



# TOWN OF MONSON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS 01057

(413) 267-4135  
FAX (413) 267-9857

Governor's Administration & Finance Office  
Subject: Regulation of Local government

November 23, 2015

## 1. Department of Public Safety Hoisting Regulation Changes

As a Monson Highway Department employee for the last forty-five years, and Highway Surveyor for the Town of Monson for the last thirty-four years, I fully support the letter submitted to you by David Desrosiers. His points are accurate and right on demonstrating how ridiculous these new regulations are. I would also add the inefficiency of the Department of Public Safety, regarding delays in issuing renewal of hoisting licenses. In the case of Monson, five renewals were submitted on time but were not returned until months after their expiration, in all cases. I would also stress how ridiculous it is to have created the 4G endorsement for roadside mowing. It is my suspicion there is someone new in the Department of Public Safety who made changes to make it look like he or she is earning their money, at our expense. I would strongly suggest you consider recommending continuing education for the first two times the hoisting license is renewed and none after, as long as the license holder has no incidents.

## 2. Regulations for Cross Culvert Replacement

Please consider – A notice of intent shall not be required by local government for in kind culvert replacement eighteen inches in diameter or less, within the limits of public ways and such work shall be considered routine maintenance. The government agency doing the work shall simply notify the local conservation committee of the replacement within thirty days, after the work is completed. Not only have the current regulations costs the Town of Monson tens of thousands of dollars over the years, but in most cases the cost is unnecessary. Often some or most of the members on local conservation commissions are not experts, however are given the power to make us spend large amounts of money unnecessarily. I recently completed a notice of intent with the DEP and local conservation commission, after three years of trying. The scope of work was replacement of two cross culverts on one roadway. It took the DEP to send a representative on site to explain what was required and also explain to members of the

commission that certain things they suggested were not necessary and would trigger many more requirements. I believe there are instances where conservation commissions take advantage of their power and require us to do more than is necessary, at the Town's expense. I simply request that we use some common sense while working together to protect the environment.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters, and I am certainly available for any questions you may have now and in the future.

Sincerely,

John Morrell  
Highway Surveyor  
Member Board of Selectmen