

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes - Final
April 28, 2014 (Approved May 12, 2014)
Monkton Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Select Board (SB) Members Present: Henry Boisse, Ann Layn, John McNerney, Stephen Pilcher

Select Board (SB) Member Absent: Roger Parker, Jr.

Others Present: Jennifer Baker, Brian Barrows, Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Health Officer Robin Hopps, Renee McGuinness, Fire Chief David Layn, and Bill Joos

3. Announcements: None

4. Regular Business:

- a. **Approve Minutes** of Previous Meetings: The SB reviewed the regular meeting minutes of April 14th. There were no requests for edits or additions. **A. Layn moved to approve the 4/14 minutes as written; H. Boisse seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
- b. The SB reviewed and approved the following **check warrants**:
 - A/P# 40416, 04/16/14, \$ 45,621.84
 - P/R# 40421, 04/21/14, \$ 8,171.00
- c. The SB reviewed and approved and the following **overweight permits**:
 - Bryan & Ron Bevins dba Ron Bevins & Son Excavating
 - Arnold Blair dba Blair's Garage
 - DeBisschop Excavating LLC
 - Delphia Excavating, LLC
 - Driscoll Brothers Excavating, LLC
 - Sherman Jewett
 - Lewis Excavating, LLC
 - Steve Messenger dba Messenger Excavating
 - Jeff Palin Excavating, Inc.
 - W.R. Preston & Co., Inc. dba Preston's Construction & Excavating, Inc.
 - Redline Unlimited Inc.
- d. Public Comment: R. McGuinness circulated a report confirming the contamination of the spring on her property. R. McGuinness requested that the SB draft a letter to the Public Service Board regarding the water contamination. S. Pilcher offered to forward the draft letter to Bill Ellis, who represents the town. An investigation is scheduled for Wednesday (4/30) @ the McGuinness home on Rotax Rd.

5. New Business:

- a. Health Officer Reports: 1) R. Hopps appeared and presented a report regarding a situation on property owned by Ted and Renee McGuinness, who reside on Rotax Rd. VELCO replaced power poles and the McGuinness' well became contaminated. The state advised R. Hopps of the water contamination, after which she visited the property and collected a water sample. R. Hopps advised that no public health issue exists, so her reach as Town Health Officer is limited/no authority exists. R. Hopps wants to support the family, however. VELCO has supplied bottled water. J. McNerney questioned if other Monkton properties/residents might be impacted. R. Hopps and J. McNerney wondered why seemingly no containment effort has begun. J. McNerney commented on the removal of contaminated soil. R. Hopps believes immediate action is required. A. Layn asked for a confirmation of the Town's responsibility, if any, in this matter. While the contractors are accessing VELCO-owned property, the town wants to stay informed. J. Baker compared the replacement of the power poles with the work to follow on the Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP). J. Baker asked the town to act appropriately to ensure that the contamination is not spread further by work related to the ANGP. 2) R. Hopps reported on 1226 Hardscrabble Rd, following a neighbor's contact to J. Phillips at Monkton Town Hall. R. Hopps made a site visit and took pictures. Unknown squatters had been residing at this location, but departed just prior to R. Hopps' visit. R. Hopps provided the following description: "beyond words." The house is unlocked. R. Hopps located a "mound of medications" and reported her findings to the Addison County Sheriff's Department (no action resulted). The property has been identified, apparently, as a "drug hangout." R. Hopps also contacted the Vermont State Police, who advised of "proper disposal" only, but took no further action. The Hardscrabble Rd neighbor to 1226 is understandably concerned. R. Hopps wishes to contact the bank holding the mortgage, and request that the bank's property manager become involved. In the Health Officer's view, the property should be condemned, with no trespassing signs erected. The SB will review further.
- b. Cemetery Vandalism: S. Pilcher reported that three headstones have been damaged. S. Pilcher conferred with J. Phillips, who advised that any gravestone repairs historically have been borne by the families involved. Bob Wahl quoted \$160 to repair the stones with epoxy. A brief discussion followed on the best course of action, including the creation and budgeting of a cemetery maintenance fund for future use. At this time, the SB agreed to identify the families involved and notify them of the damage. A. Layn offered to inspect the headstones.
- c. Posting of Public Areas: The SB discussed specific wording to consider. S. Pilcher asked the SB to return with suggestions to share at its next regular meeting. H. Boisse asked about the ordinance; in response, S. Pilcher provided a brief history. J. McNerney also commented. The ordinance will allow the Addison County Sheriff's Department (ACSD) a means of enforcement. The SB will consider the text to appear on the signs.
- d. Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD): S. Pilcher will confer with the Planning Commission on Tuesday. A council member is willing to visit the town, and formulate a future vision over various meetings to cover 8-9 months. Ideally, 16-18 stakeholders from town would be willing to participate. H. Boisse expressed concern about runaway development in nearby communities, and noted especially the resulting

traffic challenges. S. Pilcher addressed H. Boisse's comment, and explained the mission of the council. S. Pilcher suggested SB members review the VCRD website.

- e. MVFD Fund Raisers: Chief D. Layn visited, after S. Pilcher decided to add this item to the agenda. S. Pilcher referenced the guardrail accident in September 2013 following the last Mud Bog event sponsored by the fire department. The SB questioned the current/planned insurance coverage for the fundraiser, and asked whether the MVFD should consider event specific insurance. In addition, the SB mentioned that a police presence existed during prior events. D. Layn confirmed that VLCT provided insurance coverage to date, following detailed consultations with that office. Single day event insurance as quoted was very expensive (\$10,000/per day). The SB asked specific questions. Is there mention of the event, specifically, in the VLCT policy? A. Layn added comments. J. McNerney acknowledged the difficulty of policing large crowds, but wondered what protective measures may be considered in the future. A. Layn mentioned the need for VLCT to confirm its coverage annually. D. Layn responded to various SB questions.

6. Old Business:

- a. SB Mission Statement: Given R. Parker's absence, S. Pilcher tabled this topic for tonight.
- b. Animal Control Update: S. Pilcher reported that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) cited the Auclairs for having a vicious dog and allowing the dog to roam. Since the Auclairs declined to pick-up the citations sent by the ACO via certified letter, the ACSO delivered the citations. In addition, Bill J provided an update on the replacement phone for the ACO ordered from Verizon Wireless.
- c. Mowing Bids: The SB received two bids by the deadline. One bid was comprehensive for the season, while the second proposed different rates per visit for each lawn. A brief discussion followed. **J. McNerney moved to accept the 2014 mowing season bid by Brian's Lawn Care for \$4,000; H. Boisse seconded the motion. Voted and approved.** S. Pilcher thanked B. Barrows and his crew for their work. S. Pilcher commented on the vandalized cemetery headstones. B. Barrows responded that most of the headstones are very old, and disintegrating to some degree.
- d. Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Update: S. Pilcher reviewed the document, updated names, and made other minor changes. S. Pilcher requested current information from Road Commissioner Wayne Preston. S. Pilcher spoke with Tim Bouton, and will submit the updated plan to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). **A. Layn moved to adopt the EOP as written; seconded by H. Boisse. Voted and approved.**
- e. Appointments: The SB made additional appointments, as follows: **H. Boisse moved to name Thea Gaudette to the Transportation Advisory Committee, effective 7/1/14; J. McNerney seconded the motion. Voted and approved.** No alternate was designated. **S. Pilcher assumed the role of Emergency Management Coordinator by default.** No other nominations were received. **Voted and approved. H. Boisse moved to appoint S. Pilcher as an alternate to the ACRPC. A. Layn seconded the appointment. Voted and approved.**

7. Other Business:

a) R. Fitz-Gerald wants to install an invisible fence to keep his new dog away from the cemetery, along the cemetery property line. S. Pilcher solicited SB feedback. S. Pilcher offered to bring up the matter and review in 2 years. **J. McNerney moved to allow placement by Ralph Fitz-Gerald of an invisible dog fence around town property (cemetery), as described, for a period of 2 years. A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.** b) S. Pilcher asked about using the church as an emergency shelter. R. Fitz-Gerald replied favorably – the church has new wiring in place. c) Juniper Lane update: originally a three-house subdivision; the road failed during recent storm. S. Pilcher provided a history of the subdivision, including ownership transfer, and creation of an escrow account. Steve Revell is the town engineer. The escrow relates to road maintenance and certain septic issues. The third and final lot was never developed. The DRB will consider the issue, as a 5-year threshold exists. S. Pilcher authorized the immediate roadway repairs by Parker Excavation. J. McNerney and A. Layn wanted confirmation that the town has no apparent conflict of interest with the selection of a roadway contractor. Again, the third lot is no longer part of the subdivision. d) Determine time/date of next SB meeting. The SB will meet next at **Monkton Town Hall on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 7:00 PM** for its regular meeting.

8. Adjournment:

J. McNerney moved to adjourn at 9:13 PM; seconded by A. Layn. Voted and approved.