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non-disclosure agreements.

Select Board members pushed back strongly. One member called the claims “innuendo” and said they were unsupported, while another added, “I have absolutely no idea what you were talking about.”

In contrast, Karen Davis focused on community support efforts, announcing upcoming events and emphasizing growing need at the Monson Community Cupboard Food Pantry.

“We had 77 families during the month of February with a total of 208 people served,” Davis said. “If you don’t understand food insecurity, just Google it. One in every three families...it’s affecting so many.”

Concerns were also raised about the town’s animal inspection program. Resident Shirley Lamb questioned the reappointment of the current inspector, citing residency issues, cost, and alleged lapses in required inspections.

“I don’t think you know the severity,” Lamb said, describing potential public health impacts. “Whoever you put in that position has to follow through.”

Town Administrator report highlights warrant articles, certification

The board reviewed four certified citizen petitions set to appear on the upcoming Town

Meeting warrant, including proposals to:

- Establish a five-member audit board
- Allow firearms in certain municipal buildings
- Permit electronic voting at Town Meeting
- Fund electronic voting equipment

Town Administrator Wolowicz also announced her successful recertification as a Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official, noting she scored a 94% on the required exam.

Board approves appointments, police leadership promotion

The Select Board approved several appointments, including five members to the Monson Scholarship Committee.

Despite concerns raised during public comment, the board voted to nominate Finn McCool as Inspector of Animals, along with Paul Morrissey as alternate.

In a major personnel decision, the board unanimously appointed Adam Szymanski as the town’s new police lieutenant following a competitive internal process.

Board members praised both finalists.

“I would personally be very proud to have either one of them be the lieutenant,” one member said, noting both candidates ranked at the top of an external assessment.

Grant application targets infrastructure and food insecurity

The board approved submission of a Fiscal Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application totaling up to \$485,000.

Key components include:

- \$300,000 for design work on the Harrison Avenue infrastructure project
- \$40,000 for the Monson Community Cupboard Food Pantry

The consultant explained that the project focuses on long-term planning.

“This sets us up for future grant funding... so we can pretty much go right from the jump with construction,” he said.

Survey data guiding the application showed strong community support for social services, which emerged as the top priority among respondents.

Positive review for Town Administrator

The board conducted its performance evaluation of the Town Administrator Wolowicz, offering strong support for her leadership.

“She’s always responsive... and if she doesn’t know an answer, she finds out,” one member said.

Another highlighted the difficulty of the role amid current financial pressures:

“This is an extremely difficult period of time... and

she’s doing a good job leading us through that.”

Wolowicz, marking five years in the role, reflected on her experience.

“I endeavor every day to be a good steward of your community,” she said, emphasizing relationship-building and local engagement.

Electronic voting proposal sparks debate

The Electronic Voting System Committee recommended adopting handheld “clicker” devices for Town Meeting voting, with a proposed \$25,000 appropriation.

Committee members cited efficiency, accuracy and ease of use, noting similar systems are used in dozens of Massachusetts communities.

However, concerns were raised about cost and transparency.

One board member questioned whether the system effectively creates a secret ballot.

“In effect, every time you use the clicker... it’s a secret ballot,” he said.

Supporters argued the system remains compliant with state law and improves vote accuracy.

Ethics decision requires recusal in cell tower case

The board declined to approve a financial disclosure filed by Planning Board Chair Craig Schweitzer related to a proposed cell tower on Sportsman’s Club property, where he

serves as vice president.

As a result, Schweitzer must recuse himself from any discussion or vote on the project.

“I don’t want him to be part of that conversation... because of the perception of others,” one board member said.

Town meeting schedule remains unchanged

Despite reviewing survey results showing divided preferences, the board voted to keep the annual Town Meeting schedule unchanged: the second Monday in May at 7 p.m.

Survey results showed nearly equal support for Saturday mornings and weekday evenings, with work schedules and childcare cited as key barriers to attendance.

Budget outlook presents major challenges

The most serious discussion of the evening centered on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Town officials outlined a projected \$1.6 million shortfall, driven largely by rising fixed costs, including:

- Health insurance increases
- Debt obligations
- Payroll-related expenses

These costs alone account for roughly \$800,000, consuming most of the allowable 2.5% tax levy increase.

Additional pressures include a \$500,000 snow and ice deficit and limited available free cash.

Officials warned that even a level-funded budget would require service reductions, potentially affecting:

- Library hours
- Senior center programming
- Recreational services, including the town pool

The board is expected to further discuss a potential Proposition 2½ override at its April 14 meeting.

“There was a strong call for long-term planning,” officials noted, including exploring new revenue sources and cost-saving measures.

Additional actions

Other actions taken during the meeting included:

- Approval of multiple sets of meeting minutes
- Approval of a seasonal liquor license for TJ’s Tavern LLC
- Referral of an Open Meeting Law complaint to town counsel
- Acknowledgment of resident concerns about rising cable costs

Looking ahead

As Monson approaches Town Meeting season, officials face a complex mix of financial strain, infrastructure needs and community expectations.

The coming weeks, particularly discussions around a potential override, are expected to play a critical role in shaping the town’s fiscal future.

Public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 3 Maplelawn Drive a/k/a 3 Maple Lawn Drive, Monson, MA 01057

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul L Bucklin and Donna J Bucklin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, and now held by **The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States**, said mortgage dated July 8, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20780, Page 146, as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 16, 2016 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 21396, Page 338; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC DBA Veterans United Home Loans to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment dated March 14, 2016 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 21114, Page 388; said mortgage was assigned from PennyMac Loan Services, LLC to The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States by assignment dated June 25, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 26174, Page 585; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 29, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain land situated in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, off the Westerly side of Main Street, 1927 State Highway Layout, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the Northerly line of a proposed street which runs Westerly from Main Street, said iron pin being the Southwesterly corner of premises conveyed by Edward L.

Dickenson, et ux, to Harold C. Wood, et ux; thence South 89° 19’ West along the Northerly line of said proposed street, 150 feet an iron pin; thence North 0° 41’ West along land now or formerly of Ernest W. Bridges, 92.5 feet to an iron pin; thence North 89° 19’ East still along land now or formerly of said Bridges, 150 feet to an iron pin at land of said Woods; thence South 0° 41’ East along land of said Woods 92.5 feet to the place of beginning.

Together with the right to pass and repass on foot or with vehicles over the aforesaid proposed street, which proposed street is now known as Maple Lawn Drive.

The premises are shown as Lot Number 6 on a “Plan of Lots in Monson, Mass., surveyed for Ernest V. Bridges, Scale 1 “ = 40’, November 22, 1954, Kenneth C. Sherman, Engineer-Surveyor, Palmer, Mass.”.

Subject to a taking for a sewer easement by the Town of Monson dated August 20, 1979 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 4818, Page 254.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagors herein by a deed recorded immediately prior hereto.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated June 2, 2015 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 20780, Page 144.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30)

days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
03/26, 04/02, 04/09/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE CLEANING IFB Town of Palmer and Palmer Public Schools Cleaning Bid

The Town of Palmer and Palmer Public Schools are advertising a cleaning bid for the Town Hall, Police Department, and both Palmer Public School Buildings. The bid will include a set number of weekly cleaning days for each location, with a detailed scope of services outlined in the Invitation for Bid (IFB).

The IFB is now available (submission dates are noted in the bid package) and may be obtained by emailing Sara Menard, School Business Manager, at smenard@palmer.schools.org

The bid opening is scheduled for April 17th, 2026 at 2:00 PM at the Old Mill Pond School.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The award will be made by the Town Manager/CPO.

Town of Palmer
04/02/2026

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 000397 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Edward W. Benoit, Individually, and as Proposed Personal Representative of the Estate of Rosemarie A. Dubuque a/k/a Rosemarie Ann Dubuque a/k/a Rosemarie Dubuque; Heirs, Devises, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Rosemarie A. Dubuque a/k/a Rosemarie Ann Dubuque a/k/a Rosemarie Dubuque

Estate of: Joseph J. Malzenski, Jr. Date of Death: 01/27/2026 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Philip Raymond of Three Rivers, MA.**

Philip Raymond of Three Rivers, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

04/02/2026
(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 000927 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Robert L Meacham II

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): **Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A.**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 25 State Street, given by Robert L. Meacham II to RBS Citizens, N.A., dated November 24, 2015, and recorded at Hampden County

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on March 27, 2026.
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
04/02/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P0522EA

Registry of Deeds in Book 20967, Page 114, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated April 19, 2023 and recorded at said Registry in Book 25009, Page 341 has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **May 4, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of said Court on March 20, 2026.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
04/02/2026

MONSON SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

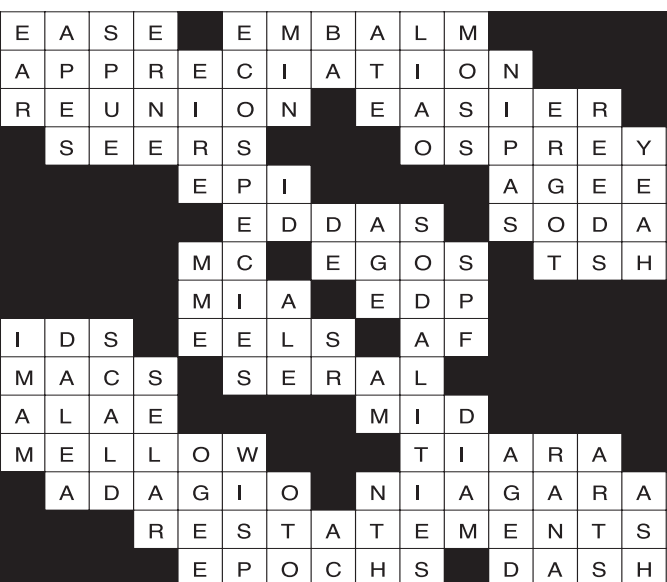
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Monson School Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

The hearing will take place on: **Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM Quarry Hill Community School 43 Margaret Street, Monson, MA Room 428**

The hearing will also be accessible virtually via Google Meet.

Meetings are broadcast live and broadcast the following day on the local public access station, M-PACT (Comcast Channel 15).

All interested persons are invited to attend and will be given an opportunity to be heard.
04/02/2026



HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

Send writing samples with resume to:
PAULA OUIMETTE
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
pouimette@turley.com

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