

**Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes - Final**  
**February 10, 2014** (Approved 2/24/14)  
**Monkton Town Hall**

1. Call to Order: Vice Chair A, Layn called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Anne Layn, John McNerney, John Phillips

Select Board (SB) Members Absent: Roger Parker, Jr. and Stephen Pilcher

Others Present: Thea Gaudette, Renee McGuinness, Jane Palmer, Louise Selina Peyser, Maren Vasatka, and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: a) Pete Aube has resigned as Emergency Management Coordinator. The SB expressed appreciation to P. Aube's for his significant service to the community. b) The Environmental Court ruled in the Town's favor regarding the 'deemed approval' aspect of the Brisson Stone appeal. c) Attorney Damien Leonard will attend the February 24<sup>th</sup> SB meeting to review the Brisson Stone and Willowell cases. d) Interested persons are able to subscribe to the Town website and receive regular notices regarding town matters.

4. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB reviewed 2 sets of meeting minutes dated January 29<sup>th</sup>: **J. McNerney moved to approve the evidentiary hearing minutes as written; J. Phillips seconded the motion. Voted and approved. J. McNerney then moved to accept the minutes of the 1/29 SB meeting as written; the motion was seconded by J. Phillips. Voted and approved.**

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

- A/P#40130, 01/30/14, \$30,374.95
- P/R#40210, 02/10/14, \$ 8,732.97

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

- Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc. / Carroll Concrete Co., Inc.
- Poulin Grain Inc.

- d. **Public Comment**: 1) Sheriff Don Keeler appeared and explained what would be required to empower the Animal Control Officer to write civil tickets. The Constable must acquire a traffic bureau number that is assigned to the town. Sheriff Keeler provided a contact phone number. The sheriff provided details about the Constable's actions related to animal control. Sheriff Keeler advised that the Town should be certain that the Constable is covered by insurance. J. Phillips mentioned that the town may need to appoint a 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable. A. Layn commented on VLCT language. Sheriff Keeler provided a copy of the relevant statutes. After 7/1/13, the training requirements for Constables increased markedly. Sheriff Keeler also provided an annual report of the actions by the Addison County Sheriff's Dept. The sheriff does not see any significant

changes in the 2014 contract, a copy of which he provided for SB review. The sheriff recommended that a deputy sheriff accompany the ACO/Constable on their site visit. 2) J. Palmer asked that interactions related to the Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP) remain on a neighbor-to-neighbor level and not involve attorneys, to the extent possible. J. Palmer expressed her concerns about the Town's response(s) to various ANGP issues. J. Palmer shared various details about her property. L. Selina-Peyser expressed her concerns about the proposed pipeline route, which will likely impact her septic system and residence. The audience took turns sharing their dismay about the timing and content of the eminent domain letters from VGS. 3) J. Palmer expressed concern about the work and related cost of the town attorney for ANGP matters. J. McNerney provided commentary about prior conversations with various parties. The audience repeatedly expressed concern that VGS has not communicated with any of them individually, or in good faith. L. Selina-Peyser was very pointed in her comments about VGS. Someone asked about a letter to be drafted, in conjunction with the ACRPC. L. Selina-Peyser explained her contact with the Army Corps of Engineers.

5. New Business:

- a. Review Reply to Memoranda in Opposition to Palmer Motion to Amend: A. Layn solicited feedback from the SB. The audience and SB traded comments and questions back and forth. The SB explained its rationale. J. Palmer commented on the validity of the MOU. M. Vasatka said that no aspect of the MOU has proven to be enforceable. T. Gaudette spoke about ACRPC's upcoming meeting, and inquired if there is any information she can present on behalf of the SB related to the ANGP.

6. Old Business:

- a. Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) Eminent Domain Threats: J. McNerney believes VGS has manufactured a scenario so that a "last resort" exists, thereby paving the way for their use of eminent domain. The audience shared a collective view that VGS' use of eminent domain is threatening. T. Gaudette asked if people are dealing directly with VGS, or their subcontractor(s). It was expressed that VGS is hiding behind its subcontractor, a pattern that has existed from the very start. The SB take away from the audience comments is that VGS has not negotiated in good faith. J. Phillips hopes that the SB can act in conjunction with the ACRPC.
- b. 2013 Road and Bridges Standard: The SB reviewed the various pages associated with the Road and Bridges Standard. **J. McNerney moved to approve the 3 pp. Road and Bridge Standard; J. Phillips seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- c. Pace and Hawley, LLC (P&H) – review contract: The SB discussed the contract briefly. **J. McNerney moved to approve the financial review as offered by P&H for a fee not to exceed \$2750.00; J. Phillips seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

7. Other Business: Wayne Davis VT DOT; T. Gaudette provided commentary about the Vermont Agency of Transportation's 2014 Municipal Park-And Ride Grant Program and

\$56,489.48 award. LandWorks designed the project. There is no matching grant component. A. Layn asked about a timeline, which is not known at this time. T. Gaudette is seeking formal approval that the SB accepts the money, and asks that the grant process be started. T. Gaudette reiterated that there is no obligation until ground is broken. No other stipulations apply. **J. Phillips moved to accept the grant as presented; J. McNerney seconded the motion; voted and approved.**

8. Other Business: Determine Time/Date of next SB meeting: The SB will meet next on **Monday, February, 24, 2014 at 7:00 PM** for its regular meeting.
9. Adjournment: **A. Layn moved to adjourn at 8:23 PM; R. Parker seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**

Minutes submitted by Bill Joos

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