

**Town of Monkton
Selectboard Meeting
January 28th, 2019
(Approved 2/11/19)**

Call to Order: Stephen Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

Attendance:

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

Absent-

Visitors- Ivor Hughes, Nate Palmer, Jane Palmer

Announcements:

- Thin plastic film can now be recycled at the Middlebury Transfer Station. This cannot be put in the mixed recycling or in the blue bins. It must be dropped off at the transfer station.
- John McNerney shared that there would be a informal discussion about the idea of a town forest following Town Meeting.

Regular Business:

- **Approve Minutes:** John McNerney made a motion to approve the January 14th, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Marikate seconded the motion and it passed 5-0-0.
- **Review and approve check warrants-** The following check warrants were reviewed and signed:
 - None at this time
- **Review and approve overweight permits-** The following overweight permits were approved and signed:
 - Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation; Concord NC
 - LJM Construction, LLC; Vergennes VT
- **Public comment-** Ivor Hughes noted that there have been a lot of large farm truck traffic on Rotax road. He expressed his concern for the wear and tear on the road.

New Business:

- **Article request for the Energy Fund-** Nate Palmer approached the Select Board to include an article on the Town Meeting Warning to create an Energy Fund. After some discussion, the board felt there was significant work remaining to be done prior to creating a fund, but agreed to warning the topic for discussion.
Marikate Kelley made a motion to add an article to the town warning that states: Shall the voters of the Town of Monkton recommend to the Selectboard that they consider the viability of a town energy fund. Bill Martin seconded the motion and it was passed 5-0-0.

- **Review property tax payment policy** The Selectboard members reviewed an updated Property Tax Payment policy that was developed by S. Pilcher in concert with the Town Treasurer. The changes in the updated policy include:
 - 2% penalty for taxes late less than 15 days late is removed
 - Clarified language about when exactly taxes are due and how they can be paid.
 - Date and time of tax deadline will be voted at Town Meeting and printed on tax bills
 - Clarified language regarding penalties which go into the General Fund instead of paying the Delinquent Tax Collector

Bill Martin made a motion to approve the property tax payment policy. Anne Layn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0-0.

- **2019 Budget** It appears the current draft budget will result in an estimated tax rate of \$0.41. The Selectboard members looked at the budget to make changes in order to adjust the tax rate, including:
 - Payroll increases- cost of living increase for the Treasurer
 - Computer software and IT services
 - Consultant fees- outside auditor
 - Town Hall committee
 - Social Service Agencies- John McNerney mentioned that some towns require social service agencies complete a petition and gather signatures to get onto the ballot each year. He wondered if Monkton may want to consider something like this in the future.
 - Highway department- There was a surplus last year. That surplus helped decrease the amount needed this year.
 - Capital equipment expense- The portable stop-lights have been dropped from the Highway Department requested budget. They were not considered cost effective, given limitations on available grants.
 It was noted that the tax rate in the last couple years was around \$0.35-\$0.39.

Anne Layn made a motion to approve the 2019 town budget. Bill Martin seconded the motion and it passed 5-0-0.

- **2019 Selectboard Report** Steve Pilcher explained how the estimated tax rate was calculated; which is laid out at the back of the Selectboard Report. The Selectboard members reviewed the report.
- **2019 Town meeting day warning** An Article 8 will be added to the warning: Shall the voters of the Town of Monkton recommend to the Selectboard that they consider the viability of a town energy fund.

John McNerney made a motion to approve the town meeting day warning as amended. Bill Martin seconded the motion and it passed 5-0-0. Selectboard members will sign the warning by the end of January.

- **Appoint green up day Coordinator. Bill Martin nominated Chelsea Smiley as the green up coordinator. Anne Layn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0-0.**

Old Business:

- **Lower Speed limit** No action at this time
- **No through Trucks** No action at this time
- **Complete Streets** Anne Layn attended the meeting regarding the State Prison Hollow Rd/ Monkton Ridge intersection. The design project will be opened to bids soon.
- **Town Charter** Anne Layn stated that the Town Charter should be reviewed every three years. It requires a vote by the Town and needs legislative approval. It may be good to consider having the Town Treasurer appointed by the Selectboard instead of elected by the townspeople. A copy of the current charter needs to be requested from the State.

Other Business:

- None at this time

Adjournment:

- **Anne Layn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marikate Kelley seconded the motion and it passed 5-0-0.** The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

The next meeting will be February 11th, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by Bailee Layn-Gordon