

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
REMOTE MEETING ONLY
Monday October 12, 2020
(Approved 10-26-2020)

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

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jaime Schulte, Betsy Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A member of the road crew has resigned effective Dec 1.

The town's checking account has been moved from Citizens Bank to Community Bank.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

P. Low moved to approve minutes of 9/28/2020. J. McNerney seconded. A roll call vote was then taken.

M. Kelley - abstain

P. Low - aye

B. Martin - abstain

J. McNerney - aye

S. Pilcher - aye

Motion passed by a vote of 3-0-2.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve check warrant #01006 A/P in the amount of \$6,729.56. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant #01009 P/R in the amount of \$10,137.37. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

J. McNerney made a motion to approve check warrant #00928 A/P in the amount of \$25,296.64. B. Martin seconded. It was noted that this is the

transfer of the checking account from Citizens Bank to Community Bank. All then voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

J. McNerney made a motion to approve check warrant #00929 A/P in the amount of \$1,216.11. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS:

UPDATE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

S. Pilcher noted that the employment application needs to be updated. S. Pilcher stated that he could not find a digital copy so it will need to be re-written/re-designed. J. McNerney noted that he had blanked out the questions which are no longer legal to ask on a scanned copy of our old application. He explained that it would get us by for now, in case we have a job opening currently posted. J. McNerney also noted that VLCT has a sample application we may want to review for a long-term solution, but he has not had time to examine it yet. P. Low asked about getting a stock application from VLCT. The Select Board agreed to use the revised application for now.

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS IN TOWN BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Town Clerk has a rule that facemasks have to be worn in Town Hall. She stated to S. Pilcher that there are at least 2-3 people who don't wear masks inside when they feel like they can have sufficient distance between people. J. McNerney noted that one town employee is medically unable to wear a mask and has a note from a physician which the Clerk has a copy of. This employee has been very good about distancing and disinfecting and offers to meet with people outside. J. McNerney noted he spoke with a lawyer at VLCT who noted that the Board does have the right to require masks. The attorney noted that the Selectboard needs to make a statement and also enforce. M. Kelley read the Governor's Executive Order re: masks. P. Low asked if the Board were to "tent" the area where the problem exists from the rest of the employees - make a partition. J. McNerney pointed out that the area in question is used by members of the public. J. McNerney noted that the lawyer he was referred to by VLCT said you can't do less than the mandate, but you can go beyond it when it comes to employees. M. Kelley noted that she doesn't think that the Selectboard has the authority to prescribe restrictions which

go beyond the Governor's mandate and cited a summary from VLCT's web site. P. Low stated that taxpayers/visitors to Town Hall should not be endangered by folks who refuse to wear masks. M. Kelley pointed out that if there is a medical reason the Town would have to try and accommodate for them to work at home or elsewhere.

B. Martin made a motion that the Selectboard directs all town employees, elected town officials, and visitors to Monkton Town Hall or Fire House to follow the Governor's mandate to wear masks at all times while indoors, unless medically exempted. P. Low seconded. B. Brown mentioned that appointed town officials should be added.

P. Low then gave B. Martin permission to restate motion.

B. Martin presented the new motion: He moved that the Selectboard directs all town employees, elected and appointed town officials and visitors to the Monkton Town Hall or Fire House to follow the Governor's mandate to wear masks at all times while indoors, unless medically exempted. P. Low seconded. Discussion ensued. J. McNerney & M. Kelley both noted that some of the wording in the motion goes above and beyond the Governor's mandate which the Board is not supposed to do.

A roll call vote was then taken:

M. Kelley - nay

J. McNerney- nay

P. Low - aye

B. Martin - nay

S. Pilcher - nay

Motion failed by a vote of 1-4-0.

M. Kelley then made a motion that the Selectboard requires all employees, elected and appointed officials and visitors to wear a mask and social distance in accordance with the Governor's mandate in Town Buildings, unless medically exempt. J. McNerney seconded.

All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

P. Low would like to have this information posted because these are public buildings that there should be more specific language. He noted that it is the Selectboard's job to make sure employees and visitors to the Town's buildings are safe.

J. McNerney suggested to S. Pilcher that he speak with the people in question as the Chair of the Board. S. Pilcher agreed.

The discussion moved on to the DRB and whether or not they should meet in person. J. Schulte spoke as a member of the Board. He noted that everyone has worn masks and

social distanced. It was discussed whether or not equipment can be bought to make hybrid meetings better - S. Pilcher noted that perhaps COVID grant funding may be available? B. Brown expressed that in the future past COVID that people might still want to option to meet via ZOOM.

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

P. Low would like to postpone any discussion so the Board would have time to study the document. Everyone agreed.

APPOINTMENTS

S. Pilcher noted that he resigned from the executive board from the Addison County Communications Union District. He noted that Mark Boltz-Robinson who is currently an alternate to the group has shown interest in the position. **J. McNerney moved to appoint Mark Boltz-Robinson as the rep to the Addison County Communications Union District. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

NORTH POND ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

S. Pilcher noted that Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman) is going to talk to the State to see if there are any other options. If not, S. Pilcher will begin the legal notification process.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher noted he sent a letter to the grandson of Harvey Russell regarding the sale of the current Russell Library building. Walls for the new municipal building are going up and the floor system should be in soon (if not today). S. Pilcher noted that they are as far as 10 days behind.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19

No update

OLD BUSINESS:

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney stated that the surveyor (Rod Orvis from Tim Short's office) came up and did some work but has not heard how much they got done.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

P. Low thinks it's time that the State gets involved. S. Pilcher noted that he is happy to start the process.

TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

S. Pilcher noted that he is using his personal Dropbox account to send documents back and forth. J. Schulte suggested that the Town should seek the advice of Mark Boltz-Robinson who is an expert on this topic.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Oct 26th at 7PM via ZOOM

ADJOURNMENT

B. Martin moved to adjourn. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown