

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes – Amended 5/13/13
April 22, 2013 (Approved 5/13/13)
Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Ann Layn, John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

Select Board (SB) Member Absent: John McNerney, Roger Parker, Jr.

Others Present: Jennifer Baker, Brian Barrows, Claire Broughton, Tim Duggan, Deb Gaynor, Renee McGuinness, Nancy Menard, Jane Palmer, Nate Palmer, Louise Porter, Maren Vasatka, Zoning Administrator Kenneth Wheeling, and Bill Joos

3. Department of Public Service (DPS) – Louise Porter: L. Porter appeared, and explained the reason for her attendance at tonight’s meeting. L. Porter mentioned the need for a balancing of interests. S. Pilcher inquired if DPS would hire an engineer to oversee the Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP). L. Porter referenced Act 248, and how the engineers working on the project would compare the actions of Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS) to the requirements of Act 248. L. Porter mentioned that conditions can apply to the project; however, the Public Service Board can elect to honor, remove, or amend those conditions. L. Porter confirmed that the DPS has party status related to the ANGP. S. Pilcher asked whether any individual(s) would be on hand “in the field” to monitor the project. An audience member asked about the categories of conditions that might be applied (hours of operation/blasting parameters). L. Porter reiterated the process for interested parties to expect. Another audience member asked how eminent domain might apply. L. Porter replied. S. Pilcher spoke about pipeline location and safety concerns, including a minimum 300’ setback from all homes and wells. S. Pilcher mentioned that 2 homes in town are less than ‘300 feet from the pipeline as presently proposed. S. Pilcher mentioned deep tilling (minimally 4’ below agricultural lands). S. Pilcher commented that VGS language appearing in proposed easements is vague. J. Phillips mentioned distribution to Monkton. S. Pilcher mentioned that discussions with VGS are ongoing, the end result of which will hopefully be an agreed upon memorandum of understanding. J. Phillips asked if the DPS has an official position on allowable setbacks. T. Duggan responded, and also mentioned details related to the piping itself. S. Pilcher stated that the town has numerous environmental concerns, and mentioned wetlands, horizontal deep drilling, and construction vehicles on site. In response, L. Porter mentioned the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and its interest in the ANGP. S. Pilcher stated that the likelihood of land being taken by VGS is a major concern. J. Phillips solicited any concerns to be shared at this time by the audience. J. Baker spoke on behalf of Monkton resident Ivor Hughes, who was out of the country. J. Baker mentioned financial analysis, and the detrimental financial impact to result if natural gas is made available to surrounding communities, but not Monkton. An audience member asked if considerations outside of Monkton/Addison County/Vermont are important, and whether the DPS has any concern or influence in this regard. L. Porter and T. Duggan both replied; T. Duggan referenced the International Paper Company in New York. J. Baker asked if natural gas

service to Rutland also factors into DPS' evaluation. An audience member expressed her confusion about the various phases of the project. L. Porter responded, and mentioned the need for balancing. An audience member asked specific questions about the economic assessment to be performed, and emphasized the use of fracked gas. An audience member asked who will represent the interests of Lake Champlain. L. Porter responded, and referenced DPS, ANR, the Vermont legislature, and public interest groups. An audience member inquired about the need for the 300' setbacks, and whether the Public Service Board can issue a Certificate of Public Good if VGS cannot honor the proposed setback requirement. T. Duggan explained how the PSB might respond. J. Baker asked if the public can access the DPS to review information being presented. L. Porter confirmed the process that exists, and distributed contact information.

4. Old Business:

- a. Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS)/Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP) Update: J. Phillips confirmed that negotiations are ongoing, with a goal of having a memorandum of understanding prior to the next SB meeting on May 13th. A resident asked about the appearance of the 300' setback requirement in documents being submitted by the town attorney. S. Pilcher provided a general commentary about the state of negotiations with VGS. Audience members expressed various concerns and frustration with VGS, the SB, and the ongoing process. An audience member stated that safety should trump the availability of natural gas to any resident. The SB responded to various questions from the audience. An audience member asked when Monkton residents would become aware of the negotiated points between the SB and VGS. S. Pilcher indicated the memorandum of understanding would provide many of those answers. The audience expressed frustration, repeatedly, with VGS and its lack of forthright communications with impacted landowners. J. Phillips confirmed that VELCO has advised VGS that certain areas of the existing transmission corridor are inaccessible to the ANGP. An audience member expressed her dismay that no engineer would be on site during the project's construction phase.
- b. Review of Cemetery Mowing Bids: J. Phillips opened and circulated the lone bid to be received (Brian Barrows dba Brian's Lawn Care). J. Phillips asked about the breakdown of charges per cemetery. B. Barrows confirmed his employee count. B. Barrows also commented on the reported 'damage' at one cemetery, and explained that sometimes headstones need to be moved to allow mowing/trimming. The headstones should be returned to their original location. B. Barrows confirmed the other properties and cemeteries that his business serves. **S. Pilcher moved to accept the 2013 cemetery mowing bid for \$4,000.00, as submitted by Brian's Lawn Care. A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- c. Zoning Administrator (ZA) Report: ZA K. Wheeling reported on the actions of his office for the first quarter of 2013, and provided a ledger copy of all fees received. The ZA reported that several violations have been noted. The ZA specifically mentioned a sub-divided property with a shed in violation, and another property

with numerous vehicles parked on the property. The SB wondered if a property owner in town was running a junk yard, given the number of cars and other material noted on his property. The ZA offered to visit with the property owner to discuss his intentions. The SB asked questions about several other properties in town. The ZA confirmed that several properties receive regular visual inspections. S. Pilcher asked that the ZA appear before the SB on a quarterly basis going forward. J. Phillips commented that few violations are seemingly written, given the visible conditions of certain properties.

- d. Legal Actions – Status Update: Discussion of this topic was tabled for this evening. The topic will be revisited when all SB members are present, presumably at the next regular SB meeting on May 13th.

5. New Business:

- a. Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) Request: ACTR wishes to publicize the 116 Connector now in service from Hinesburg to Bristol. ACTR considers Monkton to be a town serviced by the 116 Connector. ACTR has requested that a link be added to the town website; the SB approved this request. S. Pilcher will advise the webmaster.

- b. Approve Treasurer's Request for Tax Anticipation Note (TAN): J. Phillips explained the financial need, as expressed by the Town Treasurer Charles J. Roumas. The TAN is required to cover the town's operating expenses for the 7 month period. J. Phillips circulated a completed cash flow projection for SB review. **S. Pilcher moved to approve the cash flow projection as presented and likewise approve the Treasurer's request for a TAN in the amount of \$295,000.00 for the period 5/15/13 to 12/15/13; A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

- c. Request for Highway Mower: Road Commissioner Wayne Preston has requested a side mower attachment manufactured by Diamond Mower at a cost of \$10,850.00. The SB reviewed briefly the alternative equipment options previously considered by the Highway Department (all of which were more expensive). **A. Layn moved to purchase the side mower attachment for \$10,850.00; the motion was seconded by S. Pilcher. Voted and approved.**

6. Announcements: S. Pilcher thought the town officials training held on Saturday, 4/20 went well, with an adequate turnout. A. Layn agreed with this observation.

7. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB postponed review of the regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2013 until the next regular SB meeting scheduled for May 13th.
- b. The SB reviewed and approved the following **check warrants:**
 - A/P# 30422, 04/22/13, \$ 55,410.43
 - P/R# 30422, 04/22/13, \$ 9,336.38

- c. The SB reviewed and approved the following **overweight permits**:
- Keenan Construction Co. dba Pro Pressure Washers
 - Lewis Excavating, LLC
 - T. Palmer LLC dba T. Palmer Excavating
 - Redline Unlimited
 - Shelburne Autoworks Inc dba Steve Denten Excavating
 - Vaillancourt Transport, LLC
8. Other Business: a) The Listers provided a letter regarding the need to bid out production of the tax maps annually. The lone bidder is Russell Graphics (the incumbent provider), at a cost of \$1,325.00 annually. **S. Pilcher moved that the town accept the 2 year bid by Russell Graphics to produce Monkton property maps at an annual fee of \$1325.00; the motion was seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved;** b) J. Phillips commented on the likely need to replace the Town Hall furnace in the near future. A bid was received, with more expected to follow. For further consideration; c) S. Pilcher commented on how the front room can overheat, given the location of the thermostat in the Clerk's office. S. Pilcher recommended that the thermostat be relocated to the main room; d) Certificates of Compliance (town bridge and road standards) need to be reviewed and signed. J. Phillips will follow up with W. Preston on the completion of the forms.
9. Adjournment:
- S. Pilcher moved to adjourn at 9:17 PM; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**