

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONKTON TOWN HALL
Monday February 10, 2020
(approved 2/24/20)

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

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Theresa Payea, Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Paul Low, Will Bown, Jane Palmer, Nate Palmer, Renee McGuinness

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The town received a public records request from an attorney in Middlebury regarding town communications with George Merkel. S. Pilcher noted that he and the Town Clerk did a search for anything related to the request and came up with nothing. S. Pilcher noted he wrote back to the attorney to let him know.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as amended. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

The following check warrants were reviewed and signed:

A/P #00210 2/10/2020 \$18,132.54

A/P #00127 1/27/2020 \$14,949.88

P/R #00203 2/3/2020 \$12,285.60

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

VELCO

Newport Sand & Gravel

Riggs Distler

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

ENERGY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

A. Perkins is asking to be appointed to the Energy Committee. He noted that he has attended some meetings. His interest is in renewable energy. Mr. Perkins noted that he is a UVM mechanical engineering grad and has worked on Windmills, solar arrays, etc.

B. Martin moved appoint Alex Perkins to one of the Energy Committee terms expiring March 2022. M. Kelley seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

CEDAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Theresa Payea approached the Board to give an update on the newly re-formed Cedar Lake Association. They are now official with the Secretary of State. There has been an issue with water levels this past year which they hope to have remedied. The first item they want to tackle is the pond overflow. Fish and Wildlife gave some recommendations to help with the beaver baffle. They have approached Skip Lyle to help and have also received a grant to help pay for Skip Lyle's fee. S. Pilcher noted that he would encourage the association to come up with a mission statement as that may help with obtaining grants in the future. J. McNerney noted that the association should speak with Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman) before any work is done to ensure that the culverts along the outflow are sufficient. T. Payea asked if they could have a space on the Town's website to keep people informed. It was agreed by the Board that that is OK.

BUILDING COMMITTEE RE:CONSTRUCTION MANAGER HIRE

W. Bown updated the Selectboard on the effort to hire a construction manager (CM) if the bond is approved. An RFP has been put out. 7 firms responded. A. Layn asked whether subcontractors would have to be bonded, W. Bown responded that the CM would establish minimum qualifications which the subcontractors must meet.

The committee has narrowed it down to two and will be meeting with one of them tomorrow (2/11/2020).

ROTAX ROAD FROST HEAVE

R. McGuinness approached the Board re: a frost heave on Rotax Road where the VT Gas pipeline runs underneath. S. Pilcher passed out a copy of correspondence between Ms. McGuinness and VT Gas. R. McGuinness asked the Board if they were familiar with the latest issues with VT Gas being investigated for not building the pipeline properly. She noted that she would like the town to be involved in this process. She would like to see the whole pipeline inspected. At a minimum, she would like to see an engineer and not

our road crew to look and see what is going on with the crossing at Rotax Road. S. Pilcher noted that the Town is happy to reach out to VT Gas about the Rotax Road issue. R. McGuinness asked if the Town would be willing to file an official comment to the Public Service Bureau. M. Kelley would like to see the report regarding the violations and where they are. M. Kelley noted that she is supportive with following up on the Rotax Road issue. In terms of the bigger picture she would like to study up on the issues. The Board noted that they will look at the MOU. J. McNerney noted that he would like to be there when the meeting/site visit between VT Gas and Ben Hollwedel happens. S. Pilcher noted that the Board will reach out to VT Gas via a letter regarding the road crossing issue. J. Palmer and R. McGuinness asked that they cc: the PUC so that they are aware of what is going on.

TOWN MEETING PREP

S. Pilcher noted that they should make a sheet with a breakdown of the costs that are driving the tax rate to make it easy for those attending to understand. S. Pilcher noted that he needs to prep a VT Gas distribution map.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC INFORMATION PAGE

A. Layn noted that there should be some movement on this after Town Meeting Day.

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney noted that he will give the surveyor a call to let them know that the Town would like to have the center line flagged and to find out an estimated cost.

FUTURE TOWN HALL STAFFING

S. Pilcher noted that the Town of New Haven has a Town Administrator/ZA/DRB Clerk as one position which might be a good model to look at. J. McNerney asked about the possibility of impact fees to help pay for something like this. B. Martin noted that our fees are the 2nd lowest in Addison County. M. Kelley noted that maybe it could start out as a part time job. She would like to see what hours the DRB Clerk and the Selectboard Chair are putting in. A. Layn noted that her son owns a few properties in New Haven and has heard from him that it has been a very positive experience dealing with Town Hall there as there is always someone there who can help.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

J. Palmer asked what this issue is and why it has been on the agenda for months. S. Pilcher gave J. Palmer the history (explained in past minutes).

TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Feb 24 7pm

ADJOURNMENT

J. McNerney moved to adjourn. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown
Recording Secretary