

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING  
Monday July 13, 2020  
REMOTE MEETING ONLY  
(Approved 7/27/20)

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

**Selectboard Members Present:** Stephen Pilcher, Bill Martin, John McNerney, Paul Low, Marikate Kelley

**Selectboard Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Rick Imes, Chris Huston, Melody Daigle, Robin Hopps

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES - **J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of July 6, 2020 as written. B.Martin seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**J. McNerney moved to approve A/P #00711 dated July 11, 2020 in the amount of \$10,513.39. B. Martin seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Daigle made a request that the Town Selectboard put a Black Lives Matter sign in front Town Hall. She is asking that the Town endorse it and put it up. She would like to see The Town of Monkton step up and show support of the BLM movement. J. McNerney noted that he supports BLM but is concerned that this will open up others asking to put other signs up, some of which may be regarded as hate speech.. M Daigle feels it is important that the Selectboard show leadership during this time of moral crisis and that the town would have to formulate an answer to that. P. Low noted that he personally supports the request, but noted that people have other views. She noted that she would provide the sign, but asked that the Selectboard make an official decree to support the erection of the sign. S. Pilcher noted that he felt that this should be brought up at the Monkton Town Meeting - i.e. does the Town of Monkton support the BLM movement and would they like to see a flag or sign at town hall. S. Pilcher noted that the SB has never done anything that is even vaguely partisan. M. Daigle noted that the message is not partisan. She noted that neutrality maintains the status quo. S. Pilcher noted that he would love to see

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this as an article at Town Meeting and feels that the Board does not represent the Town in this matter. M. Kelley expressed concern that if the town lets one sign there, then it may be that all signs need to be allowed. M. Kelley also feels that this is an important issue and she would be in favor of making a statement in support of BLM. S. Pilcher noted that it appears that none of the SB members have a problem with a BLM sign being put out in between the library & town hall.

**M. Kelley made a motion to allow the placement of a BLM sign on the public space between the Town Hall and library. P. Low seconded. A roll call vote was taken.**

B. Martin - nay

J. McNerney - aye

M. Kelley - aye

S. Pilcher - aye

P. Low - aye

**Motion passed by a vote of 4-1-0.**

**M. Kelley made a motion that the that the Selectboard states that it is in favor of the Black Lives Matter movement. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC ON MONKTON ROADS

S. Pilcher reached out to the Addison County Sheriff. The sheriff has 2 deputies that are certified to weigh trucks but are having staffing issues right now. B. Martin noted that the Hinesburg police get around 1 overweight truck per week and the fee is 10-12K. The ticket is written to the company. The town gets about 85% of the fine into their budget. B. Martin noted that Monkton can hire Hinesburg PD and Vergennes PD to do this in Monkton and Monkton would get a cut of the ticket if the ticket is written in town. The tickets written for thru truck traffic are much lower fine than for overweight violations.

R. Imes noted that he thinks the truckers are using the shortcut through town to save time and that the tickets being written now are not enough to sway them away from using the routes through town. B. Martin will reach out to his contact at Hinesburg PD to see about hiring them for 10 or so hours to enforce thru truck traffic. P. Low suggested a one month contract to see if it works out. M. Kelley also suggested looking at the contract we have with the Sheriff's office. **M.**

**Kelley made a motion to hire Hinesburg PD for 10 hours a month at \$60/hour to enforce overweight and no through truck regulations coming through Monkton for a one month period. J. McNerney seconded. A roll call vote was then taken.**

BM - abstain

JM - aye

MK - aye

PL aye

SP aye

**Motion passed 4-0-1.**

#### NAYLOR AND BREEN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

S. Pilcher shared a budget worksheet dated July 10, 2010. There was some discussion on the future sale of the existing library and Town Hall. The performance bond was discussed. The performance bond can be added as a change order. **J. McNerney moved to sign the contract with Naylor and Breen for a guaranteed Maximum price of \$1,626,649.86. B. Martin seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0**

#### CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT TO MONKTON RIDGE CHURCH ASSN.

This is an easement for an easement for a back up septic system for the Church should their current system fail. It was offered in exchange for sharing the church's well for the new town hall. **B. Martin made a motion to nominate J. McNerney as Agent to Deed Real Estate. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

**B. Martin made a motion to approve the Easement Deed to the Monkton Church Ridge Association and that the Board approve the signature of a duly authorized agent. J. McNerney seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

#### OLD STAGE ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUES

S. Pilcher reached out to Mike Winslow at ACRCP who put him in touch with a Safety Officer at AOT who will hopefully come and take a look at Old Stage Road to review and make recommendations on improving safety.

#### HEALTH ISSUES AT VAUGHN TRAILER PARK

Robin Hopps (town health officer) has asked the Selectboard to issue a Regular Health Order to Vaughn Court MH #30. **M. Kelley moved to have the Town Health Officer issue a Regular Health Order to the owners of #30 Vaughn Mobile Home Park and to approve the Notice of Intent (to seek the health order) and supporting evidence in the procedure rights documents to the owners of #30 Vaughn Mobile Home Park. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

#### BUDGET STATUS

S. Pilcher shared the current budget status report.

#### REVIEW HIGHWAY BUDGET FOR POSSIBLE COVID-19 TAX RELIEF

There is 110K in budget for hot mix for re-paving. It was noted that Ben has stated in the past that this could be cut with no detrimental side effects. **M. Kelley moved to remove from the Highway Department budget any 3rd party paving contracts. J. McNerney seconded.** Discussion ensued. B. Martin noted that he really wants to hear from Ben. M. Kelley noted that her motion probably does not work very well when it comes to culverts as Ben may need to

hire out the paving of those. **A vote was then taken. Motion failed 0-5-0.** J. McNerney called Ben during the meeting and Ben stated that he is OK with reducing all but 10-15K of the 110K. **J. McNerney made a motion to reduce the hotmix line item from 110K to 15K. M. Kelley seconded.** Discussion ensued. P. Low feels like we are playing with numbers and would like to see some real #s from Ben. A roll call vote was then taken.

BM - aye

JM - aye

MK - aye

PL - abstain

SP - aye

**Motion passed 4-0-1.**

#### REVIEW DELINQUENT TAX POLICY FOR TEMPORARY CHANGES

M. Kelley noted that she has seen some towns who agreed to waive interest and penalties are requiring that taxpayers show that the reason is COVID related. B. Martin and S. Pilcher noted surprise that this is allowed. M. K Kelley noted that this appears to be what Burlington did and will look into this further if interested. This will be taken up at the next meeting.

#### NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

No action taken

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19

No action taken.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney stated there are no new updates.

##### SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted that he has no new updates.

##### TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

no action taken

##### TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

no action taken

##### CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

no action taken

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Times mentioned next to agenda items are proposed maximums.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING  
July 27th 7:00 via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**P. Low moved to adjourn. J. McNerney seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0.**  
Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.