

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

MONKTON TOWN HALL

January 29, 2014 - Minutes

Members Present: John Phillips, Anne Layn, Stephen Pilcher, John McNerney

Others Present: Thea Gaudette, David Foss, Wendy Sue Harper, Lee Mahony, Don Gould, Peter Close.

Call to Order

Stephen Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Announcement

none

Regular Business

None

Public Comment

Following up on testimony given by Don Gould regarding warning of Town Plan meeting, Stephen Pilcher asked how the meeting could have been warned better. Stephen Pilcher noted that the meeting was warned in the Addison Independent and in 5 conspicuous locations in town, the Town Hall, Monkton General Store, Monkton Central School, Russell Memorial Library and the Monkton Post Office as well as being on the Town website. Don Gould recommended an email list to notice meetings warnings and notices. Don Gould expressed dismay that there are not more Monkton residents interested in changes made to the Town Plan. Don Gould also suggested using Front Porch Forum and Monkton Facebook page. John Phillips noted that the Selectboard has worked hard to make the Town website as comprehensive as possible.

Stephen Pilcher also indicated to Don Gould that the Selectboard did not put an article in the Warning for Town Meeting to vote on budget articles by Australian ballot but did say the Selectboard was interested in holding hearings on the matter. Stephen also suggested that someone could rise during the Other Business portion of Town Meeting and address the issue. Discussions were had regarding the future of Town Meeting if such an article passed and the logistics of getting such an article passed. Don Gould suggested holding a Special Town Meeting.

New Business

Review Testimony from Town Plan Evidentiary Hearing

John McNerney reviewed the two edits that were requested, changing the date on the title page to read "2014-2019" and to change "median family income" on page 50 second paragraph of Work

Force and Income to “median household income”. There were no dissenting opinions. Anne Layn moved to adopt the Monkton Town Plan 2014 – 2019 as amended, seconded by John McNerney. Motion passed unanimously. Two other edit will be made – the footer indicating that the document is a draft will be deleted and the front cover will indicate that it was adopted by the Selectboard on 1/29/2014. Thea Gaudette noted that technical changes can be made to the Town Plan at any time and such changes do not require a Town wide vote.

Old Business

Finalize Budget

Final budgetary numbers are not available from the Treasurer. The Selectboard can still complete the Warning for Town Meeting but the Selectboard Report contains information about the 2013 budget numbers being brought forward to 2014. Discussed allocation of funds under Selectboard control, the Highway Capital Equipment Fund and the Town Stabilization Fund. The Selectboard has previously agreed to fund the Highway Capital Equipment Fund at \$20,000.00. The Town Stabilization Fund balance is \$15,000. John Phillips noted that the Town Stabilization Fund was created several years ago as the result of a budget surplus and he recommended not putting anymore monies in the Fund unless there are years when we have a surplus. There was some discussion as to where in the budget the allocation of monies to the Highway Capital Equipment Fund appears. Stephen Pilcher noted two locations, once under the Town of Monkton Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures – Changes in Fund Balances – Capital Project Funds (page 36 in the 2012 Town Report) and once in the 2013 Total Municipal Proposed Expenditures and 2 Year Comparison (page 48 in the 2012 Town Report). The Selectboard discussed putting the allocation of monies to the Capital Equipment Fund under Article 6 (in 2013 Warning) along with monies allocated to the Agriculture and Natural Areas Conservation Fund. The Selectboard agreed not to put any monies in the Tax Stabilization Fund at this time.

Finalize Town Warning

Final read of articles. Discussed Article 10 regarding funding the Town of Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Conservation Fund. Wording changed to read

ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters agree to replace the continuing annual \$0.02 tax rate assessment to fund the Town of Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Conservation Fund, authorized by Article 5, approved in March 2006, with an appropriation of \$10,000.00 for 2014?

John McNerney moved to approve the Town Warning as amended, motion seconded by Anne Layn. The motion passed unanimously.

Review Selectboard Report

Tax Rate discussion in Selectboard report cannot be completed until financial data from 2013 is available. Some edits were made. There was some discussion regarding two legal cases involving the Listers. Selectboard agreed to get wording from Listers regarding those cases.

Next Meeting

The Select Board will meet next on Monday, February 24th at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by John Phillips seconded by Anne Layn. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Stephen Pilcher

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