

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

MONKTON TOWN HALL

Minutes

DATE: Monday February 8, 2016

(Approved 2/22/16)

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

2) **ATTENDANCE:**

Members in Attendance: Stephen Pilcher, Henry Boisse, Roger Parker, John McNerney (arrived late).

Members Absent: Ann Layn

Guests: Jen Baker, Renee McGuinness, Nate Palmer, Jane Palmer, Claire Broughton, Selena Peyser, Melanie Peyser, Robert Woolmington, Ivor Hughes

3) **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

EMINENT DOMAIN HEARINGS: Eminent domain hearings have been rescheduled for the PSB offices.

Two letters received from town residents:

Renee McGuinness' letter addressed disappointment regarding the PSB not reopening CPG.

Elizabeth Paquette's letter expressed her position of opposition to the pipeline.

4) **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

- **APPROVE MINUTES: H. Boisse moved to approve the minutes as written. R. Parker seconded this motion. Voted and passed. 3-0-0.**
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS:**
 - P/R #60208 02/08/16 \$ 8,307.08
 - A/P #60208 02/08/16 \$ 21,475.24
 - A/P #60125 01/25/16 \$ 31,788.31
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.:**
 - RK Miles, INC
 - Lathrop Forest Products
 - Hendy Bros, Inc
 - J. Hutchins, Inc

- PUBLIC COMMENT (Guests): Jane Palmer asked who paid for the Sherriff at the VGS meeting. S. Pilcher stated that that the Select Board had not requested their presence, nor authorized any expenditures in this regard

5) NEW BUSINESS:

- RELOCATION OF VERMONT GAS MAINLINE PIPE VALVE 4 – R. Woolmington, representing the Peysers, noted that the PSB had ruled on motions that were filed in November to take up question of whether the proposed change in the location of the Mainline Pipe Valve 4 (MPV-4) from near Rotax Road to just off Hollow Road constituted as substantive change or not. The PSB will conduct hearings on the matter. The Selectboard was invited to take part, and asked to not sign any papers agreeing to pipeline re-routes. No action was taken.
- ENGINEERING OVERSIGHT OF VERMONT GAS. One of the provisions in the Memo of Understanding (MOU) between Vermont Gas and the Town of Monkton is funding of an oversight engineer to be hired by the Town of Monkton. S. Pilcher has contacted Sterling Staff, LLC and Sampson & Weston. Both will respond with packages that will be within the provided budget of \$1000/week and will be strictly be for the Town of Monkton. S. Pilcher will also follow up with a suggestion to contact Natural Gas Consulting of Boston, MA. I. Hughes expressed concern that it does not provide for a lot of an engineer's time.

If an engineer is hired, there will be a need to know the construction schedule. S. Pilcher had scheduled a meeting with Vermont Gas discuss the construction schedule at their offices but asked the Board if having the discussion at a public meeting was preferable. The Selectboard consensus was to have Vermont Gas attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss compliance with the MOU and the construction schedule. S. Pilcher will contact VGS with this request.

- BUDGET REVIEW – CHANGES TO GENERAL FUND BALANCE: As part of the preparing the financial statements for the Town Report, the Assistant Treasurer, K Nolan, reported that the General Fund balance given to the Selectboard in early January was in error. The General Fund balance the Selectboard was given included the Tax Stabilization Fund (\$15k) and the DRB/Planning Fund (\$14K). This means the General Fund balance at January 1, 2016 was \$131K instead of \$101K. S. Pilcher asked the board members if they wanted to spend the tax stabilization fund to make up the shortfall. The Board felt that it would be better to discuss at Town Meeting.
- RUSSELL CURB CUT – MONKTON VERGENNES ROAD: **H. Boisse moved to approve the Russell Curbcut at 1536 Monkton Rd as submitted. R. Parker seconded. Voted and passed, 4-0-0**
- CERTIFICATION OF BRIDGE AND ROAD STANDARDS: Received from AOT asking to certify that Monkton has adopted the 2013 road and bridge standards. **R. Paker moved to approve and sign the Certification of Compliance, Town and Bridge Standards, and Network Inventory, H. Boisse seconded. Voted and passed, 4-0-0**
- PARK AND RIDE BID REVIEW: The Board reviewed the current plan for the park and ride. Discussion ensued regarding paving, whether bus stop should be relocated, and whether an additional entrance was possible or desirable.

- MOUNTAIN ROAD SAFETY: R. Parker discussed raising the road on a portion of Mountain Road where there is a rise and blind curve near Jeff Jones property. This would make the road safer. Discussions are still underway and the Selectboard is seeking options that will prevent having to cut down the tree on the property.
- BRISTOL DOG SHELTER: **R. Parker moved to authorize \$500 payment to the Bristol Dog Shelter, H. Boisse seconded. Voted and passed, 4-0-0.**
- DRAFT INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN: S. Pilcher received from Logan LeCompte a proposed Intergrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan that is a copy of the plan used in Cornwall. The plan included the option of spraying herbicides on invasive plants in locations that mowing or manual weed control was difficult or expensive. Logan reports that the Cornwall road crew has had a great deal of success. Selectboard would have to pass this plan, and then Logan will have to go get certification. Application would be after roadside mowing and handheld trimming, and would only be in locations where mowers and trimmers are not effective. The Selectboard was not inclined to support the application of herbicides but will seek more information.
- REVIEW OF FLOOD READY VERMONT EXPANDED COMMUNITY REPORT: The Board reviewed this report. The estimate is there are approximately 45 buildings in the flood area, based on E911 addresses.

6) OLD BUSINESS:

- FIRE STATION ADDITION STATUS: Per email received by R. Parker, the up-charge of \$2,300 will be going away, and another steel company that might be cheaper is being looked in to.
- INTERNET FOR FIRE STATION: Can be turned on and off if needed, however S. Pilcher feels that this should be on all the time if they are going to have it. This could be a benefit in the event of an emergency, since the station is our designated emergency shelter.

7) OTHER BUSINESS:

- DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on February 22, 2016 at 7:00pm.

8) ADJOURNMENT:

- **H. Boisse moved to adjourn at 8:34, R. Parker seconded this motion. Voted and passed with vote 4-0-0.**