

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2014 (Approved Jan. 13. 2014)
Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Anne Layn, John McNerney, Roger Parker, Jr., John Phillips, Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Jennifer Baker, Sam Burr, Jay Frater, Thea Gaudette, Wendy Sue Harper, and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: 1) John P. advised of a concern expressed by Road Commissioner Wayne Preston about residents' (and others) use of the town's sand piles for winter weather conditions, in amounts exceeding basic/nominal homeowner use. The Road Commissioner has safety concerns and likewise believes that pickup truck loads of sand are being removed, sometimes to nearby towns. S. Pilcher asked the SB to consider the concern, and a solution(s). The SB can share comments with W. Preston when he visits the SB to discuss the Highway Department's proposed 2014 budget. 2) S. Pilcher advised of the recent submission of a curb cut application, which he forwarded to R. Parker. R. Parker will schedule a site visit with W. Preston.

4. Regular Business:
 - a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB reviewed the regular meeting minutes of December 30th. **A. Layn moved to approve the 12/30 minutes as written; R. Parker seconded the motion. J. McNerney abstained. Voted and approved.**
 - b. There were no **check warrants** to review and approve.
 - c. The SB reviewed and approved the following **overweight permit**:
 - Arnold Blair dba Blairs Garage
 - d. **Public Comment**: None

5. Old Business:
 - a. PACE Program Contract: The SB will invite to a forthcoming regular SB meeting a contact from Efficiency VT with whom the SB will review documentation and execute contract(s). For further review.
 - b. Town Plan: Members of the Planning Commission (PC) visited to present the new Town Plan, which was approved by the PC at the conclusion of its meeting last Thursday, 1/2/14. T. Gaudette explained where copies of the document could be found. T. Gaudette volunteered to serve as an editor to incorporate any further document changes, to ensure consistent formatting, if the SB prefers. Given Monkton's population, a single public hearing is required to accept comment and questions. S. Pilcher asked several questions. By statute, the SB must send a list of changes in writing to the PC within 15 days of the scheduled public hearing. T.

Gaudette explained the 15-day publication/notification timeline. S. Pilcher solicited SB feedback, particularly about the need for substantive changes. S. Burr, on behalf of the PC, commented on terms of office and the need to use an Australian ballot to change any term as presently configured. S. Burr confirmed that the term of a former Monkton resident who relocated out-of-state expires in 2015. The group agreed that a need exists for staggered terms of office. It was noted that an appointment could be made, if no one runs for election in March 2014 for the final year of the term. The SB returned to the submitted master plan document, and considered other various edits. **J. McNerney moved to adopt the 2013-18 Town Plan as approved by the PC on 1/2/14, as amended by the SB on 1/6/14, subject to further minor edits and typographical corrections; R. Parker seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

- c. Green Up Day Coordinator: S. Pilcher conferred with Janet Kimball, who has served the town as coordinator for many years. Janet has agreed to serve again this year. The SB expressed its sincere appreciation to Janet for her community spirit and long-term dedication and service as Green Up Day Coordinator. Thank you, Janet.
- d. Boro Cemetery Request: The SB discussed various aspects of cemetery management, and compared published rates from nearby cemeteries. **J. McNerney moved to adopt burial plot rates for any cemetery owned by the Town as follows: \$450/single, \$900/double, the fee for urns is \$450. A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- e. Vermont Gas Systems Right-of-Way (ROW) Permit Response: Chair S. Pilcher drafted a letter dated 1/3/14 in response to a ROW permit application submitted on behalf of Vermont Gas Systems (VGS)/Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP). The letter contains nine specific requests for additional information and clarification. A copy of the town's Memorandum of Understanding with VGS was also provided to Tyler Billingsley, P.E., to whom the letter was addressed. The town's spring vehicle weight restriction was referenced. S. Pilcher also advised about the 'no through trucks' posting on town roads.
- f. Budget (Social Service Agency Requests): The SB reviewed in detail a listing of social service agencies who have applied to receive funding on Town Meeting Day, 2014. **A. Layn moved to add the Open Door Clinic and approve its request for \$500, and to level fund all other social service agency requests, as applied for, in 2014; R. Parker seconded the motion; voted and approved.**

6. New Business:

- a. Determine Time/Date of Next Meeting: The SB will meet again at Monkton Town Hall for its regular meeting on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

7. Other Business: a) S. Pilcher asked if the SB had any concerns about J. Baker drafting a 1-page chronology of the ANGP that will appear in the 2013 Town Report. No concerns were noted. b) The SB scheduled a hearing at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 29, 2014

at Monkton Town Hall to review the adopted Town Plan. c) J. McNerney shared a resident's question about the status of the damaged guardrail on Monkton Rd. d) J. McNerney asked about the responsibility to sand/maintain the lower parking lot adjacent to Monkton Central School. (The town is responsible). e) Monkton resident Terry Cunningham asked whether the ANAC fund should continue to receive annual funding. S. Pilcher wondered if the same fund could be capped. Further discussion of these questions will follow at the next regular SB meeting. f) Attorney Liam Murphy has offered to visit the SB to discuss his firm's 2013 legal work for the town. S. Pilcher believes that a visit in February would work well. g) J. Phillips asked about the viability of borrowing money to eliminate any future deficits. h) A. Layn asked for confirmation of when candidates' petitions are due; the deadline is Tuesday, 1/28/14 at 5:00 PM.

8. **Adjournment: R. Parker moved to adjourn at 8:49 PM; J. McNerney seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

Minutes submitted by Bill Joos

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