

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2013

Approved June 10, 2013

Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Ann Layn, John McNerney, John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

SB Member Absent: Roger Parker, Jr.,

Others Present: Town and School Treasurer Charles Roumas, Jennifer Baker, Peter Norris, Sr., and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: None

4. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB reviewed the regular meeting minutes of May 13th 2013. There were no requests for edits or additions. **S. Pilcher moved to approve the 5/13 minutes as written; the motion was seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**

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

- A/P# 30520, 05/20/13, \$ 34,821.92
- P/R# 30520, 05/20/13, \$ 7,033.46

- c. The SB reviewed and approved the following **overweight permits**:

- Paul Fournier
- W.R. Preston dba Preston's Construction & Excavating Inc.

5. Old Business:

- a. Miscellaneous Items and Review of Public Auditor's Report: 1) C. Roumas mentioned the Boro Cemetery and reported a \$519 balance in their checking account; that amount has been deposited into the town's checking account. C. Roumas explained the accounting treatment to result with the town assuming responsibility for the cemetery; 2) Tax sale follow-up: the initial notification letter included 33 delinquent properties; the total is now reduced to 13, with \$40,000 - 43,000 outstanding. The tax sale will occur on July 9th, 2013, as planned and advertised in the *The Addison Independent*; 3) Per C. Roumas, the 2013 Mack dump truck note was renewed for one year, given the low and stable interest rate environment. The new interest rate from Merchants Bank on the \$87,224 balance is 1.71% (versus 1.69% in 2012). SB Clerk J. McNerney will attest to the signatures on the "Highway Equipment Note." **S. Pilcher moved that the SB authorize the Highway Equipment Note for \$87,224.00 from Merchants Bank for one year at 1.71%; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved;** 4) C. Roumas circulated the Management Letter dated 12/31/12 as produced by the town's public auditor, Pace and Hawley, LLC. C.

Roumas reviewed various issues in detail, including a listing of assets, and depreciation expense. C. Roumas read directly from the auditor's letter, which stated that the town's books represent fairly the town's financial condition, and that no material weaknesses were detected. The audited financial information will be posted online. C. Roumas shared the auditor's recommendation regarding a specific fund. C. Roumas documented various remedies incorporated in 2012 to concerns expressed within last year's audit. The auditor referenced the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department, and recommended that an audit of the MVFD's books occur regularly. A. Layn asked whether the SB should accept the auditor's recommendations as presented, or take time to consider each. A. Layn asked if a report back to Monkton's citizens would be appropriate.

- b. Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS)/Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP)/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update: J. Phillips and S. Pilcher explained that the MOU was close, but following input by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), more questions resulted. VGS requested several changes and edits, following the meeting on 5/14. The SB did not agree that VGS's requested changes were acceptable, which S. Pilcher explained. S. Pilcher mentioned the concerns expressed about project oversight. Discovery questions were referenced. The next meeting with VGS is anticipated for this week (week of 5/27). S. Pilcher mentioned the 6/14 filing deadline. The SB will confer with attorney Josh Diamond. The SB wants a final version of the MOU by Friday, May 31st. J. Baker referenced the Phase II portion of the project into Shoreham and Cornwall. The SB discussed the upcoming timetable, and wants a MOU produced by VGS prior to the special meeting to be held next Monday, 6/3/13 at 7:00 PM at Monkton Central School.
- c. Peter Norris, Sr.: P. Norris circulated documents and provided insight regarding his tax appeals (2). For the 2011 matter, for which an appeal is being heard in the Vermont Supreme Court, assessment value and equity are the issues being considered. The 2012 appeal is being heard in the Superior Court, and has a tentative trial date of July 11th 2013. P. Norris referenced case law, "*Scott vs. Newport*," and spoke about state statutes and precedents. P. Norris mentioned tax assessments of subdivided open land, and noted that Monkton does not consider development costs (and instead charges full value). J. Phillips explained the timetable applicable to the publication of the town's final grand list.

6. New Business:

- a. Appoint Agent to Deed Real Estate: Following a very brief discussion, **S. Pilcher nominated J. Phillips as Agent to Deed Real Estate on behalf of the town for the tax sale scheduled on 7/9/13; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.**

7. Other Business: a) J. Phillips reviewed with Brian Barrows maintenance issues at 2 cemeteries that will require some attention. J. Phillips requested a quote for mowing and trimming around the cemetery fence. J. Phillips again raised the issue of having a cemetery commission (or commissioner). The Boro Cemetery Association forwarded documents to J. Phillips. The Monkton Museum and Historical Society has historical information on the cemeteries; b) Monkton resident Denny Cota contacted J. Phillips to

express concerns with maintenance at the war memorial monument at the Grange. J. Phillips will confer with B. Barrows; c) S. Pilcher shared his experience about his travels through Shoreham, and mentioned numerous road signs appearing, all of which are slanted against the ANGP.

8. Adjournment:

A. Layn moved to adjourn at 8:38 PM; seconded by S. Pilcher. Voted and approved.

Minutes submitted by Bill Joos

SBMinutes20130527