

Monkton Select Board Meeting Minutes - Final
August 11, 2014 (approved 8/25/2014)
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: Henry Boisse, Anne Layn, Stephen Pilcher

SB members Absent: John McNerney and Roger Parker, Jr.

Others Present: Jennifer Baker, Russ Horner, David Layn, Jane Palmer, Gregory Peyser, George Roy, Chris Slesar, Maren Vasatka and Bill Joos
3. Announcements: None
4. Regular Business:
 - a. **Approve Minutes**: The SB reviewed the meeting minutes of 7/28/14. **H. Boisse moved to approve the 7/28 meeting minutes as written. A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.**
 - b. The SB reviewed and approved the following **check warrants**:
 - P/R# 40811, 08/11/14, \$ 11,288.06
 - c. There were no **overweight permits** to review.
 - d. Public Comment: R. Horner resides on Monkton Ridge. He visited to express some concerns about the proposed Park and Ride lot (P&R) across the street from his home. R. Horner was not aware of the project, and only learned about it after speaking with a neighbor. R. Horner asked several questions, to which S. Pilcher responded in detail. S. Pilcher explained that the Planning Commission has discussed the P&R for some time. S. Pilcher referenced the Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) bus, which does not stop today in Monkton on its way between Hinesburg, Starksboro and Bristol. S. Pilcher mentioned that an unofficial P&R is already in place, with drivers parking today in front of the town library. S. Pilcher also commented on the daily school bus drop-off in front of Town Hall, and the resulting safety concerns. The P&R will be located on the piece of property purchased by the Town, at the location of the proposed town center. The availability of overflow parking for church services was also mentioned. On behalf of his Monkton Ridge neighbors, R. Horner shared several concerns, including that aesthetics will suffer with the creation of a parking lot. Increased traffic, notably from non-residents using the lot, and lighting were also cited. S. Pilcher explained the process/grant timeline, which began in July 2013, via Thea Gaudette's pursuit of a grant. R. Horner referenced Jericho Center and traffic control initiatives/signage now in use by that town. H. Boisse commented on the purchase of the Bean parcel, for which a subdivision was under consideration at one time.

5. New Business:

- a. Set Municipal Tax Rate: The SB reviewed the tax rate worksheet prepared by Town Treasurer B. Joos, who explained the source of each line item and how the calculation flowed. A brief discussion and several questions to B. Joos followed. It was noted that the calculated 2014 municipal tax rate is very close to the projected rate shared at the 2014 Town Meeting. **H. Boisse moved to set the 2014 municipal tax rate at \$.4991; A. Layn seconded the motion. Voted and approved.** SB members signed the worksheet, the original of which was forwarded to Town Clerk Sharon Gomez for recording.
- b. Homestead Late Filing Penalty: Treasurer B. Joos commented on the verbiage appearing on tax bills, and about Homestead Declarations. Historically, the SB has waived the penalty applicable to later filers of Homestead Declarations. The SB took no action at tonight's meeting. The matter will be discussed further at the next regular SB meeting on 8/25.
- c. Monkton Park and Ride Draft RFQ: S. Pilcher advised that LandWorks completed a survey of the property. S. Pilcher asked if more discussion is required, before any quotes are solicited. A. Layn suggested that the item be moved to the next SB agenda. Nearby residents could be contacted to attend the SB meeting, if they wish. A. Layn mentioned the lighting concern; H. Boisse commented on low mast lighting. A. Layn wants road signage included in the larger plan. S. Pilcher mentioned that LandWorks should be invited to the next SB meeting. The matter requires further discussion. H. Boisse wondered if the new town hall, when/if ever built, might create a parking challenge with the P&R.
- d. Wildlife Crossing Oversight Exemption Request: C. Slesar appeared, and S. Pilcher mentioned the letter to Brian Searles, the Director of the VT AOT. The receipt of additional funds outright is unlikely, but a grant process exists as an alternative approach. The Town and project team are requesting an exemption, to reduce costs. C. Slesar explained the rationale behind the waiver/exemption request, and noted that a unique project design is involved. C. Slesar pointed out that the project has been financed in part with private funds. S. Pilcher solicited SB feedback about any issues related to the project. A. Layn surfaced the maintenance issue. In response, C. Slesar advised that a dry culvert is involved, through which no water should flow. A. Layn asked what happens if something happens – an act of nature, for example. Would the Town be covered? C. Slesar believes that the project will be \$30-40,000 short of funding in 2014, so likely no construction this year. **A. Layn moved to execute the exemption request letter; seconded by H. Boisse; voted and approved.**
- e. Josh Hurlburt Curb Cut: S. Pilcher will pass on the curb cut request to Road Commissioner Wayne Preston and SB member Roger Parker for their review/site visit. There will be no action taken on the request tonight. S. Pilcher wants to improve the paper flow of future curb cut applications, which is inefficient today.

6. Old Business:

- a. Conditions for Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) Right-of-Way (ROW): S. Pilcher worked to put a list of conditions together. S. Pilcher commented on the 10-12 ROW permit requests received from VGS to date. J. Palmer asked if the ROW permit applications have any expiration date. "No," per S. Pilcher. S. Pilcher is open to presenting any conditions that might be appropriate. The SB discussed issues, answered questions and agreed to list the following conditions, with perhaps more to follow: 1) VGS must have easements in place on both sides of the road before the ROW permit can be exercised. 2) VGS must return all lands to their original, undisturbed condition. 3) VGS must provide a telephone contact number and an emergency phone number for the on-site work crew. 4) VGS must have an Environmental Control Officer on site. 5) VGS must minimize the amount of time spent in Monkton (i.e., the company and its contractors must proceed in a timely manner). 6) Any permit(s) will be issued for 2014 only (i.e., for 90 or 120 days - a construction window). 7) Once the job is complete, VGS and its contractors must remove promptly all equipment and any construction materials. 8) No parking will be allowed in Town ROWs. J. Palmer asked if the 300' setback would be added as a condition. "No," per S. Pilcher, who explained why not. M. Vasatka expressed concern about work areas and equipment storage locations. S. Pilcher is willing to accept more suggestions in writing until Monday, 8/18.
- b. Tax Sale Date: Delinquent tax counsel Jim Carroll is away until Monday, 8/18, so there has been no more action on setting the tax sale date. For further discussion.
- c. VELCO Well Contamination Update: The test results were received. S. Pilcher reported on the meeting with Chris Bray, Chris Recchia and others at the Monkton Fire Station. PCPs are still being found in a swale near to Renee McGuinness' spring. A concern was expressed about the creation of best management practices. Per S. Pilcher, VGS has agreed to test 10% of 150 poles. An audience member asked if landowner Beverly Latrell has been advised of developments, and has had her well tested. J. Baker expressed concern about the accuracy of the well map prepared by the Agency of Natural Resources.
- d. Juniper Lane Update: S. Pilcher advised that all concerns/conditions have been satisfied, and "everything is finalized." The Town is still awaiting receipt of final invoices from the town engineer and contractor before the escrow account can be closed.

7. Other Business: a) Chief David Layn and Lieutenant George Roy appeared on behalf of the Monkton Vol. Fire Department (MVFD) to discuss the 2014 Mud Bog fundraiser, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2014. A. Layn conferred with the town attorney (English, Carroll & Boe, P.C.) to discuss the content of a release form to be used at the event. The group considered specific language, and whatever content changes might be necessary. A. Layn explained how the insurance coverage applies and shared some recommendations made by the attorney (including signage). S. Pilcher asked if spectators could be steered to a website to read the document(s) prior to the event. S. Pilcher inquired if a police presence might be welcome, given recent history. H. Boisse wants no alcohol allowed at the event. D. Layn commented that the Vermont State Police would take no action, so the MVFD hired the Addison County Sheriff for past events. No free riding will be allowed this year, per D. Layn. b)

The Listers provided a proposal for a town-wide reappraisal; the proposal will be presented at the next SB meeting. c) Determine time/date of next SB meeting: the SB will meet next at **Monkton Town Hall on Monday, August 25, 2014 at 7:00 PM** for its regular meeting.

8. Adjournment:

A. Layn moved to adjourn at 8:56 PM; H. Boisse seconded the motion. Voted and approved.

Minutes submitted by Bill Joos

SBMinutes20140811