

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

October 26, 2020  
(Approved 11/9/20)

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

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Deb Gaynor, Tim Hunt, Betsy Brown, Bob Radler, Cathie Buscaglia, Ian Schulte

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

S. Pilcher noted that Eric Bessette submitted a resignation letter as chair of the Recreation Committee

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES

**M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2020 as written. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**B. Martin moved to approve check warrant A/P #01019 for \$20,771.31. P. Low seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the repair bill for the F250. P. Low noted that he spoke with Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman) who noted that there was a pump issue on the F-250. A vote was then taken. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

Before a vote was taken on A/P #01013, P. Low asked about summer chloride and why it is over budget so far this year and is concerned that there is not enough in the budget for this line. S. Pilcher noted that they can discuss this during the Budget Status Report later in the meeting.

**M. Kelley then moved to approve check warrant A/P #01013 in the amount of \$28,703.38. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

S. Pilcher noted that the next warrant on the docket is related to the construction of the new town hall and library. **J. McNerney made a motion to approve check warrant A/P #01023 in the amount of \$79,392.16. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

**M. Kelley made a motion to approve check warrant P/R #01026 in the amount of \$8,796.08. 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:**

#### **EQUIPMENT PURCHASE GRANT**

It was noted that Ben Hollwedel got an 80/20 grant to buy a haybale shredder. P. Low would like to ask B. Hollwedel what we have done in the past to do this type of work. J. McNerney noted that contractors have done some of it in the past. P. Low would like to know if B. Hollwedel is prepared for the maintenance costs that come with the piece of equipment and wonders if it is cheaper to hire this out. P. Low would like to move this to the next meeting to see if B. Hollwedel can bring some cost numbers. S. Pilcher will put this on the next agenda.

#### **BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

S. Pilcher shared a spreadsheet of 2019 and 2020 budget and actuals (as of Oct 19). S. Pilcher explained the lines for the Town Hall Fund Expenses.

M. Kelley asked if there is someone looking at the new Town Hall budget and comparing it with what we are paying? Naylor & Breen? S. Pilcher explained that Naylor & Breen looks at it as well as Chris Huston at Bellwether and the “executive” committee (Will Bown & Stephen Pilcher) and then the building committee.

S. Pilcher noted the highway budget. - summer chloride is high. P. Low would like to see B. Hollwedel send a monthly status report for his budget if he sees any creeping costs.

S. Pilcher noted that the budget process will begin in earnest hopefully by December 1

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Due to an oversight on S. Pilcher’s part Tim Hunt was never formally voted in as a member of the Recreation Committee. **J. McNerney moved appoint Tim Hunt to the Recreation Committee for the term expiring March 2023. P. Low second. S. Pilcher suggested amending the motion to say effective December 2019. All agreed with the amendment. All voted in favor of the motion as amended. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

## MONKTON COMMUNITY DOG PARK

P. Low noted that he does not feel it appropriate to make comments during this discussion and will be recusing himself. His reasons being that he is also a member of the Rec Committee and has contributed money to the dog park. S. Pilcher noted that he bought a “poop bag dispenser” to donate to the park but does not feel it would affect his judgement on what is going to be talked about tonight. J. McNerney noted that he has contributed to the dog park. He noted that in the past we have never held that contributing to something by itself was cause for recusal, as long as there is no personal financial gain from how the select board decides.

C. Buscaglia gave a history of the planning for the Dog Park. D. Gaynor noted that \$11,338 has been raised for the Dog Park. S. Pilcher asked about maintenance costs per year. D. Gaynor stated that they would contract with the Rec Committee's contractor (Barrows). Estimated \$1,000. There is \$750 budgeted for waste bags. Casella has promised to pick up and dispose of waste as a donation. She noted that they have talked to a wetlands specialist to ask about any additional plantings. J. McNerney noted that the Select Board received an email from the Dog Park Committee summarizing the steps they have taken to date. He asked that the email be included in the minutes for this meeting. All agreed. (Copy of email attached at the end of the minutes.)

T. Hunt spoke on behalf of the Recreation Committee he stated that he is appreciative of all the hard work that has been done. He noted that this dog park is going to change the “ambiance” of Morse Park. The Rec Committee would like to more details-how is going to impact the experience of others at Morse Park? The Rec Committee would also like to see a copy of the rules, a copy of the plans, signage etc. He asked if there is a decommissioning plan if the park doesn't work out? The next Rec Committee meeting is November 2. D. Gaynor noted receipt of a \$2,000 grant. C. Buscaglia would like a better understanding as to whom the Dog Park Committee is answering to. S. Pilcher noted that the Recreation Committee needs to work this out. M. Kelley asked if anyone has looked at other town's dog parks to see what jurisdiction they fall under. C. Buscaglia noted that she doesn't not know. D. Gaynor noted that the Dog Park Committee did visit other dog parks around the state. C. Buscaglia noted that they can show all the plans, rules, etc at the Recreation Committee meeting on November 2nd.

B. Radler asked if the Recreation Committee meetings are warned and if the minutes recorded someplace? It was noted that the meeting dates are put on the calendar on the Town website. P. Low noted that the minutes are generally just distributed to the committee. S. Pilcher noted that minutes must be made available to the public upon request. I. Schulze noted that a map of the proposed park is on the dog park webpage.

## OLD STAGE ROAD TRAFFIC STUDY

Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) did a traffic study which S.

Pilcher presented. J. McNerney and S. Pilcher gave a history of this issue for P. Low. In most cases, traffic studies are needed if the town wishes to change limits and have them be legally enforceable. There is some chance that this limit could be changed without a traffic study, due to the narrow road and poor sight lines. J. McNerney noted that we don't have the procedure to do this properly, but that he and Ben Holwedel are following some leads. S. Pilcher noted that this study was done by ACRPC at no cost to the town. S. Pilcher noted he will send a copy of the report to the sheriff. J. McNerney will check with VLCT and ACRPC about options for changing the limits on this road.

#### NORTH POND ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

S. Pilcher noted that the legal advertisement has been put in the paper and warnings sent to all abutting landowners. The site visit will be November 15th and hearing on November 16th.

#### NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

No update

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

S. Pilcher noted that numbers statewide are ticking up and there are some problems at schools in VT.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

S. Pilcher noted some maps arrived at Town Hall. The surveyor would like to do a site visit with a Board member or two. J. McNewrney & P. Low have noted they can attend.

#### SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

P. Low stated that he feels it's time to get the ball rolling with filing a claim with the State.

#### TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

#### TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

#### CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Signage on the town green posted by town committees was discussed.

It was noted that an invoice from a citizen was received by the Town.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 9, 2020 @ 7pm. Meeting via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**J. McNerney moved to adjourn. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown