

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2012

Approved Nov. 26, 2012

Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Anne Layn, John McNerney, Peter Norris, Sr., John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Town Treasurer Charles Roumas, Deb Gaynor, Wendy Sue Harper, Charles Huizenga, Jared Moats, and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: None

4. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve minutes** of Previous Meeting: The SB reviewed the minutes of October 22, 2012. There were no requests for edits or additions. **J. McNerney moved to approve the 10/22/12 meeting minutes as written; motion seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**

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

- A/P# 21029, 10/29/12, \$220,393.22
- A/P# 21109, 11/09/12, \$ 32,513.15
- P/R# 21101, 11/01/12, \$ 7,821.39

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

5. Old Business:

- a. Structural Energy Corporation (SEC) – Garage Audit Review: J. Moats appeared and described SEC’s inspection of the town garage. The audit included consideration of building maintenance issues, with an eye toward energy efficiency. Health and safety concerns (primarily ventilation-related) were also considered. Air leakage and insulation were primary points of consideration; thermal imaging was used to detect issues. SEC documented the biggest areas for improvement: adding insulation to the attic, and blocking air leaks. The cost to increase attic insulation from R15 to R60 approximates \$10,000, from which \$1,200 in annual energy savings would result. J. Moats offered insight about possible improvements/solutions, and answered numerous SB questions. The SEC audit also included an analysis of the heating system. J. Moats mentioned the lighting in use, and likewise commented on the use of air compressors by road crew personnel. J. Moats expressed his greatest concern about the garage’s overall ventilation, for which fans are in place, but perhaps not consistently used. J. Moats described a heat recovery ventilation system, and applicable health and safety code(s). J. Moats mentioned rebates as possibly applying. S. Pilcher spoke about the need to visit with town road crew to ascertain their current practice with regard to ventilation, etc... S. Pilcher inquired about the availability of grant programs. J. Phillips mentioned a VLCT grant program possibility.

W. Harper inquired about the Addison County Regional Planning Commission funding audits. J. Moats offered name of a firm (LN Consulting) that might do the work.

- b. Treasurer's Report: C. Roumas reported on the need for a public audit of the town's books and shared the quote for 2013 health insurance coverage by Blue Cross Blue Shield Vermont (BCBS VT). C. Roumas spoke recently with our bank, auditor, and a bond broker, in anticipation of emerging needs (such as if the new town hall is approved by voters). C. Roumas advised that a tax anticipation note is likely next year. C. Roumas explained the difference between a financial review (not as much testing, no management letter, and no opinion) and a complete audit, and the preferred duration to retain a public auditor (with reference to the multi-year cost discount applicable). C. Roumas recommended a complete audit, for several reasons. C. Roumas solicited SB feedback. C. Roumas also explained the role of the elected town auditors (the "checks and balances" aspect being very important and welcome), and emphasized their work in preparing and reviewing Monkton's annual report. **S. Pilcher moved that the town contract for a full financial audit, and retain Pace and Hawley, LLC as auditor, with an approximate cost of \$7,000; J. McNerney seconded the motion. Voted and approved.** C. Roumas circulated the 2013 BCBS rate quote and a multi-year budget comparison. The projected/filed rates (but not yet approved) for 2013 reflect an approximate 14% increase. C. Roumas explained specific line items, and solicited SB questions/feedback. S. Pilcher asked about deductible utilization. **A. Layn moved to maintain in 2013 the current health insurance coverage provided by BCBS VT; seconded by S. Pilcher. Voted and approved.** The SB discussed requesting 2013 budget information from town departments. C. Roumas confirmed that approximately \$250,000 in grant money has been reimbursed, thanks to a joint effort with Road Commissioner Wayne Preston.
- c. Weisenbach Road Classification: Consideration of this issue was tabled for tonight's meeting, for lack of time, and recognition of more time sensitive issues. The road classification will be considered at a forthcoming SB meeting.
- d. Boro Cemetery Update: J. Phillips reported that the title issue has been resolved, and the cemetery will be turned over to the town.

6. New Business:

- a. Cemetery Road Letter (Frank Stanley): J. Phillips circulated F. Stanley's letter regarding safety concerns on Cemetery Rd. The SB reviewed briefly a map of the project in question.
- b. New Leaf PV System: New Leaf Farm is installing a photovoltaic system, which will be set back among trees on the property.
- c. ACSWD Annual Report (Deb Gaynor): D. Gaynor mentioned her representation on the district committee, and referenced the annual report circulated by the ACSWD. D. Gaynor mentioned that Casella will not be used; instead, waste will travel to Moretown. D. Gaynor commented on Act 148, which mandates required recycling of "everything."

A 10 year implementation is anticipated. The ACSWD budget will be voted on soon. P. Norris asked if a price increase is likely. D. Gaynor replied that a slight reduction is projected, from \$125.00/ton to \$122.00. A recycling/Act 148 feasibility study grant program is available. W. Harper commented on educating residents about the benefits of composting. The SB thanked D. Gaynor for appearing and sharing the information.

- d. Vermont Gas Meeting: J. Phillips reminded everyone that the VT Gas meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, 11/19 @ the Monkton Fire Station. VT Gas will discuss proposed route(s) and answer questions. W. Harper mentioned having a gate station in town. The SB reviewed content of the VT Gas information package. S. Pilcher mentioned that the proposed gas line goes right past Monkton Central School, and hopes that VT Gas will consider providing fuel to the school.
 - e. Sheriff's Report: J. Phillips confirmed receipt of the monthly report; many tickets continue to be written, with a positive cash flow resulting.
 - f. Planning Commission Vacancy: Jordan Jiskra has resigned, effective immediately. As an elected position, petitions are due in January. The vacancy will be noted on the town website and Monkton Talk.
7. Other Business: a) ANAC: D. Gaynor shared a 10/30/12 thank you letter to ANAC from Dorothy and Gordie Muzzy for ANAC's support of the farm conservation; b) The Willowell Foundation received a permit from the DRB. Willowell, however, has appealed aspects of the DRB decision; c) Russell Graphics has a 2 year contract to produce tax maps (9/12 – 9/14), at \$1,325.00 annually. Should this business go out to bid? The SB prefers that the listers take the contract out to bid; d) Don Gould's claim(s): J. Phillips reported that he is in the process of gathering the requested documents. J. Phillips wants the SB to address D. Gould's concerns, and prepare a response; e) Garbage Dumping - Hardscrabble Road: J. Phillips asked about installing a "game camera" to catch culprits, and wants the SB to think about that possibility; for further discussion; f) Town Hall hours: A. Layn has polled several residents about the new town hall. A frequent complaint is that "the town hall is never open." Many folks expressed a desire for Saturday hours, and more open hours during the week. A lengthy discussion followed, which morphed into a consideration of budgets; g) P. Norris spoke about miscellaneous legal issues and related costs. P. Norris urged the SB, prior to joining a case, to vet the case and review its merits, before committing any money to attorneys. P. Norris suggested that each significant legal issue requires prior scrutiny.

8. Adjournment:

Motion made by P. Norris, Sr. to adjourn at 9:15 PM; seconded by S. Pilcher. Voted and approved.