

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday February 22, 2021

REMOTE MEETING ONLY

(Approved 3/8/21)

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Members Present: Stephen Pilcher, Bill Martin, Paul Low, John McNerney, Marikate Kelley (arrived at 7:14pm)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary),

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher noted that there have been 2 applications for the Road Foreman position to date.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

B. Martin moved to approve the minutes of February 8, 2021. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant P/R #10212 in the amount of \$11,597.09. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. 4-0-0.

P. Low moved to approve check warrant A/P #10216 in the amount of \$8,094.31. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. 4-0-0.

J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant A/P #10217 in the amount of \$1,125.97. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. 4-0-0.

M. Kelley arrived (7:14pm).

A/P #10222 was then presented. S. Pilcher noted that this has to do with expenses for the New Town Hall. **J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant A/P #10222 in the amount of \$175,187.54. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. 5-0-0.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

- Mike's Fuels, LLC
- Superior Plus Energy Services/Griffith Energy
- J. Hutchins, Inc.
- R. K. Miles, Inc.
- Spence Excavating & Construction, Inc.
- VELCO
- Kent Nutrition Group
- New England Quality Services, Inc.
- Lawes Agricultural Service, Inc.

3 trucks requested by CVPS were denied due to very high weights.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS:

RECREATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

P. Low noted that Adam Crary is interested in the position and has been involved as a volunteer for approximately a year and a half. P. Low noted that he will be a great asset to the Committee. **P. Low then formally nominated Adam Crary as a new member of the Recreation Committee for a 3-year term which will expire March, 2022, effective immediately. All voted in favor.** (J. McNerney noted that there has been at least one position open on the Rec Committee continuously since it was last advertised.)

J. McNerney stated that he will make a list of open elected and appointed positions for advertising purposes.

DISCUSSION ABOUT PLOWING POND ROAD PARKING LOT

Historically the town has not plowed this lot during the winter because there was never much demand for it. P. Low stated that the Dog Park is a service to the town and the lot should be plowed. J. McNerney agreed, now that there is a need for it with the dog park nearby. **J. McNerney moved to have the highway department plow the Pond Road parking lot on a low-priority basis. B. Martin seconded.** Discussion ensued. B. Martin noted that the Town doesn't plow the school but they do plow the commuter lot. B. Hollwedel texted B. Martin during the discussion stating that he appreciates that it be a low priority, given the primary need to keep roads clear during storms. **A roll call vote was taken.**

P Low: Abstained

J. McNerney: Yea

M. Kelley: Yea

B. Martin: Yea

S. Pilcher: Yea

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

LETTER REGARDING RIGHT OF WAY ON JOCKEY LANE

A draft letter from the Attorney was sent to the Selectboard. The complainant asked the Board to include a reminder that people can't park or store personal belongings in the right-of-way be added to the letter. J. McNerney has contacted the Attorney with this request.

J. McNerney moved to approve the February 8, 2021 draft letter from Attorney Jim Carroll regarding encroachments on Jockey Lane with the addition of a sentence reminding the recipients that parking or storing items in the R.O.W. is prohibited. M. Kelley seconded.

All voted in favor.

CONTRACT WITH MATT DUPONT

B. Martin & M. Kelley have worked on a contract with Matt Dupont. This is to ask Matt to wear 2 hats for the town. One is a straight employee to run a plow truck if needed and the other is to take help care of some of the Town's maintenance issues, for which he would be considered a vendor or independent contractor. There was discussion on whether or not he should be considered an employee or a contractor if he came into the Town's shop to do work. VLCT/PACIF strongly recommended that since he will be playing a dual role as both a contractor and as an employee we should be abundantly clear about which role he is filling for the work he may be doing for the town. M. Kelley suggested using the letter/contract of employment that the Town normally uses and add the information about the independent contractor. Ben Hollwedel texted B. Martin during the discussion and noted that Matt Dupont does not go to the Town Garage to do automotive work...he only does it in his garage. He also noted that Matt will occasionally borrow a tool if needed or go to the town garage to consult. In light of this new information, it was decided that only a letter of employment would be needed for the plowing portion. J. McNerney noted that VLCT would like to see a note about when working on town trucks in his shop that he is working as an independent contractor/vendor. S. Pilcher will modify our standard employment letter with some text about about his work as a contractor for truck repairs for the town.

ROAD FOREMAN REVIEW OF RESUMES TO DATE AND NEXT STEPS

S. Pilcher noted that there have been 2 applications to date. M. Kelley suggested waiting

and doing this at the next meeting. All agreed.

REVIEW OF TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING PROCEDURES

S. Pilcher noted that there was a practice session on Saturday and had 2 attendees. S. Pilcher stated that an agenda will be published. He noted that Mari Cordes has asked if she and other legislators would be able to speak. All agreed that the opportunity should be available to them. There will be a moderator who is familiar with Zoom. Because there is no voting, non-town residents can participate and will be asked to state that they are not a resident of the town. Chat function will be disabled. B. Brown will get a draft of the minutes to J. McNerney by Saturday evening so they can be posted on the Town Website prior to Town Meeting Day.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

A title search is underway for the current Russell Memorial Library. Siding is going up on the new building. The Grounds Committee is discussing upgrading the town sign that currently sits between the current library and town hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

S. Pilcher noted that he's given the policy to the Clerk and the Treasurer for review.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

DropBox is still being looked at.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dog Incidents - B. Martin noted that one complaint regarding a barking dog has been cured. The second complaint is that joggers on Mountain Road have been threatened by a dog. B. Martin noted that they are still investigating as to who the dog belongs to.

Discussion ensued about advertising open positions and where the advertisements should be published.

J. McNerney asked about the Solid Waste report that needs to be filed. S. Pilcher noted

that it is still in process.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A townwide Information hearing on articles for Town Meeting will be held Saturday, February 27th at 10am via zoom. The next regular Selectboard Meeting will be held on March 8, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

M. Kelley moved to adjourn. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown