

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

The regular meeting for October 8, 2019 was canceled due to the Citizen of the Year Award Banquet, and the Selectman Chair presenting the proclamation.

The make-up meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 10:00 a.m. in the conference 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 was Town Administrator Evan Brassard. The media was not present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for September 24, 2019 – open session. Mr. Morrell seconded, and it was so VOTED. Dr. Smith abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

Close Warrant for Special Town Meeting:

Mr. Brassard read the warrant articles, and explained several of them.

Fire Chief Laurent McDonald and mechanic John Milne were present to explain the fire truck replacement. Mr. Milne said the replacement parts are no longer available or are very hard to find, and the foam units are rotted and replacement parts aren't available anywhere in the country.

Chief McDonald said the old engine 2 will be traded in.

Dr. Smith made a motion to place the articles read by Mr. Brassard on the warrant. Mr. Harrison seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Smith made a motion to close the Special Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Harrison seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Holiday Lighting:

Mr. Brassard explained he would like to add holiday lights in front of the Monson Free Library this year, and continue repairing and replacing the holiday lights on the poles along Main Street dating back to the 1970's. Mr. Brassard requested \$5,000 from the Gifts to the Town account for this endeavor.

Dr. Smith made a motion to approve the request of \$5,000 from the Gifts to the Town Account to be used as described.

Mr. Morrell thanked the Malo's and everyone else for making the town look so nice for the winter holidays.

Surplus Property:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to deem the two E350 vans from the School Department as surplus property. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Richard Lafond Acceptance of Gift:

Mr. Brassard noted Richard LaFond passed away last year. In Mr. LaFond's will, he left \$50,000 to the Monson Historical Society to continue with "Munn Day"; \$50,000 to the Monson Free Library to augment archival collections pertaining to the Town of Monson and Monson Academy; \$50,000 to the Town of Monson to be used on 5th grade field trips or other educational programs in memory of Helen Mason LaFond, his wife, who was a fifth grade teacher in the Monson Public Schools; \$50,000 to the Conservation Commission for the acquisition of land for conservation purposes; and \$200,000 to be used as a scholarship fund where the principal will be held in perpetuity and the interest from that will be applied annually toward the scholarships.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to accept the money as described. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Morrell thanked Mr. LaFond.

In Other Business to Come Before the Board:

- Mr. Morrell noted Mr. Brassard's contract with the town is set to expire on June 30, 2020, and he would like Human Resource to provide the Selectmen with the evaluation form so they could fill them out to have back for the meeting in December.

Dr. Smith asked about the other two town employees with contracts.

Mr. Brassard explained it was agreed in the past to review their job performances six months before their contract is to expire to allow for correcting any issues.

Mr. Brassard noted he will ask Ms. Goodrich to provide the Selectmen with his re-evaluation form, and also ask her to look at the best time to re-evaluate the other two employees so it can be placed on the calendar.

- Mr. Morrell asked for an update on the last dog complaint. Mr. Brassard noted the deadline was two Fridays ago and the lawyer asked for a one-week extension which ended this past Friday. The lawyer did say on Friday he would get in touch with Town Counsel today. This will be on the agenda for the Selectmen's next meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd.
- Mr. Morrell said in the removal of the fuel storage tank with the demolition of the Hillside School building, Diesel Direct is a company that fuels up school buses, so storage tanks aren't needed. Diesel Direct comes out daily to fuel the buses.

Mr. Brassard said he has been speaking with the School Maintenance Director Paul DeMaio on this and Mr. DeMaio said there is a more economic way of doing it with a fuel pod. A fuel pod is

an above ground tank that is placed on a cement pad with a 110 line and jersey barriers around it. This pod is filled up once a week.

- Mr. Morrell noted the railroad wants to repair three railroad crossings in town. The repairs will take two days per crossing. These crossings are on Robbins Road, Chestnut Street, and Washington Street.

Mr. Brassard asked Mr. Morrell to inform him of the dates when they are set and he will advise the residents in the area.

Mr. Harrison asked about the crossing on Route 32 toward the Connecticut line.

Mr. Morrell replied, Route 32 is a State Highway, and therefore is not informed on any repairs or upgrades that are planned.

- Bob Kaddy spoke to the Board of Selectmen about the new petition that is going to be placed on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Kaddy wondered how this article could be placed on the warrant without having to wait the two years after the last article failed to pass.

Mr. Brassard noted it's up to the Attorney General, and felt this is fine as it drops off the retail aspect.

Mr. Kaddy wondered how many more times this article could come before the residents.

Mr. Brassard responded petitions can go on forever, there is no limit.

Mr. Kaddy wondered what is going to stop a petitioner from adding retail shops two to three months from now.

The Board of Selectmen responded, nothing will stop them.

Mr. Kaddy said with 70 parcels in town that could apply for growing facilities with green houses, he feels we will have to add 5 to 9 more police officers as he feels this will be very problematic with the smell, the rise in crime, and a lot of other issues.

Mr. Harrison explained the Selectmen don't have a say on petition articles.

Mr. Kaddy explained he wants the Selectmen to get the information out to the media explaining to the residents the issues that could arise if this is passed prior to the Town Meeting, informing them their taxes and rents will go up to pay for increased police coverage. There is a smell associated with the plants. Commercial growing will be done in residential zones Crime will increase, and Mr. Kaddy said he feels the residents need to understand the pros and cons as Monson will not be the rural town it currently is.

Mr. Morrell told Mr. Kaddy the Board hasn't discussed this issue and he needs to bring this to the Planning Board and to Town Meeting to tell the voters. The only portion that would affect the Selectmen would be the added police officers.

Mr. Harrison asked Mr. Kaddy if this is speculation or if he had concrete information from other towns that already have sales, growth, etc., and if he could provide some documentation.

Mr. Kaddy responded he is here to give an opinion on what is going to happen as a concerned citizen and noted recently the Town of Whatley had people trying to rob hemp fields.

It was noted M-PACT will televise the Planning Board meeting, so any residents watching the meeting will hear about the impacts it could create if Mr. Kaddy were to bring it up.

Correspondence was read and completed.

At 11:15 a.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 (2) and collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 (3), not to return to open session. Dr. Smith seconded, and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Richard M. Smith, Clerk