

Monkton Selectboard Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2012 (Approved 5/14/12)

Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Anne Layn, John McNerney, Peter Norris, Sr., John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Wendy Sue Harper, Charlie Huizenga, Wayne Preston, Bill Joos
3. Announcements: None
4. Regular Business:
 - a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meeting: S. Pilcher explained how the SB minutes are posted to the town website. S. Pilcher also advised that individual committees around town have designated a specific person within their organization to post information online. J. Phillips confirmed the continuing need for a webmaster, however. **S. Pilcher moved to approve the 4/9/12 meeting minutes as written; motion seconded by P. Norris. Voted and approved.**
 - b. The SB reviewed and approved the following **check warrants**:
 - A/P# 20423, 4/23/12, \$28,319.52
 - P/R# 20423, 4/23/12, \$7,157.49
 - c. The SB reviewed and approved the following **Overweight Permits**:
 - Paul Fournier
 - Dennis W. Casey
 - D.H. Cameron Construction Co., Inc.
 - Ronnie Wells DBA Wells Trucking
 - Moe Dubois Excavating, Inc.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Vaughn Trailer Park Update: S. Pilcher contacted the Zoning Administrator (ZA), Health Officer (HO), and Addison County Solid Waste District (ACSWD) regarding the trailer park. ZA Ken Wheeling advised that a zoning violation is not involved. HO Robin Hopps is willing to make a site visit to determine if any safety violations/vermin are present. S. Pilcher has also been in contact with the Addison County Community Land Trust, which has Middlebury College student volunteers available to assist with the continuing clean-up. A trailer full of mattresses and other junk, including a sofa, remains. P. Norris complimented S. Pilcher on his efforts to solve the problem.

- b. Astle Environmental Court Update: J. Phillips spoke with attorney Roger Kohn, who is representing the town. Landowner fines are not feasible at this time. R. Kohn advised that the Environmental Court will work with the landowner to remedy the situation. A lien remains as an option. For further discussion.
- c. Complete 2012 Appointments: J. Phillips requested postponement until later this evening. All appointments have been completed, except for the DRB's alternate position, for which more discussion is contemplated.
- d. Road Sign Policy Update: Road Commissioner W. Preston commented on the replacement signs he purchases (9" reflective road signs). W. Preston also shared his understanding that the sign regulations (for sizing) are subject to change in the near term. A. Layn contacted nearby towns to request copies of their policy (New Haven responded to date). A. Layn inquired about Federal standards versus state/local regulations. For continuing discussion.
- e. Quote Review - Exterior Light for Town Hall Entrance: Electrician Rick Gomez provided a formal quote of \$350.00, less any rebate amount. The net cost should approximate \$250.00. The bulb to be used is a 13 watt LED bulb (not mercury vapor). A brief discussion, with consideration of cost comparisons, followed. **S. Pilcher moved to accept R. Gomez's bid to install the exterior light. The motion was seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**
- f. MGS Tobacco License Approval: The SB approved the license renewal without comment.
- g. Meeting with Listers to discuss Assessment Policy: J. Phillips spoke with the listers, who do not wish to attend a SB meeting until pending appeals are finalized. P. Norris explained how the appeal process works. P. Norris and A. Layn reiterated their hope that the listers can explain the content of their letter/report appearing in the annual report. S. Pilcher will contact the listers to request their appearance at a forthcoming SB meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. Mary Gerdt Letter – Review: J. Phillips circulated a hard copy of M. Gerdt's email message dated April 12, 2012. M. Gerdt commented on various concerns. S. Pilcher advised that the SB follows a modified Roberts' Rules of Order, since Roberts' Rules of Order as written do not apply well to a group of this size. The SB discussed having minutes available within 5 business days of its meeting. The town tax collection policy has been tightened with better and more consistent enforcement. J. Phillips quoted the existing statute related to tax penalties payable. The SB reviewed various town maps, and confirmed that the current official map is dated February 10, 2011. J. Phillips will reply to M. Gerdt, and likewise confirm that the most current map will

appear in the 2012 annual report. The listers will be asked to review M. Gerdt's issue related to a lot she co-owns.

- b. Recycling Center – Recent Trash Dumping Complaint – Review: Recycling Coordinator Amy Moody called J. Phillips to advise of recurrent trash dumping at the recycling center by the same party. A. Moody asked what enforcement action might be available. The SB discussed the best way to support the recycling effort, and agreed that the ACSWD would be the best source for a remedy to the trash dumping. The SB discussed briefly whether an adult on site might be a good option. This topic requires further discussion. S. Pilcher agreed to contact A. Moody and the ACSWD for options. A. Layn asked about citizens burning trash. S. Pilcher explained that the ACSWD/Addison County Sheriff's Department contacts the violator.
- c. Appointments by Selectboard: The SB reviewed briefly the list of appointments made at its March 26th and April 9th meetings. The lone open/pending position is the Development Review Board's (DRB) alternate member. S. Pilcher commented on the need to receive distinct instructions from the DRB about the viability of an alternate's appointment. The SB will invite the DRB to appear at a forthcoming meeting.

7. Other Business:

- a. MVFD Driveway: A. Layn reported on behalf of Monkton Volunteer Fire Chief David Layn that the fire station driveway requires resurfacing/patching. The fire department has received quotes for sealing and patching (\$2,400 and \$2,500, respectively). Another bidder is expected to quote. The SB agreed that the MVFD budget should cover all costs.
- b. Highway Department – Truck Updates: W. Preston advised that a bid sheet (with a \$7,500 minimum bid indicated) has been prepared for selling the 2000 Sterling dump truck. W. Preston circulated a copy of the winning bid from Viking-Cives for \$67,350.00 to outfit the new 2013 Mack tandem dump truck with a plow, dump body, and all related hardware. W. Preston also provided all competing bids for review. W. Preston advised that the final cost to purchase the 2013 Mack GU713 straight truck is \$121,680, a reduction of \$300.00 (see item 7a. of the 3/26/12 SB minutes for other details). **S. Pilcher moved to accept the submitted bid of \$67,350.00 from Viking-Cives to outfit the 2013 Mack Tandem Dump Truck. P. Norris seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- c. A/P Warrant # 20423, 4/23/12: S. Pilcher asked W. Preston for details related to several paid invoices for Highway Department expenses as listed on the warrant.
- d. Building Audits/Solar Panels: Energy Committee members W. Harper and C. Huizenga presented information about 2 initiatives: 1) an AllEarth Renewables

proposal to place a ground wired 10 panel solar field(s) in towns (involving an angel investor). Various details were shared, including projected impact to electric bills for town buildings, the amount of land required, etc... A draft Memorandum of Understanding was circulated. J. McNerney asked if Monkton Central School (MCS) has been notified. S. Pilcher commented on the benefit to AllEarth Renewables. J. McNerney mentioned MCS' attempt last year to use AllEarth Renewables for a similar project. The SB agreed the project was worth examining, and will review the Memorandum of Understanding; 2) Energy Audits: Addison County Regional Planning has money available for audits, with all towns able to receive one audit. The SB prioritized town buildings that would benefit from an audit: 1) MCS (already completed), 2) town garage, 3) town hall / fire station. **S. Pilcher moved to approve \$500.00 toward an energy audit of the town garage; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**

- e. 2012 Annual Town Meeting Minutes - Edits: S. Pilcher requested various minor corrections to the minutes taken at the March 6th annual town meeting.
- f. P. Norris asked that ZA Ken Wheeling attend SB meetings on a regular basis – perhaps every other month - to report on his work, including any active/known violations, recently observed violations, and building permit activity by category.
- g. Truck Financing – Highway Department: S. Pilcher spoke with Town Treasurer Charles Roumas about financing options for the vehicle fleet, and shared details with the SB.
- h. Road Signs Installation: J. Phillips confirmed that signs have been added along Mountain Road.
- i. Municipal Building Committee: P. Norris asked if the committee can attend a SB meeting to provide an update. A comment was made that the site plan has proven to be a challenge. S. Pilcher commented that a map showing the Breadloaf parking lot design will be produced.

8. Adjournment:

- a. **Motion made by A. Layn to adjourn at 9:09 PM; seconded by S. Pilcher. Voted and approved.**