

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2012

Approved 11-12-2012

Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Anne Layn, John McNerney (7:05 PM arrival), Peter Norris, Sr. (7:03 PM arrival), John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Monkton Listers Joseph Boisse, John Howard, Bernard Wisniowski, and Bill Joos

3. Meeting with Listers: Monkton Lister J. Boisse confirmed that 2 tax appeals were made to the town's Board of Civil Authority (BCA), and subsequent appeals of the BCA decisions have been made to the Vermont Supreme Court. The issues involve house site valuation and other considerations involving sub-divided property. The listers explained their rationale for selecting an attorney. The listers explained as well their approach with property valuation, and answered various SB questions. The SB agreed that legal challenges and associated expenses must be considered when determining future budgets for the listers.

4. Announcements: None

5. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve minutes** of Previous Meeting: The SB reviewed the minutes of October 8, 2012. There were no requests for edits or additions. **S. Pilcher moved to approve the 10/8/12 meeting minutes as written; motion seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**

- b. The SB reviewed and approved the following **check warrants**:

- A/P# 21015, 10/15/12, \$33,748.22
- P/R# 21022, 10/22/12, \$10,993.80

- c. There were no **overweight permits** to review.

6. Old Business:

- a. Road Classification: The SB discussed road classification in general, and used specific examples around town to generate questions and hypothetical scenarios to consider. P. Norris shared an example of an improved road versus a trail. The likely process to change a classification was discussed. J. McNerney asked about the rights of abutting landowners. J. Phillips will work to locate a definition of a trail, for comparison to the definition of a class 4 road. This topic will require further discussion at a forthcoming SB meeting.

- b. Sign Policy & Maintenance Spreadsheet: The SB circulated a draft form that could be used to inventory road signs. J. Phillips advised that the town is required to maintain

an inventory of all signs in use. S. Pilcher advised that he was not able to prepare a draft sign policy in time for tonight's meeting. The SB commented that the biggest challenge would be to maintain a timely and accurate sign inventory. The SB agreed that the Highway Department needs to advise the SB of all new signs, ideally on a monthly basis. S. Pilcher will confer with Road Commissioner Wayne Preston.

- c. Budget Letter: The SB discussed briefly the need to receive proposed budgets from all town departments. The SB decided to use an updated version of last year's request letter, and allow +/- 30 days for each department to respond. **S. Pilcher moved to authorize the SB Chair to draft a budget request letter to all departments/committees, with a 12/10/12 deadline to respond. A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- d. Building Committee Update: J. Phillips reported that all 3 firms who submitted proposals were interviewed. The committee is engaged in talks with Naylor & Breen to formalize a contract. P. Norris inquired if there was any discussion of providing a full cellar. P. Norris also advised that no Act 250 permit is required, per an email notice from the State of Vermont.

7. New Business:

- a. Review Correspondence: Mary Gerdt sent an email on 10/16/12 addressing several issues, including 1) the process by which money was allocated from the ANAC fund toward conservation of the Orb Weaver Farm. (The SB was authorized to act by voters at Town Meeting); 2) tax sales. J. Phillips explained the tax sale process to the SB, and offered to call M. Gerdt to discuss issues for which she is seeking input.
- b. Latest Sheriff Report: The net revenue gain through October 2012 is \$12,697.96. J. Phillips commented on the daily reports that the sheriffs submit with the monthly invoice. J. Phillips expressed a wish to have morning drive time coverage by the sheriff. J. Phillips advised of complaints about high speed traffic on Mountain Rd.

8. Other Business: The SB reviewed an estimate from Pace Hawley, LLC for 2012 audit services. The SB questioned whether an annual audit would be necessary. If so, it was noted that the auditor should be rotated regularly. J. Phillips will confer with Town Treasurer Charles Roumas. J. Phillips presented the Energy Efficiency Study for the Town Garage. The preparers wish to present their findings before the SB. J. Phillips also reported on a Monkton resident who had horses loose on her property. Also, the SB again discussed what to do about unregistered dogs. Lastly, P. Norris appeared 'across the table' in his capacity as a Monkton landowner to share his concerns about the need to appeal his taxes. P. Norris believes that similar appeals from other taxpayers are almost certain to follow.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made by S. Pilcher to adjourn at 8:16 PM; seconded by P. Norris, Sr. Voted and approved.

