

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2013 (Approved 11-25-13)
Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Anne Layn, John McNerney, Roger Parker, Jr., John Phillips

Select Board (SB) Member Absent: Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Eric Bown, William Bown, DRB Chair Peter Close, L.T. Cunningham, Renee McGuinness, and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: None

4. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: N/A

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

- A/P# 31021, 10/21/13, \$25,420.34
- A/P# 31022, 10/22/13, \$10,975.20
- A/P# 31028, 10/28/13, \$19,124.48
- P/R# 31021, 10/21/13, \$ 7,415.19

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

- d. **Public Comment**: 1) L.T. Cunningham asked why the agenda and minutes are not posted regularly, particularly for those that do not use computers. J. Phillips explained that the minutes are posted online. The minutes are also available in a folder in town hall. L. T. Cunningham commented on the difficult tax environment, and hopes that expense cuts may be considered. L. T. Cunningham also asked about the need for an assistant town clerk. J. Phillips responded. L.T. Cunningham expressed concern about legal expenses incurred and paid during the year. J. Phillips advised that the SB has a goal to reduce the 2014 budget; 2) P. Close commented that a property under consideration for a first cut is in violation of an ordinance (details not shared). P. Close noted that the DRB is unable to approve an application for a property in violation (such as accumulated junk cars, for example). It was noted that the first cut applicant has had numerous prior violations. J. McNerney asked if VLCT could provide advice regarding a preferred resolution. P. Close also commented that a highway divides the property. P. Close also commented on the Dubois subdivision, and the potential to create walking trails on a portion of the land.

5. Old Business:

- a. Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS)/Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP) Update: J. Phillips asked if R. McGuinness was aware of any details to share (none at this time); The SB and R. McGuinness commented on various briefs that have been filed. The work of Attorney Jim Dumont was praised by R. McGuinness.
- b. Late Filing Penalty – Homestead Declaration: J. Phillips explained the recent and brief history of discussions related to the late filing penalty. **A. Layn moved to waive the late filing penalty that might otherwise apply to 2013 Homestead Declarations filed after 4/15/13; R. Parker seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- c. Road Crewman Position: J. Phillips confirmed that an incumbent employee has submitted a letter of resignation (retirement), effective 12/31/13. The SB discussed the appropriate timetable to hire a replacement. Budget concerns were expressed, relative to highway department salaries. J. Phillips reviewed the hiring process with the SB. The SB also needs to consider health benefits. R. Parker has discussed the opening with W. Preston, and openings within the highway departments of nearby towns. The SB wants W. Preston to appear before the SB to discuss the open position further. R. Parker advised of the forthcoming personnel changes among the department. The SB agreed upon a probationary period of 90 days for new hires. J. Phillips and R. Parker will review the applications received to date (4 – 5 total).
- d. Employee Health Plan: J. Phillips confirmed that he and S. Pilcher have signed up Monkton employees to access Vermont Health Connect. More input is required, however. VLCT has employees who can assist the town. The SB confirmed its motion from last meeting (the BCBS Gold Plan). The SB will offer the Gold Plan; employees, however, can select whatever plan works best for the employee/his family. The SB believes the Gold Plan is comparable to existing benefits. The SB discussed future trends and associated costs/funding support. From 100% paid currently, to 90/10%, for example. J. Phillips reiterated the need to review the entire benefits package. The SB asked what other neighboring towns are doing. J. Phillips asked if the dental plan should be continued. J. Phillips suggested a full-scale benefits review in early 2014. If any benefit changes are to be considered, plenty of notice is required. The SB discussed the great work of the road crew. S. Pilcher and J. Phillips will get the road crew signed up via Vermont Health Connect.
- e. Parking Ordinance: A. Layn has researched; she will share changes/edits to the draft document with the SB.

6. New Business:

- a. Curb Cut Applications – Waitsfield Telecom & William Bown: 1) W. Bown appeared relative to his curb cut application. J. Phillips met with Road Commissioner Wayne Preston today to make a site visit. J. Phillips noted that the proposed curb cut would be where a street sign is presently located. W. Preston will seek guidance about whether there are legal requirements related to the sign

placement. **J. McNerney moved to approve the curb cut application, pending a review of the legality of the street sign location and related expense to relocate the sign, the cost of which shall be borne by the applicant; A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved;** 2) Waitsfield Telecom: W. Preston has signed off on the application (@ the Fay property [86 Hilltop Ln]; the Fays have not expressed any concern). **J. McNerney moved to accept the curb cut application (permit no. 13-037) for Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom; R. Parker seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

- b. FEMA: J. Phillips read a letter from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) regarding the preparation of FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans. The SB supports the effort by the ACRPC.
7. Other Business: 1) W. Preston received a call from Pike Industries advising that they are unable to pave this year, due to availability issues/onset of cold weather. W. Preston asked if the funds set aside for this purpose could be used next year. The SB discussed paving concerns; the roadway cannot be stripped if the temperature drops below 50 degrees. The SB believes that the paving must occur this year; J. Phillips will review further and advise; 2) J. Phillips circulated documents he received at a recent VLCT seminar.
8. Adjournment: **A. Layn moved to adjourn at 8:32 PM; seconded by J. McNerney. Voted and approved.**