

# Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2013

(Approved 5/27/13)

## Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Ann Layn, John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher  
  
Select Board (SB) Members Absent: John McNerney and Roger Parker, Jr.  
  
Others Present: Town and School Treasurer Charles Roumas, Jennifer Baker, Jane Palmer, Nate Palmer, and Bill Joos
3. Announcements: None
4. Regular Business:
  - a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB reviewed the regular meeting minutes of April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. There were no requests for edits or additions to the 4/8 minutes. **A. Layn moved to approve the 4/8 minutes as written; the motion was seconded by S. Pilcher.** S. Pilcher requested a minor edit to item 3 appearing in the 4/22 minutes. **S. Pilcher moved to approve the 4/22 minutes as amended; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**
  - b. The SB reviewed and approved the **check warrants** listed below. S. Pilcher commented on the need for a listing of road signs, including an indication of where new signs are being posted.
    - A/P# 30506, 05/06/13, \$ 11,348.09
    - P/R# 30506, 05/06/13, \$ 6,961.03
  - c. The SB reviewed and approved the following **overweight permits**:
    - John Barrows dba Barrows Excavating
    - S. B. Collins, Inc.
    - Cox Trucking Inc.
    - John Cheeseman, Jr.
    - Roy French dba R. French & Son Inc.
    - Sherman Jewett
    - Many Excavating, Inc.
    - Steve Messenger dba Messenger Excavating
    - Tim Poquette
    - Randall Fisher dba R & J Trucking
    - Michael A. Redmond dba M.A. Redmond & Sons, Inc.
    - Rice Lumber Co., Inc.
    - Roger G. Rugg dba R.G. Rugg Construction Inc.
    - Francis Waterman

5. Old Business:

- a. Treasurer's Report: 1) C. Roumas advised that the tax anticipation note (TAN) will involve a note for \$295,000 for 7 months. Two banks responded with bids on the business, with an interest rate of 1.5% APR resulting. C. Roumas will meet with the winning bidder, The National Bank of Middlebury, on 5/14 to receive a cashier's check, which will then be deposited into the town's account; 2) C. Roumas circulated a copy of the engagement letter from Kevin Brennan's law office re: the forthcoming tax sale. C. Roumas advised that 31 parcels remain on the delinquent list (with approximately \$85,000 outstanding as of May 13<sup>th</sup>). Delinquent Tax Collector Rod Burritt will accept payments at his residence until 5:00 PM on 5/15/13. S. Pilcher asked about the timing of the tax sale, and likewise inquired about the number of delinquent notices sent to date. A recent courtesy letter sent by K. Brennan's office also notified all delinquent taxpayers of the 5/15 cutoff date. C. Roumas confirmed that the official tax sale date is Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Specific properties were discussed briefly, with mention of existing liens; 3) C. Roumas referenced his discussion with the town's public auditor about related party transactions. C. Roumas suggested that the SB consider creating a purchase order for \$4,000 (cumulatively) for use by Parker Excavating, Inc., which would allow invoice generation and payment for a SB member who signs off on the A/P warrants. **S. Pilcher moved that the SB create purchase order 2013A up to cumulative amount of \$4,000 for use by Parker Excavation; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved;** 4) C. Roumas commented on the 2013 Mack Truck financing note with Merchants Bank. The note will rollover for a 1 year term @ 1.71%, which is very favorable; 5) C. Roumas reported that Pace and Hawley, LLC has completed its audit. C. Roumas asked to meet with the SB at its next regular meeting to present the management letter. C. Roumas confirmed that no material weaknesses whatsoever were identified by the audit. S. Pilcher asked if a public audit is scheduled to occur in 2014-15, and requested a cost confirmation (presently \$7,000.00 annually). C. Roumas reinforced the value he sees with a public audit and likewise confirmed the quality of work done by Pace and Hawley. A. Layn asked about consideration of an abbreviated audit. C. Roumas confirmed that the auditors can complete a financial review, which is less robust than a full audit.
- b. Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS)/Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP) Status: J. Palmer asked about the status and content of the proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU). J. Phillips confirmed that a meeting is scheduled with VGS tomorrow, 5/14. S. Pilcher reiterated that many significant issues remain to be discussed and negotiated with VGS. J. Baker asked if the SB intends to have a document entered into discovery by this coming Friday, 5/17. J. Phillips advised that would be highly doubtful, as the full SB needs to approve that content. J. Phillips and S. Pilcher explained the likely timing of and actions that the SB will take. In response to a question, S. Pilcher shared his understanding that VGS has purchased an option from a landowner, which may result in the placement of the gate station in town. N. Palmer mentioned the location of a pipe yard, which J. Baker believes will be located in New Haven. The SB and audience expressed

concern about the references to blasting as well as use of subcontractors on the project. J. Palmer wondered if the SB would ever take a position of “no pipeline in Monkton.” J. Palmer asked about the mechanism of gathering public opinion. J. Palmer expressed serious concerns about the project. J. Palmer asked about holding a referendum on the matter. J. Phillips visited with the town’s attorney, who does not believe the issue qualifies for a referendum. The attorney advised that a forum is proper, however. The SB discussed holding a forum, and how to make it happen. A lengthy discussion followed. Audience members shared views uniformly in opposition to VGS.

6. New Business:

- a. Addison County Sheriff (Donald Keeler): J. Phillips expressed appreciation to the sheriff for attending. The sheriff stated that anticipated costs over the next 2 years have been factored into the budget. The sheriff presented an overview of 2012 costs for comparison to 2013 year-to-date expenses. The sheriff explained how the complaint process works, which includes an audio and video review of each incident. The sheriff provided highlights of the department’s work since his time in office. The sheriff confirmed that the battery operated speed monitor trailer will be picked up tonight, but will return at some time to be determined. The SB expressed its appreciation for the responsiveness of the sheriff’s department to requests made by the SB. The SB estimates that the contract will break even in 2013. The sheriff applauded the excellent rapport his department has with VSP. The sheriff explained how his department responds to illegal burning, for which deputies can issue tickets. The sheriff’s department is also able to issue tickets to owners of properties with accumulated junk/solid wastes.
- b. VT Cares Bicycle Fundraiser: A notice was received and circulated of an upcoming ride/fundraiser on June 8<sup>th</sup>, with riders anticipated around town between 5:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The organization is entirely self-supporting.

7. Other Business: a) Another lawn mowing bid was received one day after the published deadline. It was noted that the bid was not competitive. A. Layn asked if all cemeteries in town need to be fenced in. The SB reviewed a list of Monkton cemeteries, both town-owned and private. A. Layn agreed to update the contact list. J. Phillips wondered if a cemetery commission would be a good idea; b) J. Phillips provided a brief update on the Gould legal matter: the town attorney has filed for dismissal, and requested a move of the matter to the environmental court; c) S. Pilcher mentioned the first cut on a nearby project; d) The SB agreed to hold its next regular business meeting, as usual, on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day). Those SB members present can all attend.

8. Adjournment:

**S. Pilcher moved to adjourn at 9:10 PM; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**