

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: Monday February 8, 2021
REMOTE MEETING ONLY
(Approved 2/22/21)

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

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Deb Gaynor, Ben Hollwedel, Nancy Goodrich

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Low announced that Adam Crary is an applicant for an open spot on the Recreation Committee. S. Pilcher noted that he will put it on the next agenda.

S. Pilcher noted an email from a citizen complaining about a dog near her property.

S. Pilcher announced that the Selectboard has received a resignation letter from Ben Hollwedel effective March 26, 2021.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of 1/25/2021. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve Check Warrant P/R #10201 in the amount of \$12,222.85. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve Check Warrant #A/P #10208 in the amount of \$21,927.70. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The Selectboard reviewed and signed the following overweight permits:

-Parker Swanborn

-Dan Menard Construction, Inc.

The Selectboard denied the weight on one truck requested by Mr. Bilt's.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ROAD FOREMAN RESIGNATION

S. Pilcher thanked B. Hollwedel for his ample notice assuring that the Town of Monkton is covered through this snow plowing season. M. Kelley stated that she also really appreciates Ben's dedication to the

town. B. Hollwedel noted that he has always worked in the public sector and this opportunity to move to the private sector is one he is ready to make. J. McNerney noted that he has really appreciated how good he is at managing people, using employees effectively and managing the community interface part of the job. B. Hollwedel noted he appreciates the opportunity he has had in town and thanked the Board for all their support. He wants the future to be bright for the Town and wants to leave amicably and is willing to help down the road if needed.

S. Pilcher noted that we need to advertise that the Town is looking for a new road foreman. He has a job description that he will send out to Ben and to the Selectboard for their comments. B. Hollwedel noted that the person needs to be comfortable spending quite a bit of their time doing office work - especially when related to grants. He suggests finding someone who has good experience managing grants. S. Pilcher noted that he can advertise in the Addy Indy, Front Porch Forum and Facebook. B. Brown suggested Seven Days. B. Hollwedel noted he found an employee via indeed.com and offered S. Pilcher all the log in info.

B. Hollwedel noted that one of the most beneficial things that could be done is to have someone who is not on the road crew that can handle customer service, dealing with complaints, etc.

S. Pilcher asked how much money the town spent on the Piney Woods Rd repairs. B. Hollwedel noted about \$20K. B. Hollwedel noted that since we provided our own labor and equipment for the job, the Town should come out ahead, once the FEMA money comes through for that that project. B. Hollwedel also noted that the new employee is doing well.

RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY PARCEL

S. Pilcher noted that the Town Attorney needs to do a complete title search on the Russell Memorial Library parcel. M. Kelley asked about a septic easement. S. Pilcher noted that yes, there is an easement there. **M. Kelley moved to authorize the Town Attorney to do a title search on the Russell Memorial Library parcel. B. Martin seconded.** B. Martin asked about doing one for the adjacent parcel where the septic is. M. Kelley noted it should show up on the title search. **All voted in favor.**

PACE AND HAWLEY FINANCIAL REVIEW ENGAGEMENT LETTER

The board reviewed a proposal from Pace & Hawley to do the annual financial review of the previous year's books. The fee will not exceed \$3,150.00. **M. Kelley moved to engage Pace & Hawley to perform the financial review for a fee not to exceed \$3,150.00. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Gaynor noted that she has joined the Executive Board of the Supervisors for ACSWMD. It gives her a chance to weigh in more heavily on issues affecting Monkton. She stated that she'd like to look at the census data and look at whether or not Monkton can have more votes on the Board as she thinks our population has gone up enough.

D. Gaynor announced that there is a new weight sheet that will be in the Town Report. There are some significant issues going on with recycling costs throughout the country. Over the last year or so the district has started losing money on recycling. The District lost close to 6k in 2020 on single stream recycling. The rate for 2021 has gone up from 120/ton to 125/ton. The actual cost of "disposal" of the recycling is 106/ton on average. The loss to the district is in hauling costs, processing costs, and overhead. There are some other minor changes on the rate sheet. The district is now charging for the blue bins as well. Trash prices are steady it's recycling that is losing \$\$ which is why trash costs are going up.

She also noted that the district has been searching for 2-3 years to site and build a regional drop off. The first site that was considered just outside of Vergennes which was voted down by the entire Board of Supervisors. The district has found a new site that is closer to Middlebury. Whether or not it is feasible to build is something the Executive Board is looking at right now. She asked the Selectboard to think about it and share their opinions on this at a later meeting.

M. Kelley noted that the Town is seeing those increased costs in the recycling related invoices the town has been getting.

S. Pilcher asked about the timeline. D. Gaynor stated that the Purchase and Sales agreement would have to be written in the next 4-6 months and construction would start at the end of 2021. Long term plan is to move the Haz Waste collection to this site eventually, maybe 3-5 years out.

HALLOCK LOT

S. Pilcher noted a letter from the Town Attorney regarding this lot. The Attorney's suggestion is to the landowner to go through the Board of Civil Authority to abate the taxes and then she can via quit claim deed donate the parcel to the Town. If the Board is in agreement, S. Pilcher will contact the landowner and her representative with this is how the Town would like to proceed. M. Kelley noted that she agrees with the Town Attorney that this option makes the most sense. The consensus of the SelectBoard was that they agree with this proposal and that S. Pilcher can move forward with the landowner.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher shared that they are waiting to see how the contingency works out so they can decide whether or not to pave the parking lot. The grounds committee has been active and engaged with the public regarding landscaping and there have been quite a few commitments to volunteer and/or commit funds to it.

M. Kelley left the meeting at 8pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted that this is an ongoing issue. He will speak with the Zoning Administrator again

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

A draft policy was shared with the Board. All charges must appear on a signed warrant is included in the policy. The Board (along with the Town Clerk and the Treasurer) review further and discuss at a later meeting.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

S. Pilcher purchased a DropBox for personal use and feels that this product would be good for the Town. He shared with the Board how DropBox works and gave privileges to Board members so that they can become familiar with it.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DOG ISSUES:

B. Martin noted he is dealing with 2 dog issues on Mountain Road. He is willing to help with these issues but has no interest in taking over the open Animal Control Officer position.

JOCKEY LANE ENCROACHMENT:

J. McNerney stated, on the Jockey Lane issue, that the Town Attorney sent a draft Cease & Desist letter and is awaiting review by the Selectboard. S. Pilcher noted he'll put it on the Agenda for the next meeting so it can be formally approved.

TOWN MEETING PREPARATION:

B. Martin asked if there will be a practice ZOOM meeting for the Town Informational Meeting. S. Pilcher noted that the plan is to have one or two, but they haven't happened yet. Different options for hosting via Zoom were discussed (webinar, regular session, etc).

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 22, at 7pm. S. Pilcher noted that he may not be available for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

B Martin moved to adjourn. J. McNerney seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown