

MONKTON SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday August 31, 2020

REMOTE MEETING ONLY – Meeting will be recorded and recording posted
(Approved 9/14/20)

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present : none

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

No action taken

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve A/P #00826 for \$7,304.11 dated 8/26/2020.

B. Martin seconded. M. Kelley asked if these numbers are all part of what was budgeted for town hall. S. Pilcher said yes. **All voted in the affirmative. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

B. Martin moved to approve A/P #00828 in the amount of \$15,850.83 M.

Kelley seconded. J. McNerney asked for confirmation that none are town hall related. S. Pilcher confirmed. **All voted in the affirmative. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

M. Kelley moved to approve P/R #00831 in the amount of \$9,006.16 J.

McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Guests)

None

NEW BUSINESS:

SET 2020 MUNICIPAL TAX RATE

S. Pilcher shared the revised municipal tax rate sheet. The estimated tax rate is 0.3937 which is about 4 ½ cents lower than what was projected for the voters in March. **B.**

Martin moved to set the 2020 Municipal Tax Rate at 0.3937. M. Kelley seconded. It was noted that the State Legislature passed an emergency bill allowing Selectboards to change the budget. J. McNerney suggested putting a note in the tax bills about why the rate is lower. S. Pilcher noted it will be talked about in the Town Report. M. Kelley noted another big reason it can be lowered is because of the Bond. P. Low suggested being very clear as to where the reductions came from i.e. taking money out of the highway budget on a one time basis. A vote was then taken. **All voted in the affirmative. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

This will be taken up at a later meeting.

SUSPENSION OF 8% LATE PROPERTY TAX PENALTY

J. McNerney noted that this would be a one time suspension for this tax year, but would be back for 2021. M. Kelley noted her understanding is that the Selectboard can't suspend it in the future, it would have to go through the voters. She noted that she can look into this further if there is interest. **J. McNerney moved to suspend the 8% late property tax penalty for the 2020 tax year. B. Martin seconded. All voted in the affirmative. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

It was then discussed how much tax income the town may be expected to lose from this. S. Pilcher noted that it is unknown until after the tax payment deadline.

NORTH POND ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

S. Pilcher heard from one of the directors at the VT DEC that even if the Town makes the road a "trail", the Town would still have to meet the requirements at the stream crossing which is a 130' crossing/bridge. S. Pilcher noted that he asked if the Town throws up the road, would the requirements for the bridge still stand but has not heard back yet. P. Low noted that it would then become the landowner's responsibility. M. Kelley would like to wait for further guidance from DEC before the Board proceeds with this issue.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher noted that the driveway is in and the footers have been poured. The DEC now has come back after water cistern design, that now the Church has to put in a storage tank. S. Pilcher noted he is trying to push back on the State over this.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19
Rutland County has an outbreak around a private party in Killington.

OLD BUSINESS:

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney noted he connected the surveyor with Bill Joos for submission of an invoice.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted he is running out of patience so he is going to call the State.

M. Kelley noted that she is not opposed to bring town action in Environmental Court at some point in the future.

TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

Curb Cut application on Cemetery Road. The property owner can't access the lower part of his land and just wants an agricultural/field access curb cut. P.Low volunteered to do a site visit with Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman).

P. Low noted that he is working on conservation mapping.

S. Pilcher noted that the person doing our parcel mapping is retiring. The listers have been interviewing people to do this work and found a good contractor. This contractor also has an application that can bring lister data to the web. J. McNerney asked if this data on the web could be exported for use in other applications.

M. Kelley mentioned that she believes there is COVID money for digitizing land records.

S. Pilcher noted that he, Jane Low, and Gil Coates are working with the Russell Family regarding the sale of the library.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Was not discussed.

[NOTE: was discussed at previous meeting. Next meeting is Sept 14th, 2020 at 7pm.]

ADJOURNMENT

P.Low made a motion to adjourn. Voted and approved 5-0-0 Meeting adjourned at 745pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Betsy Brown
Recording Secretary