

# Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2013

(Approved 2/11/13)

## Monkton Town Hall

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

SB Member Absent: Peter Norris, Sr.

Others Present: Town Clerk Sharon Gomez, Town Treasurer Charles J. Roumas, Jennifer Baker, Renee McGuinness, and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: None
4. Regular Business:
  - a. **Approve minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB reviewed the minutes of January 14, 2013. There were no requests for edits or additions. **A. Layn moved to approve the 1/14/13 meeting minutes as written; motion seconded by S. Pilcher. Voted and approved.**
  - b. The SB reviewed and approved the following **check warrants**:
    - A/P# 30128, 01/28/13, \$ 31,363.06
    - P/R# 30128, 01/28/13, \$ 7,617.44
  - c. The SB reviewed and approved the following **overweight permit**:
    - J Hutchins, Inc.
5. Old Business:
  - a. **Approve Proposed Budget**: C. Roumas appeared to discuss budget items, and mentioned his meeting on 1/18 with public auditor Nathan Hawley, who identified areas of discussion. C. Roumas advised that \$59,500 was moved from the town's stabilization fund to reduce the deficit. Per C. Roumas, the projected 2013 Highway Department budget reflects a 4% increase from 2012, but the Highway Dept. did not overspend its 2012 budget; in fact, a surplus was generated. C. Roumas reviewed various line items related to Highway Dept expenses, and discussed grant awards and major projects undertaken in 2012. C. Roumas confirmed a \$124,750 gross cost for the Monkton-Vergennes Rd culvert replacement, with 90% of that cost reimbursed. The remaining amount (not exceeding \$13,000) was absorbed by the town. C. Roumas offered to review the budget line by line, and also mentioned 2013 pay rates as proposed for all town employees. S. Gomez also appeared to answer any SB questions related to town hall expenses, though none were forthcoming. J. McNerney inquired about the delinquent tax reserve, and the 2012 decision to remove that amount from the town budget going forward. C. Roumas confirmed that no delinquent tax reserve is incorporated into the proposed 2013 budget. **S. Pilcher moved to accept the budget as proposed as final; A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted**

**and approved.** A brief discussion followed; C. Roumas confirmed the expected need for a tax anticipation note in 2013 at an approximate amount of \$400,000.

- b. Approve Articles to Be Voted On at Annual Meeting: J. Phillips reviewed preparation and deadlines related to the Annual Town Meeting Warning 2013, which the town auditors will oversee. A. Layn asked about the resulting tax increase if Articles I and II appearing on the resolution dated 1/28/13 are passed. C. Roumas confirmed the tax rate increases to expect. S. Pilcher expressed strong reservation about combining the Articles. S. Pilcher asked about the issuance of bonds to finance the different debts. S. Pilcher referenced Article 10 from the 2011 Town Report (for the tandem dump truck). C. Roumas confirmed anticipated costs for financing the fire station addition. J. McNerney suggested including language to allow bonding as an option. **J. McNerney moved to approve wording for the fire station addition Article subject to the recommendation of bond counsel as it relates to funding the project. S. Pilcher seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

**S. Pilcher moved to approve language as written to approve construction of the town office/library. The motion was seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.** Further discussion followed. J. Phillips advised that the bond amount of \$1,050,000 does not include certain additional expenses (such as a clerk of the works and building fit up, post-construction). A. Layn expressed concern about the town asking for any amount exceeding the amount publicized (\$1,050,000). A spirited discussion followed about various project details and the intricacies of municipal bonding. **S. Pilcher moved to amend the motion in question (appearing directly above) and strike the Article language “subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, and other financial assistance,” J. McNerney seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

The SB then reviewed individual petitions as submitted by voters, with J. Phillips reading each petition title in its entirety. S. Pilcher read the proposed article to change the date(s) of town meeting, to consider voted and “non-voted” articles on different days. **S. Pilcher moved to have appear in the Warning an Article that splits the Articles for Town Meeting Day not to be voted on by Australian ballot for consideration on the Saturday before the first Tuesday in March. Articles subject to a vote by Australian ballot will be voted on the first Tuesday in March. The motion was seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**

- c. Approve Town Salaries/Earnings: C. Roumas presented a listing of proposed salaries/pay rates for all town employees (appointed/elected/full time employees). **S. Pilcher moved to approve the requested 2013 salaries/pay rates as presented. A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- d. Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS) Update: J. Baker shared email copies and other documents registering strong concerns by her and others related to the proposed schedule VGS is submitting in support of the Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP). The SB mentioned a need to share the documents provided with counsel representing the town. A lengthy discussion followed on various aspects of the ANGP. J. Phillips will discuss with the attorney tomorrow. With regard to the proposed schedule, J.

Baker believes the timetable is too sudden for most people, including those new to the process. SB members commented on feedback from residents following the proposed changes to the pipeline route.

6. New Business:

a. Don Gould Letter – Review: The SB decided to table for tonight’s meeting a review of the letter recently submitted by Don Gould until after P. Norris returns. For review and discussion at the next regular SB meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

7. Other Business: a) A. Layn asked if a line item would appear in the proposed budget and include the attorneys’ fees related to the ANGP. J. Phillips confirmed that the attorneys’ fees will be included in the proposed 2013 budget. b) The SB will convene a special meeting on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at town hall starting at 10:00 AM to review final language of the Resolution, Warning, and Articles I & II; c) A. Layn advised that she will be absent from the regular SB meeting scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>.

8. Adjournment:

**Motion made by A. Layn to adjourn at 7:55 PM; seconded by J. McNerney. Voted and approved.**