

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MONKTON TOWN HALL  
Monday October 28, 2019  
(Approved 11-11-19)

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Members Present:** John McNerney, Marikate Kelley, Stephen Pilcher, Bill Martin, Anne Layn

**Members Absent:** none

**Others Present:** John Howard, Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Jessica Demeritt, Melanie Peyser, Joshua Giard, Mike Psaros, Sam Burr, Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

S. Pilcher announced that John Winsor has given his resignation to the Development Review Board, effective after the DRB's 11/12/19 meeting. S. Pilcher mentioned that he has done an excellent job as chair and that he will be missed.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

The Selectboard reviewed the minutes of October 14, 2019. B. Martin noted a couple of typos on the vote counts. **M. Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2019 as amended. A. Layn seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS**

The following check warrants were reviewed and signed:

P/R 10/28/19 #91028 \$11,485.80

A/P 10/28/19 #91028 \$8,490.15

A/P 10/24/19 #91024 \$115,812.42

**REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.**

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Guests)**

Melanie Peyser approached the Board announcing her resignation as Animal Control Officer in a month. The Board thanked her for her service.

Joshua Giard approached the Board to show interest in the open DRB position. S. Pilcher explained that the Selectboard will be advertising for open position after which he can formally apply.

Jessica Demeritt thanked the Board for doing work to find a new trash hauler. She asked about doing an announcement that there will be a change in service and that the rates will be changing. S. Pilcher noted that he can get the word out to the public.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **DOMINION TECH – IT SECURITY**

Mike Psaros from Dominion Tech out of Williston explained their services. Dominion has partnered with NEMREC to offer IT security services for both small and large towns. He handed the Board a sheet listing their scope of services. Moving forward, a firewall would be his #1 suggestion. M. Psaros also discussed web-based file sharing programs and protection from phishing schemes with the Board.

#### **ROAD RECLASSIFICATION REQUEST – J HOWARD**

John Howard approached the Board about the possibility of throwing up Town Highway 36, a class 4 road that runs through the middle of his property. It connects Bristol Road to Hardscrabble at the very southern end of town. J. McNerney did a site visit and noted it is obvious where the right-of-way is. At present it is impassible. J. Howard noted that in the summer he has 4-wheelers that use this and access/use his private property. Snowmobilers also use this in the winter. He noted that the road has not been used for at least 75 years. J. Howard also noted that if the road is thrown up, he would build some type of barrier to prevent people from accessing his property. S. Pilcher mentioned that one thing that could be done is a “pent road” in which the town would allow a gate/barrier to be put across the road. S. Pilcher also noted that it could be classified as a Legal Trail, as to which it can be made a rule that no motorized access is allowed. J. Howard noted that he would feel like it would become more of a nuisance if it became a legal trail or pent road.

**J. McNerney made a motion that the Selectboard initiate the procedure to consider reclassification of the eastern section of Town Highway 36 subject to a legal description of the property.** S. Pilcher requested a motion be made for or against the closing of the road. Motion failed for lack of a second. **B. Martin moved that the Town of Monkton discontinue the easterly 2354 feet of Town Highway 36 by holding the required hearings and notifications. A. Layn seconded. Motion passed 3-2.**

J. McNerney - yea

B. Martin - yea

A. Layn - yea  
S. Pilcher - nay  
M. Kelley - nay

#### TOWN HALL FURNACE REPLACEMENT

B. Martin noted that he has 2 people who will be coming to look at the furnace. S. Pilcher noted that James Zeno came in to look and gave a quick estimate. S. Pilcher spoke to Stan Burritt who does not recommend a cold climate heat pump because the building is not “tight” enough. A cold climate heat pump would be 11kish or a furnace replacement at \$6200. **M. Kelley made a motion to retain Stan Burritt Plumbing and Heating Co to replace the oil furnace. A. Layn seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

#### RECYCLING DROPOFF TRASH COLLECTING CONTRACTOR

Randy Orvis at Moose Rubbish can do this and start on November 9th. He will also accept food scraps and yard waste. The price charged for bags is based somewhat on weight but in general it will cost \$5.00 for 30 to 45 gallon bags and \$3.00 for 13 to 20 gallon bags. In addition, Moose will except food scraps at \$1.00 per pail and \$2.00 and up for yard waste depending on the amount (a bag of leaves would be \$2.00). **A. Layn made a motion to accept Moose Rubbish as the new hauler at the recycling center. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor 5-0-0.**

#### POND ROAD CULVERT

Ben Hollwedel (road foreman) met with the Army Corp and VT DEC regarding the culvert on Rotax Road and an existing culvert on the north end of Pond Road. Because of new laws, when the culvert on Pond Road needs to be replaced it will have to be approximately 30 feet, which would most likely need to be a bridge. The culvert needs to be replaced. Once a temporary structure is in place, the Town has 2 years to put in the permanent structure. It is a needed repair and the temporary structure will cost about \$4,000.

#### EXPLORE FUTURE TOWN HALL STAFFING

B. Brown met with DRB liason M. Kelley about the possibility of combining some aspects of the DRB Clerk, Zoning Administrator, admin stuff with selectboard etc. B. Brown noted that she will most likely have to resign as DRB Clerk next fall due to an anticipated change in her work hours and is worried about who would take over. She noted that it is a lot of work and the Board needs to ensure that the work is done properly. The time and amount of work needed of the Selectboard Chair was also discussed. M. Kelley will ask various people what hours they are putting in. One idea was job share with other towns. B. Brown will research how our neighboring towns handle these responsibilities. S. Pilcher mentioned that he could talk with New Haven.

## BUDGET STATUS REPORT AND START OF BUDGET PROCESS

The Town Treasurer prepared a budget status report, dated Oct 28, 2019, which the Board reviewed. S. Pilcher will send out letters to all town departments & committees with requests for their 2020 budget proposals.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher directed the Zoning Administrator send letters to the property owners that were discussed.

### TOWN OF MONKTON CHARTER

A. Layn has emailed Caleb Elder to see what the steps would be to create a Town Charter. Weybridge has a town charter that might be a good example for Monkton follow, which A. Layn read aloud to the Board.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

A. Layn got a call from Sheldon Trucks asking why they can't get paid. A. Layn explained the timeline for when the truck would be paid for per the voters. It was B. Hollwedel's belief that the truck chassis was to be paid for by the first Monday in October. A tax anticipation note has not been prepared yet. If the bill is not paid by November 11th, then we won't have the truck for this winter. S. Pilcher noted that the second Monday in September Ben came to the Selectboard and said that the truck was ready and there was a motion to authorize payment. S. Pilcher noted that we need a loan, not a tax anticipation note. S. Pilcher then noted that the Board could make a motion to get/spend the money out of the Highway Capital Fund instead of obtaining a loan. S. Pilcher thinks it would be prudent to hold a special meeting to authorize the monies to come out of the Highway Capital Fund. The Selectboard decided to hold a special meeting on Wednesday the 30th at 5:15pm.

### DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Selectboard meeting will be held as a special meeting on Wednesday, October 30th, 5:15pm at Monkton Town Hall.

The next regular Selectboard meeting is November 11th at 7:00 pm at Monkton Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M. Kelley moved to adjourn. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown  
Recording Secretary