

**MONKTON SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONKTON TOWN HALL
MINUTES**

July 24, 2017
(Approved 8/14/17)

CALL TO ORDER: Steve Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Steve Pilcher, John McNerney, Henry Boisse, Roger Parker
(Absent: Anne Layn)

Guests: Lisa Barrett, Theora Ward, Cynthia Pendel, John Huleng, Peter Newton, Don Keeler, Logan Lecompte, Tom Murray (VGS), Christopher Leforce (VGS), Karen Kotecki (VGS), John St. Hillaire (VGS), Jane Palmer, Nate Palmer, Rachel Smolker, Lawrence Shelton, Michael Hurlburt, Jennifer Baker, James Dumont

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- S. Pilcher read from an email received from Renee McGuinness dated 7/16/17 expressing concerns about the VGS pipeline burial depth and suggesting action for the town to take on this issue.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

- **REVIEW MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes as written for July 10, 2017 meeting made by J. McNerney, seconded by H. Boisse, Approved. 4-0-0**
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS**
#PR 70724 7-24-17 \$10,686.27
#AP 70724 7-24-17 \$30,807.60
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS:**
Mike Atkins Property Services, LLC
L R Provencher Earthworks, Inc.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **TAX RATE:** Reviewed spreadsheet on tax rate. Townwide reappraisal has been completed. The previous grand list was \$1,875,555. The new Grand

List is \$2,266,740. This represents almost a 20.9% increase. The taxes to be raised (as per the budget approved at the 2017 Town Meeting) are \$894,184.03. As a result, the Municipal tax rate for the coming year comes to \$0.3945 (last year's rate was 48.61). **H Boisse moved to set the municipal tax rate at \$0.3945. Motion seconded by R Parker. Voted and approved 4-0-0** S. Pilcher noted that we have not yet received information on the school tax rate.

- **ADDISON COUNTY SHERIFF UPDATED CONTRACT:** Discussed new contract and past year's service with Don Keeler and Peter Newton. Last year's hours were below the contracted level due to staff shortages. They are up to full staffing now, so expect to be able to cover contracted hours. Hourly rate is increasing, after several years of no increases. Other terms remain the same. D Keeler left a copy of the proposed contract for Select Board review. The Select Board will take it up at our next meeting.
- **ROAD CREW HIRE:** Met with L. Lecompte, Road Foreman, and J Huleng, candidate for road crew position. J Huleng reviewed his related experience with road crew work and equipment maintenance. H. Boisse and L. Lecompte related their impressions of their interview with Mr Huleng and the results of their reference checks. **H. Boisse moved to authorize Chair to extend a letter offering the road crew position to J. Huleng. Voted and approved 4-0-0**
- **DATE OF TAX SALE:** Reviewed information from attorney on the tax sale. Date suggested by attorney was Nov 20, 2017. **H Boisse moved and R. Parker seconded to set the date for the tax sale for Nov 20, 2017. Voted and Approved 4-0-0**
- **BANK NOTE ON NEW DUMP TRUCK:** No action taken as required information was not available.
- **VGS PIPELINE DEPTH OF COVER:** R. Parker recused himself and left this portion of the meeting due to a recently signed contract between his excavation company and VGS. VGS stated that everything in Monkton was buried at a depth of at least 4 feet to the top of the pipe. Some areas are deeper, either by agreement with the landowner or as per MOU or CPG requirement. They presented a map showing the depth of cover in various areas and reviewed areas where it was greater than 4 ft. They explained their method of measurement of depth. In response to a question about the accuracy of the measurement, they responded that they did not know the exact number off hand, but that it was certainly within less than an inch. Their depth was measured at each weld (roughly every 50 feet), with a total of approximately 650 measurements. M. Hurlburt asked about whether distance from town Right-Of-Way was measured and mentioned areas on his property where work was not completed to his satisfaction or in conformance with the agreement. VGS noted that they had been in

touch with Mr Hurlburt's attorney to update him on the status and plans.

- PUC 17-3550-INV INVESTIGATION REGARDING ALLEGED FAILURE BY VERMONT GAS TO COMPLY WITH THE CPG: Discussed possible role of the town in this case. Heard from members of the public regarding their concerns and request that the town file submit comments in this matter. J. McNerney moved to have the town file as a party to PUC 17-3550-INV Investigation Regarding Alleged Failure By Vermont Gas to Comply With the CPG. As no second was made, the motion died.

OLD BUSINESS:

- FIRE STATION ADDITION: Reviewed status of payments to NECCO. \$86,346 paid out so far on a contract which totaled \$107,701. The balance is being held until the required changes are made to the door. R. Parker updated the Select Board on his discussions with NECCO: the replacement panel is being shipped this week. R Parker informed them of the Select Board's deadline of Aug 28 for completion. NECCO replied that it should not take that long.
- USE OF TOWN GASOLINE IN PERSONAL VEHICLE: H. Boisse and S Pilcher clarified with Road Foreman the policy regarding use of gas from the Town tank while using a personal vehicle on town business: Town gasoline is not to be used in personal vehicles.
- ANIMAL CONTROL POLICY: No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

- NEXT MEETING: August 14, 7 PM at Monkton Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Motion made by H. Boisse seconded by R. Parker to adjourn at 9:20 PM, Approved 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted
John McNerney