

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

MONKTON TOWN HALL

August 27, 2010- Minutes

Members Present: John Phillips, Anne Layn, Stephen Pilcher, Peter Norris, John McNerney

Others Present: Wendy Sue Harper, Thea Gaudette.

Call to Order

John Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Announcement

None at this time

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes

John McNerney moved to approve the August 13th minutes as written. Anne Layn seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Warrants

A/P	08/27/12	#20827	\$26,263.10
P/R	08/27/12	#20827	\$6,802.97
EFTPS	07/30/12	#20730	\$2,853.25

Old Business

Gould

No ruling has been made on the Gould appeal.

Astle

The complete charges for the clean up of the Astle property were \$7478.37 which was larger than the Select Board expected. There was more debris than expected and the Casella charges were higher since they were unable to use a large size container. The agreement that Roger Kohn had made with Astle legal counsel was for a lien to be placed on the Astle property up to \$4000 plus legal fees. As a result the Town is responsible for the remaining \$3478.37. The Select Board was quite unhappy with this result but the property is no longer in violation of the zoning regulations and this was the first time taking a zoning violation of this type before the Environmental Court. There was some discussion on how to force a better result in the future.

Vermont Gas

Vermont Gas has sent a letter requesting an open house to discuss possible routes for the new Vermont Gas pipeline. The Select Board proposed an open house on **September 17th 7:00 p.m.** at the **Monkton Volunteer Fire Department**. Peter Norris also suggested the Select Board

continues to press Vermont Gas to put in a low pressure drop in the town and to share the preferred route prior to the open house.

Recycling

Amy Moody and the 4H club continue to have problems with people throwing trash in the recycling. There is one particular offender. John Phillips and Peter Norris will attempt to resolve the problem.

Municipal Building Committee

Stephen Pilcher gave an update of progress on a new Town Center. The Building Committee is formulating a list of specifications to give to Linc Prescott which will be turned into a Request for Proposal. The RFP will be sent out to Neagley and Chase, Naylor and Breen and Breadloaf.

Lister Policy

Peter Norris again brought up the question of whether the Lister's have change their policy with respect to parcel assessments and if so what is it. Peter Norris is concerned that if there is a drastic change in the way parcels are assessed that the Town could incur increased legal expenses. Peter Norris currently an ongoing appeal of some of his properties with respect to building sites being assessed on open parcels which should be heard by the end of September. Anne Layn proposed generating a list of questions for the Listers. John Phillips felt that the Listers policy has not changed but they have been reviewing their assessments for consistency as a result of Peter Norris's appeal.

New Business

New Town Plan

Wendy Sue Harper and Thea Gaudette, representing the Planning Commission said that the Planning Commission is looking at maps and working on updating sections of the Town Plan and were interested in any Select Board input. A lively and informal discussion ensued about the role of zoning regulations and the competing interests of individual rights and town rights. Peter Norris felt that land owners should be compensated for rights that they lose and mentioned using tax incentives to influence development. Stephen Pilcher mentioned promoting a town center and perhaps removing the 2 acre zoning. Stephen Pilcher also passed on a citizen's proposal for a business tax. Anne Layn would like a soil map included in the Town Plan. Peter Norris suggested a town business center/industrial park. There was a discussion with Thea Gaudette, John McNerney and Anne Layn about attracting businesses and what type of business. Thea proposed community based and community scaled. John Phillips wondered if the town was not infrastructure limited. Anne Layn proposed promoting business along the Monkton Ridge in existing structures. John McNerney noted that Monkton is surrounded by towns with town forests and suggested planning for a town forest. Anne Layn stressed property rights of individual land owners. Thea Gaudette and Wendy Sue Harper indicated that the Planning Commission hopes to have the updates to the Town Plan ready by Town Meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Grants

The Planning Commission has applied for a TAC grant to study the feasibility of enhancing the town center. This would include studying the ideas of sidewalks in the town center, visual cues

for traffic calming, location and size of a commuter parking lot and safer access and parking for town functions. The State of Vermont awards \$40,000 to each county and Addison County Regional Planning used approximately \$5,000 for the Culvert Program which maps culverts in the county. The remaining \$35,000 is distributed among the approved applicants. A feasibility study of this type would position the Town to apply for Park and Ride grant the following year. Peter Norris moved to approve the grant application, seconded by Anne Layn. Motion was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

The Select Board will meet next on Monday, September 10th at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Stephen Pilcher, seconded by Anne Layn. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Stephen Pilcher