

**Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23, 2013** (approved 10/14/13)  
**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: Anne Layn, John McNerney, Roger Parker, Jr., John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Jennifer Baker, Michael Hurlburt, Renee McGuinness, 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 September 9<sup>th</sup>. There were no requests for edits or additions. **A. Layn moved to approve the September 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes as written; motion seconded by J. McNerney. Voted and approved.**

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

- A/P# 30923, 09/23/13, \$31,511.83
- P/R# 30923, 09/23/13, \$ 8,632.83

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

- d. **Public Comment**: None

5. Old Business:

- a. ANAC Appointment: There was no discussion. **J. McNerney moved to appoint Rachel Schattman to fulfill the term of alternate to the Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee (ANAC), with said term expiring in 2016; R. Parker seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

- b. Nature Conservancy (NC) Curb Cut Application: J. Phillips commented on his site visit with an NC representative; J. Phillips also explained the brief history of the NC curb cut application. The SB reviewed the revised curb cut application and map; it was noted that the NC's original curb cut application was withdrawn. J. Phillips confirmed that minimum sight line requirements have been met. S. Pilcher commented on the wetlands surrounding the proposed parking lot location.

- c. Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS)/Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP) Update: J. Phillips confirmed that the technical hearing took place last week. S. Pilcher referred to a letter drafted by R. McGuinness expressing concerns about the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with VGS. S. Pilcher shared a map of the current proposed pipeline route as proposed by VGS. S. Pilcher and R. McGuinness reviewed her property line and spring

location. S. Pilcher identified map symbols. R. McGuinness asked if any conflict(s) exist given that VGS has signed an MOU with the Town of Monkton and is now contemplating another with ANR. S. Pilcher reiterated his testimony before the Public Service Board (PSB), and explained that the town provided VGS with criteria (300' setbacks and the C-Fer Technologies report reference, for example). The SB reviewed maps that contained some proposed changes to the pipeline route along Old Stage Rd, in response to M. Hurlburt's request. S. Pilcher and J. Phillips believe the proposed changes to be violations of the MOU between Monkton and VGS. J Palmer asked about the intended purpose of the town's MOU with VGS, and inquired what might result if no MOU was in place. N. Palmer commented on the action at a recent hearing by the attorney representing the town. M. Hurlburt expressed his frustration with the proposed plan to run the pipeline down Old Stage Rd., despite his contact with VGS attorneys. J. Palmer shared her disappointment that "no one appeared to represent their interests." J. Palmer also expressed her dismay that the SB "did not provide any support." J. Palmer is dissatisfied with the town/VGS MOU, and feels that she and her husband "have been thrown under the bus." S. Pilcher reinforced the town's message: no changes to the pipeline route are acceptable, unless any/all newly affected landowners have a say. Adjoining landowners to the Palmers have drafted letters in support of pipeline route changes, all of which N. Palmer will forward to the PSB. The SB agreed to share the letters with the town attorney. J. Palmer repeated her dissatisfaction with the town's MOU with VGS. M. Hurlburt stated that the MOU is ineffectual. M. Hurlburt commented on his fight with VELCO since 1980, and estimated that \$45,000 in legal fees resulted. M. Hurlburt thanked the SB for its efforts. It was noted that the SB has not seen any formal revised route from VGS.

- d. Dog Control Policy: J. Phillips commented that he needs to research the issue further, and reminded the SB that he circulated to them a suggested policy containing model language from VLCT. The SB discussed the differences between an ordinance and a policy. S. Pilcher referenced the town's stop sign ordinance, which will be reviewed further. No action was taken at this meeting; for further consideration at a forthcoming SB meeting.
- e. Parking Ordinance: J. Philips confirmed his contact with VLCT, with more research required before any action could be taken. For further review at a forthcoming SB meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. Furnace Alarm: J. Phillips commented on the difficulty encountered last winter with the town hall furnace. J. Phillips has visited with local plumber Stan Burritt, who quoted \$250 for an alarm; the SB discussed installing an alarm as a good intermediate step, since a furnace replacement is prohibitively expensive at this time. **R. Parker moved to have Stan Burritt install a furnace alarm; J. McNerney seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

- b. Addison County Regional Planning Commission: The SB discussed briefly Wendy Sue Harper's designation as an alternate to the commission. No further action by the SB was necessary.
  - c. Tax Rate Explanation Letter: S. Pilcher circulated a draft he prepared to explain the steps behind the SB's declaration of the 2013 municipal tax rate, which is a significant increase over the 2012 rate. S. Pilcher solicited feedback. The explanation will be posted online by Wednesday, 9/25.
  - d. Late Filing Penalty – Homestead Declaration: The SB discussed briefly the possibility of waiving the penalty assessed to property owners who filed their homestead declaration after the 4/15/13 due date. The sentiment expressed by the group was to waive the penalty for 2013 filers. J. Philips will research the issue further.
  - e. Energy Committee – Openings: The Energy Committee has multiple openings and would welcome candidates. N. Palmer expressed interest in joining. The SB referred N. Palmer to Jay Frater for questions and specific information/application requirements.
7. Other Business: None
8. Adjournment: **S. Pilcher moved to adjourn at 8:38 PM; seconded by J. McNerney. Voted and approved.**

Minutes submitted by Bill Joos

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