

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MONKTON TOWN HALL  
Monday November 25, 2019  
(Approved 12/9/19)

Anne Layn called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Members Present:** John McNerney, Anne Layn, Bill Martin

**Members Absent:** Stephen Pilcher, Marikate Kelley

**Others Present:** Bailee Layn-Gordon, Jaime Schulte, Meredith McFarland, Joshua Giard, Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman), Jeff Boise, John Howard , Betsy Brown  
(Recording Secretary)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Selectboard received a letter from NEMRC regarding an increase in the annual support/license. The cost will increase from \$1,460.81 to \$5,000.00. This will be put on a future agenda to be discussed further.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

The minutes of November 11, 2019 were reviewed. **J. McNerney moved to accept as written. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS**

The following check warrants were reviewed and signed:

A/P 91122 11/22/19 \$15,929.46

P/R 91125 11/25/19 \$10,490.81

A/P 91125 11/25/19 \$25,706.81

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

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:  
none

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

B. Layn-Gordon asked the Selectboard to reconsider the way important information gets sent out to townspeople. Currently information is occasionally going out on the Town Website. Various posts, some accurate, some not are showing up on the community

Facebook page. Her proposal is for the Town have an official Facebook page. Comments could be turned off, so the burden of constantly policing comments could be avoided. B. Martin asked if other towns have Facebook pages. B. Layn-Gordon mentioned Starksboro. B. Layn-Gordon asked the Town Clerk if she liked the idea and mentioned that she would be interested if parameters were set by the Selectboard. J. McNerney feels that the problem is not what platform it is on, that information is not being posted. HE asked what the difference is between posting on the town website and posting on a “no comments” town web page. B. Layn-Gordon noted that when something is posted on one of the social media platforms, a notification is sent out. B. Martin mentioned that there should be 2 admins. A. Layn will add this to the next agenda under new business so that the Selectboard can take action. B. Layn-Gordon will check with Starksboro for a copy of their social media policy. B. Brown can get South Burlington’s. M. McFarland can email Bristol’s.

J. Boise from Murray Road came before the Board to discuss some ditching/culvert along Murray Road. He mentioned that he approached the town a few years ago and was told that the town wouldn’t do anything with it. He mentioned several steps he has tried to fix it and nothing is working. He mentioned that he recently emailed the Town Highway Dept. A. Layn mentioned that an email from S. Pilcher to Mr. Boise noted that Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman) went and took a look and agreed that the ditch should be addressed. S. Pilcher also pointed out in that email that the road crew is very busy at present, so it may be a while before it can be addressed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **BRISTOL RECREATION**

M. McFarland came to the meeting as the Director of the Recreation Department in Bristol. She is reaching out to the 5-Town selectboards to see if they have any feedback. 9% of the Teen Center participation is Monkton residents. She said the rest of their activities reflect a similar participation rate from Monkton. Scholarships are available for residents of all 5 towns. There are lots of free events throughout the year. M. McFarland gave a run down on paid events and also talked about summer camps that they offer. A. Layn suggested that she get in touch with the Monkton Recreation Committee. M. McFarland mentioned that hockey at the rink will be coming back this winter. Dec 20th there will be an open skate. B. Layn-Gordon asked about in the future having some sort of transportation after school to get kids to Bristol so they can partake in after school activities. M. McFarland has been brainstorming and looking for grants to address this issue.

#### **APPOINTMENTS – DRB, PLANNING COMMISSION**

There is one open spot for the DRB and two (2) applicants. There is one open spot on

the Planning Commission. Interviews will be postponed until the next meeting when there is a full board. It will be December 9th. Applicants will be emailed a time.

#### PLOW TRUCK COVERAGE OPTIONS

B. Hollwedel did some math and feels that buying a used truck does not make financial sense. It won't be a good return on investment. A. Layn asked for other alternatives. B. Hollwedel mentioned that it is possible to hire a contractor to plow and sand. They would most likely not be willing to work on an "on call" basis, but could have them commit to a certain road(s) for the entire winter. B. Hollwedel will get some cost information. Parks Hurlburt Road, Old Stage Road, and Nichols Road would be the roads he could use the most help on.

#### ROAD REPAIR PLANS

Piney Woods is closed until further notice. Bids for reconstruction will go out this winter.

B. Hollwedel visited Murray Road (the area noted by MR Boise during public comments) and stated that it is work that needs to be done, the question is when. Mountain Road temporary culvert has been ordered. B. Hollwedel is unsure if this issue qualifies for an emergency grant. The temporary culvert should arrive the week of Dec 5th and work will commence to put it in. Since metal culverts for this size and type of crossing no longer meet state standards the culvert will most likely have to be with a permanent structure sometime in 2020.

A. Layn mentioned that there are a few culverts that were constructed around the same time as the Mountain Road culvert. One was the Church Road culvert which is failing. The other is on Tyler Bridge Road and appears to be doing OK. Ben responded that the Church Rd culvert is similar to Mountain Rd and will also need to be replaced in 2020. Another culvert on Parks-Hurlburt Road has failed and needs to be replaced.

A. Layn asked Ben about his thoughts on a Town social media account. He is happy to pass information along to the person who will be posting information.

B. Hollwedel noted that there appears to be something wrong with the culvert on Hollow Road below the Rec Field, but it is so wet that they can't get in there to evaluate.

J. Giard noted that the stop sign at Hardscrabble/Bristol Road is missing. B. Hollwedel noted that it was stolen, and has since been returned. It will be replaced.

B. Hollwedel noted that a culvert inventory was done approximately 7 years ago by ACRPC and the ones that are failing now were deemed then to be satisfactory.

#### REVIEW OF TOWN PLAN ADOPTED BY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Selectboard needs to have a hearing. A. Layn noted that, per an email from S. Pilcher, the soonest the Board could have it would be Dec 16th. A more reasonable date would be January 6th. **J. McNerney moved that the Board warn a public hearing for adoption of the Town Plan for January 6th at the Monkton Fire**

**Station at 7pm. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor 3-0-0.**

#### SET TOWN MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

The Town's reimbursement rate is lower than the Federal reimbursement rate. **J.**

**McNerney moved to set reimbursement rate for use of a personal vehicle on town business at the IRS Standard Mileage Rates for Business Miles Driven. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

#### 2020 BUDGET

A. Layn handed the Board a current year budget status report. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

There are \$144,610.73 in delinquent taxes as of 11/25/19 (including interest & penalties)

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney spoke with a surveyor (Tim Short) of Short Surveying in Middlebury. T. Short told J. McNerney that he could establish location as of 2001 as he did of the McNerney property at that time, which included locating Jockey Lane. If the Town wants it researched further back for historical purposes, that will be a much more involved undertaking, assuming the historical records even exist and are specific as to the location. T. Short said he can give the Select Board an idea of costs once he knows what the Board is looking for: he can flag the location, and/or set pins, and/or map it. Since there may be some legal requirements, J. McNerney will contact S. Pilcher to see if the town attorney has recommendation on what we will need as a product from the surveyor.

##### FUTURE TOWN HALL STAFFING

No action taken

##### SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

B. Martin will check in with K. Perlee to see if there has been any response to the violation letters.

##### TOWN OF MONKTON CHARTER

A. Layn made a draft of a warning for a proposed article to be warned for town meeting. J. McNerney suggested that VLCT be contacted for further guidance. A. Layn will check with VLCT and run the language by them.

##### TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

The hearing for the reclassification will be December 16th at 6:30pm. J. Howard asked about how the warning was worded. J. McNerney noted that the motion was to put the process in motion to throw up the road. There is a specific process that needs to be followed. There is no assumption at this point whether the road will in fact be reclassified or not. That decision will be made after the hearing, site visit and other required steps have taken place.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**B. Martin made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. J. McNerney seconded. Voted and approved 3-0-0.** The Board moved into executive session at 8:40pm.

**B. Martin moved and J. McNerney seconded to exit Executive Session. Voted and approved 3-0-0.** The board exited Executive Session at 9:50 PM

#### OTHER BUSINESS

#### DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Selectboard meeting is December 9th, 2019 at 7pm at Monkton Town Hall.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**J. McNerney moved and Bill Martin seconded to adjourn. Voted and approved 3-0-0.** Meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown  
Recording Secretary