

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

DATE: Monday December 28, 2020

REMOTE MEETING ONLY

(Approved 1/11/21)

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7pm

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

Selectboard Members Absent:None

Others Present Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Jessica Demerett (Recycling Coordinator), Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher noted that the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) has dropped to 93.09%. B. Martin noted that most listings are selling 11-15% higher than they should be. M. Kelley noted that this is happening statewide.

S. Pilcher also noted that Comcast is offering \$10/month for connection per a flyer that was put in the Selectboard's box.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of 12/14/2020 as written.

B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

A/P #01216 - S. Pilcher noted that it is for all of the voter approved funds for social services. **M. Kelley moved to approve A/P Warrant #01206 in the amount of \$27,399.00. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

A/P #01217 - S. Pilcher noted that this is what was approved at Town Meeting for the Monkton Museum & Historical Society, The Monkton Fire Dept and repaying the MVFD for post office rent. **P. Low moved to approve A/P Warrant #01217 in the amount of \$59,400.00. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

A/P #01218 - It was noted that this is the payment to MAUSD from property taxes collected by the Town. **M. Kelley moved to approve A/P Warrant**

#01218 in the amount of \$3,542,857.19. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

A/P #01222-S. Pilcher noted that 78K of that is the payment going to Viking to finish conversion on the new truck. **J. McNerney moved to approve A/P Warrant #01222 in the amount of \$143,267.38. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

A/P #01224 - S. Pilcher noted that these are all Town Hall related expenses. **J. McNerney moved to approve A/P Warrant #01224 in the amount of \$124,449.55. B. Martin seconded.** J. McNerney asked if the project is still within budget. S. Pilcher said yes. **A vote was then taken. All voted in favor.**

P/R #01221-**B. Martin moved to approve P/R Warrant #01221 in the amount of \$12,209.38. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.
none

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

NEW BUSINESS:

RUBBISH PICK UP AT MONKTON RECYCLING

J. Demerett noted that the trash hauler doesn't wear a mask, despite repeated requests to do so. The trash hauler is stating that it is his right not to wear one. J. Demerett would like the town to consider finding a different hauler that is willing to wear masks. J. Demerett noted that she reached out to Acker Waste Management to ask if they would wear masks if they were the Town's hauler and they said yes. She noted that Acker is very responsive and professional when dealing with recycling issues. S. Pilcher noted that he also reached out to Wade Acker. Mr. Acker responded with yes to mask wearing and what his rates would be. M. Kelley would like to pursue working with Acker Waste Management. M. Kelley also wondered if he is interested in doing this if it could be done under one contract (trash AND recycling). P. Low suggested giving Moose a fair warning that the Town may terminate their services due to no mask wearing. S. Pilcher noted that he is happy to reach out to Moose to tell them that they need to wear masks and if they are not OK with that then we'll find a different hauler.

BUDGET REVIEW

S. Pilcher stated that a penny on the tax rate raises about \$25,000.00 in tax revenue. Municipal taxes are about a quarter of the total property taxes that people pay. The Board then went through the budget line by line.

When discussing the judicial fines line, S. Pilcher shared the Sheriff's report which does not include December. By these numbers, the town is losing \$1,000/month. It is costing the Town more to patrol than we are taking in fines.

M. Kelley asked if we have other options. B. Martin noted that he spoke with Hinesburg regarding though trucks.

B. Hollwedel joined the meeting to discuss the highway portion of the budget. He noted that payroll savings of 12K due to losing a high paid employee with a new employee coming on. It was noted that the employee's pay will be bumped in 6 months conditioned on getting a CDL.

B. Hollwedel noted that the increase in Capital Equipment Expense is for portable stop lights. Property Maintenance & Upgrade is for additional wiring and security cameras. M. Kelley asked about putting up a gate. B. Hollwedel said there currently is not one but all is needed is to order the gates.

He noted that it's looking like a 5% increase for blacktop, culverts, etc.

He noted that the permit for the temp culvert on Mtn Road will expire in Oct. The engineering for the permanent structure is ongoing. FEMA needs to see the design before they will reimburse.

Looking at the equipment replacement schedule, B. Howedell stated that he estimates 122K for a tractor and roadside mower, not including trade in.

The Board then looked at the summary page. 135K of delinquent taxes have been paid.

UPD HEARING NOTICE

The Board reviewed the hearing notice for publication in the Addison County Independent.

HALLOCK LOT

This is a lot on Hollow Road. Headed west from Bennett, there is a lot just past a small mobile home. It does not appear to be a buildable lot. The person who owns it has written the Town a letter indicating that she can no longer pay the taxes on the property. Options were discussed such as abatement, tax sale, seeing if a neighbor would be interested in purchasing it for the cost of the back taxes, etc. M. Kelley suggested the owner might be able to deed it over to the town in lieu of back taxes.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

The project is on budget, but about 3 weeks behind schedule per S. Pilcher.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19

No update

OLD BUSINESS:

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

S. Pilcher noted that a mylar has been received and is ready for recording

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

No action taken

TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. McNerney noted that the Selectboard has to vote to be able to do things by Australian Ballot for Town Meeting.

B. Brown brought up the MAUSD redistricting/consolidation issue and is hoping that the Selectboard will stay on top of what is going on. It was suggested to have the school board representatives from Monkton attend a Selectboard meeting to give an overview/update.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

January 11, 2020 7pm via zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Kelley moved to adjourn. P. Low seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown

Recording Secretary