pump and tanks. Without an A/B Operator, it will hold up the towns ability to do other inspections we need to do in order to file with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Brassard said he solicited bids from A/B Operator's on pricing. Numerous, numerous firms were contacted and no one has gotten back to Mr. Brassard except Tighe and Bond, who is able to provide the A/B Operator service at \$3,500.00 annually, to complete all the work associated with the testing, the reporting, signing off on the fee operator's evaluation, etc.; it was noted they become the responsible party for the tanks.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the contract for \$3,500 to hire Tighe and Bond annually as our A/B Operator for our underground storage tanks. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Correspondence was read and completed.

In Other Business to Come Before the Board of Selectmen:

There wasn't any other business to come before the Board at this time.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 (2) and collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 (3), not to return to open session. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Richard M. Smith, Clerk