

**Town of Monkton
Selectboard Meeting
December 10th, 2018
(Approved 12/17/18)**

Call to Order: Stephen Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Attendance:

Present- Bill Martin, Anne Layn, John McNerney, Stephen Pilcher, Marikate Kelley

Absent-

Visitors-

Announcements:

- The building committee held a very successful open house Saturday the 8th.

Regular Business:

- **Approve Minutes:** John McNerney made a motion to approve the November 26th, 2018 meeting minutes as amended. Bill Martin seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.
- **Review and approve check warrants-** The following check warrants were reviewed and signed:
 - P/R #81210 \$11,254.51
 - A/R #81129 \$9,206.59
- **Review and approve overweight permits-**
 - None at this time
- **Public comment-**
 - None at this time

New Business:

- **Temporary Assistant ZA-** The Zoning Administrator has requested to hire an assistant for about 3 week on a part time status to assist with updating the zoning files. It was discussed among those present. It would be helpful to update the hiring policy in the future. No one objected to the hiring.
- **2019 Budget-** The Selectboard members discussed the general revenues in the 2019 budget.
 - Stephen Pilcher will send the post office the invoice for renting the current location.
 - The Town Clerk is looking at options to contract out IT services.
 - Conferences and Trainings- There are a few new members to the Selectboard and it may be helpful to have some trainings available. Anne Layn suggested doing an annual joint training here in Monkton. It could be specific to the needs of Monkton.
 - The planning commission did not get the grant they had applied for so those numbers have been changed accordingly.
 - Postage and Mailing- That is mainly printing and mailing out the Town Report.

- Nathan Hawley- The auditing firm that the town has used for several years. It was discussed if it makes sense to put the job back out to bid to make sure the town is staying up to date with pricing and get a fresh set of eyes looking at our practices.
- Recycling- The Town will be charged \$100/ton for recycling now.
- Town Hall Committee- They are still working on their budget.
- DRB- Still needs to send in their budget. It was noted that they are producing more revenue. The zoning administrator will give the Select Board a report on the number of applications.
- Appropriations- The Selectboard reviewed the current social service requests. So far all of the agencies have requested the same amount they were given last year.
- Highway Department- The expenses have increased significantly. The amount voted on at town meeting is the spending of town funds, not the total expenditures (which include spending of grant money). The highway department uses grants to offset the costs of projects. The Selectboard will look the requests and see what is feasible.
- Judicial fines (revenue) / Sheriff Department expenses- Will be requesting a visit from the new Sheriff at the next meeting to help develop the line item budget and review coverage they are providing in Monkton.
- Payroll- The Select Board has received a request for a pay increase for the Highway Dept. employees. John McNerney suggested the Select Board Chair is undercompensated for the amount of work done, and suggested looking in to increase the pay. Stephen Pilcher suggested planning ahead for a part time town manager. It was discussed among those present.
- Animal Control Officer- There will be a vacancy soon. Bill Martin suggested increasing the annual pay to \$1200 per year.
- Property maintenance/upgrade- The window sills and painting the interior and exterior need to be done. It wasn't used last year.
- Legal Fees- Will be decreased because it wasn't used last year.
- Cemetery maintenance- Increase it to make sure it includes fencing.
- **Preview of Town Plan and Timeline-** Stephen Pilcher provided each of the Selectboard members a copy of the new Town Plan for their review.
 - The Planning Commission is holding a public meeting to review the Town Plan on December 18th at 8:00pm at the Fire Station.
 - There have been major changes to the energy plan.
 - The Select Board is developing a timeline with an eye to bring it before the Town at Town Meeting day

Old Business:

- Lower Speed Limit- A traffic study is needed before changing the speed limit.
- Cemetery- A. Layn informed the board that there are funds available to repair historical headstones. There is a process to go through the historical preservation committee the State of Vermont.
- Through Trucks- will be taken up at the next meeting.

Other Business:

- Town Forest- John McNerney referred to the possibility mentioned by Samm Burr from ANAC at our last meeting of a town. John discussed it further with Laura Farrell, ANAC Chair, and mentioned to the Select Board that we may need to be considering some sort of Town Forest Committee to gather input from the community on what is wanted, and to make management decisions once we have one.
- Health Insurance Plan- VLTC reviews the underwriters annually. The question was raised if the plan should be reviewed to make sure it's the best fit

Adjournment:

- **John McNerney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marikate Kelley seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.** The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

The next meeting will be December 17th, 2018 at 7:00pm at the town hall.

Proposed meetings in January would be 7th, 14th, 28th, 2019.

Minutes submitted by Bailee Layn-Gordon