

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONKTON TOWN HALL

DATE: Monday August 24, 2015
(Approved 9/14/15)

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Stephen Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
- 2) **ATTENDANCE:**
MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen Pilcher, Henry Boisse, Ann Layn, Roger Parker and John McNerney (arrived late).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Dinkle, Renee McGuinness, Wayne Preston, Melanie Peyser, Jane Palmer, Nate Palmer, Maren Vasatka
- 3) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - a. **Wildlife Crossing work has begun**
Expect one lane traffic to begin shortly
- 4) **REGULAR BUSINESS: 7:10 – 7:30**
 - a. **APPROVE MINUTES:** The minutes for the Aug 10 Select Board Meeting were reviewed. Minor changes for typos and clarification were made. **Ann Layn made a motion to approve the August 10, 2015 minutes as amended. Roger Parker seconded. Voted and passed 3-0-1.** S. Pilcher abstained, J. McNerney was not yet in attendance.
 - b. **REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS:**
 - P/R #50824 08/24/15 \$ 9,177.45
 - A/P #50820 08/20/15 \$21,452.91
 - c. **REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.:**
 - Adam Lafountain.
 - d. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Guests): there was no public comment.
- 5) **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **TAX RATE FOR 2015:** The Selectboard discussed the differences between the estimates given at Town Meeting and actual values used to compute the 2015 Tax Rate. The 2014 deficit for the General Fund was changed from \$149,163.10 to \$108,169.12 while the surplus reported for the Highway Department changed from \$37,095.15 to \$13,317.73. These changes were made when the fiscal year of 2014 was reconciled and

closed out. In addition the Grand List which was estimated to be \$1,830,402.06 in fact came in at \$1,852,402.06. All of these factors led to a lower than expected Tax Rate for 2014.

Anne Layn moved to set the tax rate for 2015 at \$0.4707. Seconded by Henry Boisse. Motion passed 4-0-0. J. McNerney was not yet present.

- b. EXECUTIVE SESSION **H. Boisse moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, and invited Wayne Preston to join the session. R. Parker seconded. Voted and approved, 4-0-0.** J. McNerney had not yet arrived.

[J. McNerney arrived during the Executive Session]

R. Parker moved to come out of Executive Session. H. Boisse seconded. Voted and approved, 5-0-0. No action was taken.

- c. VT GAS UPDATE: S. Pilcher noted that he had a discussion with VGS Communications Director Ned Farquar. VGS is planning on filling 3 non-substantive changes to the CPG in Monkton. VGS is also working on a pipeline reroute that would move the pipeline off of the Palmer property. The Selectboard received letter from Nate and Jane Palmer asking that the town continue to support the 300' setback as stated in the MOU. (copy of letter attached) if the reroute was to proceed. The Selectboard stated that they would continue to support a 300' setback unless a land owner accepted a shorter set back.

6) **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. FIRE STATION ADDITION STATUS: Hearing set with DRB for Sept 22 at 8 PM for waiver on the setback for Fire Station addition. Construction permit and request for variance from Dept of Public Safety will be submitted. A wastewater amendment will also be required.
- b. WILDLIFE CROSSING STATUS: Work on the crossing is commencing. This section of Monkton Road will be closed down to one lane in the very near future. Discussion on possible complete closing of the road for a day or two. Members of the Selectboard cautioned that closing the road for more than a day or two would be undesirable.
- c. HOLLOW RD SITE CLEANUP STATUS: Still waiting for response from estate's lawyer.
- d. PARK AND RIDE: Revised application has been approved, and town may begin work. We will post and advertise once area is ready for public use (after lighting is installed).

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. CURB STRIPING: J. McNerney asked about status of the curb striping that was to be done in Monkton Ridge, reducing lane width to 9 feet as a traffic calming measure. We received a bargain rate if we wait for striping company to be in our area. R. Parker will give them a nudge to see what the status is.
- b. 150 KW SOLAR SYSTEM ON MOUNTAIN RD: Received information on a proposed 150 kW photovoltaic array proposed for 3609 Mountain Rd by Pete Norris. It is claimed array will be shielded from view by hill and plantings. The Selectboard took no action.
- c. DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next Selectboard meeting will be held on September 14, 2015 at 7:00pm.

8) ADJOURNMENT:

- a. **A. Layn moved to adjourn at 8:40. J. McNerney seconded. Vote was unanimous.**

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: VGS reroute on Rotax Road

Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2015 22:55:57 -0400

From: Jane and Nate Palmer <laughingtreefarm@hotmail.com>

To: John Phillips <selectboard@monktonvt.com>

CC: jmcnerney@monktonvt.com <jmcnerney@monktonvt.com>, rparker@monktonvt.com <rparker@monktonvt.com>, alayn@monktonvt.com <alayn@monktonvt.com>, hboisse@monktonvt.com <hboisse@monktonvt.com>

Dear Steve and select board,

As you may be aware of by now, Vermont Gas is exploring the possibility of re-routing the pipeline around our property instead of through the middle of it. While the idea of getting the pipeline off of our property sounds like what we have been fighting for, for almost three years now, we are concerned that the new route may mean that the pipeline could end up still being as close or closer to our house and still be much less than 300 feet from our house.

A quick measure on Google Maps shows that our neighbor's home is approximately 450 feet from our home, and it is only about 320 feet between our home and his garage.

We expect the select board will continue to support the MOU the Town of Monkton signed with Vermont Gas where it states, "Town has requested VGS to modify its pipeline alignment to be placed at least 300' from existing residential homes and wells."

We would like to feel assured that the town will uphold the same position on this reroute that it showed during the technical hearings in September 2013. During those hearings you (Steve) testified that the town would not support a VGS reroute around our property if that reroute would put the pipeline within 300 feet of another residential home. So in this case we would be the residential home the reroute would affect so we expect the town to maintain its position.

Unless Raymond Latreille is willing to accept the pipeline less than 150 feet from his home and within about 20 feet of his garage, we don't see how the pipeline can be squeezed in between our two homes. We will continue to insist that the pipeline not be located any closer than 300 feet to our house.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Nate and Jane Palmer