

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Monday March 8, 2021
(Approved 3/23/21)

REMOTE MEETING ONLY – Meeting will be recorded and recording posted

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

Selectboard Members Present: MariKate Kelley, Stephen Pilcher (Chair), Bill Martin, John McNerney, Paul Low

Selectboard Members Absent: none

Others Present: Dawn Griswold, Bernie Wisniowski (Lister), John Howard (Lister), Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Sam Burr, Jaime Schulte, Ben Hollwedel (Road Foreman)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher noted that there is an abatement hearing at 6:30 tomorrow night (3/9/21)

The Vermont Bond Bank wrote to say that they want to feature the new Monkton Town Hall in their annual report per S. Pilcher.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

ELECT CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY

B. Martin made a motion to nominate S. Pilcher for Chair. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley nominated B. Martin for Vice Chair. All voted in favor.

B. Martin nominated J. McNerney for Secretary. All voted in favor.

SET REGULAR MEETING DAYS, TIMES, PLACE

2nd & 4th Mondays at 7pm at Town Hall if possible, remotely if not.

DESIGNATE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD AND POSTING LOCATIONS FOR AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

Addison Independent for newspaper of record. The posting locations will be Post Office, and inside and outside of the Town Hall/Library. M. Kelley suggested the recycling

center. J. McNerney suggested that we should wait to designate the recycling center as an official posting area until there is something to post on. M. Kelley suggested posting it on the shed in the meantime to make sure that there are 3 places covered.

REVIEW SELECTBOARD PROCEDURES

It was noted that that the Board runs loosely on Roberts Rules, public is allowed to comment under Public Comment section, or the public can raise their hand during discussion of a particular agenda item and may speak if recognized by the chair. There is also a conflict of interest policy, with which member are already familiar.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021 as written. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

The 2/27/21 Town Informational Hearing minutes were then reviewed B. Brown noted a typo on page 3 change "lane" to "line". **J. McNerney moved to approve the Town Informational Hearing minutes of 2/27/21 as amended. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

P. Low moved to approve check warrant P/R #10301 in the amount of \$11,809.94. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve check warrant A/P # #10308 in the amount of \$35,590.93. B. Martin seconded. Discussion ensued. B. Martin asked about the Sheriff and was wondering how much we have collected? S. Pilcher noted he can ask the Treasurer to produce a Sheriff status report. He also asked about the Royal Group which appears to be a camera system for the garage and wondered if that had been discussed. M. Kelley remembers discussing it and J. McNerney recalled telling Ben that he can go ahead and do it if it stays within his budget. P. Low noted that he would love to see a gate erected and may be worth investigating. **All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

Spafford & Sons Of Williston Vt. Inc.
Livingston Farm Landscape Products
Richmond Home Supply Inc

Tim Thompson Trucking, Llc
Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad Company
D&F Excavating & Paving Inc.
Roger Fisher Trucking
Panoramic Landscaping & Excavation Inc
Acker Excavating, Llc
Cole Trucking / Douglas Cole
Lapete Construction
Adam Lafountain / Adams Trucking Inc
G. Stone Commercial Division
Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating
Feed Commodities International, Inc
Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation
R. Parker Enterprises, Inc Dba Parker Excavation
Bronson Transport
Newton / Dubois Construction Inc
Champlain Construction Co. / Bear Dog Enterprises
Curtis Lumber Company Inc

M. Kelley asked if any of these trucks are traveling on dirt roads. B. Martin noted that dirt roads have not been posted yet, but probably will be in the next 36 hours. B. Martin noted that different roads have different weight limits regardless of springtime posting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Griswold stated that she was addressing the Board as a community member regarding the letter from the Lincoln Select board. She hopes that the question of “Will this help?” will be considered when addressing the letter.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXTENSION OF B.A.N. WITH BANK OF MIDDLEBURY

This is regarding the Bond Anticipation Note. S. Pilcher stated that it really looks like Line of Credit. It allows the town to quickly pay any requisitions that come in and then turn around and get reimbursed by the VT Bond Bank. This is to extend the terms of that agreement from now until June 30, 2021. **J. McNerney moved to authorize the extension until June 30th. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

APPROVE MILEAGE CERTIFICATE

S. Pilcher noted that to his knowledge that the town has not added any road mileage nor reduced any. **B. Martin moved to approve the mileage certificate. M. Kelley seconded.** J. McNerney asked about the Scenic Highways column and asked if that

has to be officially designated by the State. He thought the town had designated a scenic road. S. Pilcher noted that that does not matter for this form. **All voted in favor.**

APPROVE 2021 PAY RATES

S. Pilcher shared the pay rates. It indicates that some pay rates went up to match minimum wage. The librarian's rate went up as well as the Town Clerk, and highway. J. McNerney noted that a few still show \$10 hourly rates for the Selectboard and asked if that needs to be changed per minimum wage laws. S. Pilcher noted that this may be a question for VLCT as the Board cannot change their pay rate without a vote by the Town. J. McNerney will contact VLCT. The pay rate will be amended to include Bill Martin on the BCA/Elections line at 11.75/hour. B. Martin noted that if the Town ever gets a new animal control officer then the pay rate should be increased. **M. Kelley made a motion to approve the 2021 Pay Rates as amended. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

The advertisement in the Addison County Independent will come out on Thursday. It was suggested that appointments be made at the next meeting. All agreed.

WITH LISTERS – STATUS AND FUTURE PROJECTS

B. Wisniewski noted that he has spoken with the firm working on the online tax map. There has been a hold up as they work out some snags with providing public digital access to the information. The listers should have an update on the status of it this Wednesday. S. Pilcher suggested that they should make it very clear that the Town wants the hard copy maps, and they should not be held up waiting for the digital issues to be worked out.

J. Howard addressed the Board where we are at in terms of a reappraisal. J. Howard has noted that due in part to Covid-19 buying, the price differential on what housing is selling for is substantial and the CLA will most likely be taking a hit. J. Howard reached out to the folks who did our last reappraisal and they are currently scheduling out to 2024. He stated that he would advise the Board to look into this seriously and get onto the schedule. S. Pilcher asked J. Howard to have the contact send the Board a contract and they will take it up. J. Howard noted that there will be 80ish thousand dollars in the reappraisal fund by the time we get to 2024. M. Kelley asked when the last reappraisal was - J. Howard noted 2017. M. Kelley asked B. Martin if he thought the current market is a bubble. B. Martin noted that it's hard to predict but noted that there is an incredible lack of properties for sale and mortgage rates are extremely low. B. Martin asked if the state punishes the Town if the CLA is out of whack. S. Burr noted that this is why the town should go ahead and get a contract. S. Burr mentioned that he would like to ask the Zoning Administrator to ask for detailed plans for new house

construction/permits.

S. Burr also noted that the lister's calendar is not attuned to the general election, especially if no one is running for a lister. He proposed that he work as a consultant with the 2 remaining listers to get the backlog finished up and train a new lister should the Town find one. The State is providing training that a new lister would be able to go to. He would like to help the listers until such time as new lister is in place and up to speed. This proposal was strongly supported by listers J. Howard and B. Wisniowski. S. Burr noted he is looking to consult and not making any decisions/taking any actions. He would only be advising the listers. M. Kelley asked if he would be looking for compensation. S. Burr noted he was hoping to continue with the \$15 hourly rate that the listers are currently being paid. S. Pilcher noted that the Board should go into an executive session to discuss legal matters and personnel - **B. Martin moved to go into executive session to discuss legal matters and personnel issues and invited S. Burr. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.** The Board went into executive session at 8:07 p.m.

J. McNerney moved to exit executive session. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. The Board came out of executive session at 8:15pm. **J. McNerney made a motion to hire Sam Burr as a consultant at the same rate he was making as a lister. B. Martin seconded.** M. Kelley asked about at time period. S. Pilcher and S. Burr noted that once there is a new lister and they are up to speed. **All voted in favor.**

LETTER FROM LINCOLN SELECTBOARD RE: MAUSD ALTERNATIVES

S. Pilcher shared a letter from the Lincoln Selectboard regarding MAUSD. M. Kelley noted that she has confidence in our elected school board reps from Monkton. She noted that she is not inclined to send a letter at this point. B. Martin agreed and noted that the Board is planning to do more research and have more meetings over the summer and thinks that sending a letter is premature. P. Low and J. McNerney agreed. S. Pilcher noted that he had some communications with the Lincoln Selectboard and he feels that they wrote this letter because they believe there are 2 other solutions in the mix that have not been fully formed yet and they want to make sure they get a fair shake. M. Kelley noted that she would want to become more educated and speak with both our school board reps before sending any sort of letter out. J. McNerney said that if there are other options to consider, they should be brought forth for consideration, and we could revisit at that time. S. Pilcher noted that he is also hesitant to send out a letter at this time. The consensus is that no action will be taken on this letter from Lincoln.

CONTRACT WITH MATT DUPONT

M. Kelley made a motion to authorize S. Pilcher to make an offer to Matt Dupont to be a part time employee @20.00/hr. B. Martin seconded. All

voted in favor.

ROAD FOREMAN REVIEW OF RESUMES TO DATE AND NEXT STEPS

B. Hollwedel joined the Board to discuss the resumes received to date. S. Pilcher noted they have only received 2 resumes. He suggested interviewing both candidates at the next Selectboard meeting. B. Martin suggested doing the interviews on a different night which would keep the regular meeting from going long. Wednesday the 17th was a suggested night for interviews. The Board members all agreed with that date.

B. Hollwedel noted that the F250 pickup is probably going to end up going to the scrap yard. Ben wanted to know if the town wanted to go back to paying the Foreman mileage or look into buying another used truck. M. Kelley asked if either of these were budgeted for. B. Hollwedel noted no. B. Hollwedel noted that the state bid truck on a new truck is \$26K. The town would pay \$5500 per year (for 5 years) instead of \$6k per year mileage. Ben stated that he will do some research to see if that is a possibility for the town to pursue.

B. Hollwedel noted that the mower/tractor is on order. He does not have a lead time on that yet.

Ben noted that the municipal general roads permit now has to be updated via an app. He suggested that the town create a town itunes account and get moving on the credit card policy so that renewals can be charged to that.

PARKING ORDINANCE AND RAVENS RIDGE

S. Pilcher noted that the Selectboard approved a parking ordinance in October of 2009. Regarding Raven Ridge, the ridge trail is now closed until mid-June. S. Pilcher suggested having the conservation commission write up a note to put on cars regarding that if the lot is full, then considering going elsewhere because the land is not meant for the amount of traffic it is getting. J. McNerney noted that The Nature Conservancy already has such a notice on the Raven's Ridge page of their web site. The 2009 ordinance has a winter parking ban but doesn't offer any guidance for summer. It may be to consider updating to help deal with the road safety and overuse issues at Raven's Ridge.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

The current thinking of moving the vault is taking the vault door off the existing vault and put up a temporary fireproof piece of metal and then move the door to the new vault. Jim Carroll (Town Attorney) is doing a title search of Russell Memorial Library. M. Kelley asked if COVID money could be used to digitize records and if it is something that could be looked into.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted that a complaint will be made to the State.

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

S. Pilcher will circle back with the Town Clerk and Treasurer.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken. J. McNerney asked if it would cost prohibitive for the town to have its own server.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. McNerney noted that the letter about Jockey Lane did go out.

S. Pilcher stated that he wrote an apology letter to Diane Bennett regarding the 911 Coordinator position.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3/17 for interviews of road foreman at 7:00pm

Regular meeting 3/22 at 7pm.

Both remote meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Martin moved to adjourn. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown
Recording Secretary