

**MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONKTON TOWN HALL
MINUTES**

DATE: Monday February 23, 2015

(Approved 3/9/15)

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Stephen Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

- 2) **ATTENDANCE:**
 - a. **SELECTBOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Henry Boisse, Ann Layn, John McNerney, and Stephen Pilcher.

 - b. **SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Roger Parker.

 - c. **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Peter Close, Jane Palmer, Nate Palmer, Ivor Hughes, Jennifer Baker, Melanie Peyser, Maren Vasatka

- 3) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - a. **BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY:** This meeting is to be held on February 26, 2015 at 6:15pm.

 - b. **SUPREME COURT BRIEF:** Liam Murphy submitted the Supreme Court Brief regarding Brisson Stone, and this information is available if Selectboard members are interested in reviewing it.

 - c. **INFORMATIONAL MEETING:** There is to be an informational meeting for the MVFD Fire House addition to be held at the Fire House on Wednesday 2/25/15 at 7:00pm

 - d. **SECOND ANNUAL MONKTON TOWN FAIR:** The Second Annual Monkton Town Fair will be held Sunday March 1, 2015, 11am to 2pm at the school gym.

- 4) **REGULAR BUSINESS:**
 - a. **APPROVE MINUTES:**
 - The Selectboard reviewed the minutes from January 12, 2015. **J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes as written. S. Pilcher seconded. Voted and passed, 3-0-1, J. McNerney abstained.**

 - The Selectboard reviewed the minutes from February 9, 2015. **J. McNerney moved to approve, H. Boisse seconded. Voted and passed 3-0-1, A. Layn abstained.**

b. REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS:

- A/P #50219 02/19/15 \$ 14,613.52
- A/P #50217 02/17/15 \$ 14,994.74
- A/P #50130 01/30/15 \$ 12,531.11
- A/P #50131 01/31/15 \$ 2,677,137.89
- P/R #50223 02/23/15 \$ 9,406.94

c. REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.:

- Redline Unlimited, Inc.
- Velco
- J. Hutchins, Inc.
- Germaine's Excavating, Inc.
- r.k. Miles, Inc.
- Pike Industries, Inc.
- Panoramic Landscaping & Excavation, Inc.
- G. Stone Commercial,
- Newport Sand & Gravel Co., Inc. / Carroll Concrete Co., Inc.
- Hinesburg Sand & Gravel Co., Inc.

d. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

5) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. RUSSELL GRAPHICS CONTRACT: No action was taken.

b. SOLAR SITING PROPOSAL FROM RUTLAND SELECTBOARD: The Selectboard reviewed the Solar Siting proposal from the Rutland Selectboard:

- WHEREAS, The General Assembly has set aggressive goals for the development of renewable energy in Vermont.

WHEREAS, as a result of these aggressive goals the number of certificate of public good (CPG) applications before the Public Service Board (PSB) has increased substantially.

WHEREAS, at best, the current CPG process provided by 30 VSA §248 affords a limited and ineffectual role for Vermont Municipalities, municipal planning commissions, and town Selectboards. Regardless of the content, scope, or impact on a proposed renewable energy product or a municipality's efforts to have a say in the project siting, the §248 process and the legal analysis employed by the PSB enable the PSB to disregard and/or avoid the policies and standards of the very municipality in which the renewable energy project is to be located. By focusing on the regional impacts, to the exclusion of local municipal impacts, the PSB routinely ignores the input and evidence offered by Vermont municipalities. As a result, the "due consideration" of municipal viewpoints required by 30 V.S.A §248(b)(1) has become consideration in name only.

WHEREAS, it has become clear that legislative changes are needed to afford Vermont Municipalities a greater say in the approval and siting of renewable energy projects.

THEREFORE, it is RESOLVED by the undersigned Vermont municipalities, to instruct their state representatives and senators to develop amendments to the statutes that concern the siting and approval of renewable energy projects and to the procedures of the PSB in order to ensure that Vermont municipalities have a more meaningful role in the CPG process and to require compliance with appropriately-developed municipal citing standards.

J. McNerney recused himself from this discussion as he works for a renewable energy company. From a citizen's standpoint, he feels the system is broken, and that towns need more of a say as to where these renewable energy sources are placed, as the towns have no control over the placement. H. Boisse feels that Vermont is supposed to be a scenic state, and that towns try hard to have good zoning standards but local zoning is largely ignored by the PSB in these situations.

S. Pilcher wants to get an idea of how involved the Monkton Selectboard wants to get.

H. Boisse strongly feels that the town needs to have more input regarding commercial installations, and A. Layn is supportive of towns having more of a say in where these are built, but is not keen on joining a coalition type group.

H. Boisse moved to approve the Rutland Solar Siting resolution as written, A. Layn seconded this motion. Voted and 3-0-1, J. McNerney recused himself.

- c. VERMONT GAS – REOPENING OF CPG: Melanie Peyser is wondering if Monkton will have any benefit from the Natural gas, and Monkton is not part of CPG. She provided a cost comparison, and whether or not there would be a savings for Monkton residents. Her research showed there would be little to no savings and could end up costing Monkton residents to obtain natural gas. The general understanding is that a majority of homeowners would have no savings and would lose money. She provided to the Selectboard a proposed letter. In what way will Monkton benefit from Natural Gas, and is this delaying Monkton from other renewable energy options by waiting on Vermont Gas. There were also concerns raised about the distribution of natural gas in Monkton given the difficulty with the increase price of the project. It was suggested that the Town should ask for the cost of distribution, including the cost of the proposed gate station be included in the cost estimates for the project. The Selectboard agreed and the chair was asked to contact the attorney with these concerns. Also discussed was the possibility of adding Monkton distribution to the current CPG if in fact it is reopened. Maren Vasatka also noted that some of the signed easements are not tied to the CPG and can be sold by Vermont Gas to third

parties. The Selectboard agreed to investigate how these easements might be tied to the CPG.

- d. PROPOSED SUN COMMON COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT: J. McNerney recused himself from the discussion. There is a proposal for a fixed CSA. Due to the location of the proposed project, there is interest in screening. It was also asked if this 150kW project, alone or in conjunction with the previously approved 150kW project on the same single phase line will max out the capacity of this line to properly handle solar PV, possibly blocking the ability of other residents along this line to add solar power. There was also a question of how many Monkton residents have bought in to the existing CSA already under construction on Monkton Rd.
- e. REVIEW TOWN REPORT FOR TOWN MEETING: The Selectboard discussed the 2014 budget versus the actual.
- f. BID PROCESS FOR WILDLIFE CROSSING: Bid should be ready to go by March 10, 2015. This needs to be posted in 3 locations.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. RECYCLING ROLL-OFFS: It was determined that it would cost \$2,500 to \$3,500 to fix the roll-off. Casella's quoted rental cost of \$100 per month, buy outright for \$7,700, and the town is eligible for a 50/50 grant through ACSWMD. **J. McNerney moved to purchase on closed-top recycling container, cost at the discretion of Chair not to exceed \$7700, H. Boisse seconded. Voted and passed, 4-0-0.**

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 7:00pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

- a. **HB moved to adjourn at 9:05pm, AL seconded. Voted and passed with vote 4-0-0.**

Minutes submitted by Miranda Boe

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