

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Monday April 12, 2021
(Approved 4/26/21)

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

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Wanda Conroy, Shane Lawrence (Road Foreman), Max Thwaites, Kathy Cannon (ACCT), Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Elise Schanbacker (ACCT), JT Vincent, Will Dodge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher announced that the listers have a new electronic parcel map that is in beta/testing mode that will be available to the public soon.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 special meeting as amended. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of March 22, 2021 as written. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve check warrant P/R #10329 in the amount of \$9,809.56. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant A/P #10329 in the amount of \$6,453.06. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant A/P #10406 in the amount of \$43,822.65 M. Kelley seconded. Discussion ensued. P. Low asked if the Sheriff's reports details can be shared in the future. A vote was then taken. All voted in

favor.

B. Martin made a motion to approve check warrant P/R #10412 in the amount of \$9,715.49. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

BSP TRANS. INC

CANOPY TIMBER ALTERNATIVES INC

CASELLA WASTE

DON WESTON EXCAVATING

PIKE INDUSTRIES, INC

PARENT CONSTRUCTION INC

DELPHIA EXCAVATING

SWEET CAROLINES TRUCKING LLC

ABC SUPPLY

ONESITE SEPTIC SOLUTIONS LLC

C.P. SITE CONSTRUCTION, LLC

802 EXCAVATION LLC

KIMBALL TRANSPORT LLC

T&C TRUCKING LLC

RP FROST INC DBA VT WELL & PUMP

BRADFORD'S TRUCKING, INC

GREEN MOUNTAIN SITEWORKS, LLC

GAUTHIER TRUCKING CO. INC

T. PALMER EXCAVATING

MUNSON EARTH MOVING CORP

VTUMS VERMONT UTILITY MANAGEMENT SVCS

K.A. BAGLEY INC

MONUMENT FARMS INC

REDLINE UNLIMITED INC

ROX ASPHLT

W.R. PRESTON & CO. INC

CASELLA CONSTRUCTION INC

PUBLIC COMMENT

B. Brown noted that she and Kris Perlee (Zoning Administrator) spoke about the possibility of advertising for the DRB Clerk position with the Town of Starksboro. Per Kris, Starksboro is in need of someone to do this work as well. B. Brown noted that Starksboro is willing to talk with us. M. Kelley and B. Brown will have a preliminary discussion with Starksboro and come back to the Board with some more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACCT MORTGAGE DISCHARGE

S. Pilcher noted that the town is being asked to discharge a mortgage from ACCT in regards to the Vaughan Mobile home Park. ACCT took out a loan from the Nat'l Bank of Midd and the other funds came via grants. The mortgage acts as performance bond. The funds were used for an acquisition and septic improvement. This type of fund has to flow through a local community. These are grant funds, not loan funds. The only obligation to pay back the town was if ACCT didn't meet the grant conditions for 5 years per Kathy Cannon of ACCT. The town recorded a mortgage which would be discharged when the conditions were met. M. Kelley asked what the conditions were. E. Schanbacker noted it was for using the funds they said they were using them for (acquire Vaughan Mobile Home Park). S. Pilcher noted that he has an email stating that the conditions are being met. M. Kelley made a motion to discharge the mortgage that the town currently holds on Vaughan Mobile Home Park. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

NEW ROAD FOREMAN STATUS

Shane Lawrence, new Road Foreman gave the Board an update on how his first couple of weeks have gone. He stated that things are going well and also noted that road grading is occurring.

INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATE FOR ROAD CREW – EXECUTIVE SESSION

B. Martin moved to go into Executive Session with Shane Lawrence to interview JT Vincent. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:32pm.

J. McNerney moved to exit executive session. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor. The Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:03pm. **M. Kelley made a motion to make an offer to JT Vincent at the salary range discussed. J. McNerney seconded. A roll call vote was taken:**

S. Pilcher - Yay

J. McNerney-Yay

B. Martin - abstained

P. Low - Yay

M. Kelley - Yay

WIRELESS FACILITY AT 686 WENDLAND ROAD

S. Pilcher noted that Essex County NY and Wendland Communications would like to put up a small building and generator to power a repeater for emergency communications for Essex County NY. The project was described in documents received by Downs

Rachlin & Martin. The Planning Commission sent a letter of concern to the Selectboard who are concerned that these structures are contrary to the Town Plan and the UPD passed on March 2, 2021 noting that these structures are in an “absolutely no build zone” as described in the UPD. S. Pilcher noted that since this is an Act 248 proceeding, the ultimate decision is up to the Public Utilities Commission, so our zoning laws don’t directly apply. W. Dodge, on behalf of the applicant, gave some information on how Act 248 works. The PUC is required to substantial deference to not only what is in the Town Plan but also the recommendations of the Selectboard or the Planning Commission. W. Dodge noted that a high ground elevation is needed which is why this location was chosen. There is already an access road, utilities are already there, including cell phone towers. This would be just a minor addition to the existing facilities already on site. He noted that their filing happened before the Town Plan was changed. He noted that what is being built is not going to be visible and no vegetation will be taken down. They understand what the Planning Commission is trying to say but don’t feel it applies to this situation. M. Thwaites noted that no new tower is going to be built. J. McNerney noted that the Selectboard does not have the authority to overrule the Town Plan or the zoning regularions. W. Dodge noted that because this permit is going through the PUC the statutory rules are different and that it doesn’t go through local zoning, but the PUC has to give due deference that comes out of the Selectboard. The PUC is the final decider. The role of the municipality is to provide a recommendation. M. Kelley noted that in our planning docs is an “absolutley no build zone”, but other areas of our planning doc would encourage this type of development and then let the PUC decide. S. Pilcher noted that he would favor crafting a letter of support and noting that in the Town Plan that construction in this zoning district is prohibited, but in this case the public good outweighs the restrictions noted in the Town Plan and UPD. **B.Martin moved to craft a a letter of support using the verbiage of S. Pilcher above. . J. McNerney seconded.** Discussion ensued. M. Kelley noted that there are a lot of things to weigh in terms of the public good and the PUC is well suited to make those decisions. She noted that the letter should say that while the application violates one section of Town regulations, other sections encourage it (co-location of utilities). The letter should note that the Select Board is happy to let the PUC make the determination as to whether this is in the public good. **B. Martin withdrew his motion. J. McNerney agreed to withdrawing.** M. Kelley and S. Pilcher noted that they will draft a letter with M. Kelley’s suggested language and bring it to the Selectboard at the next meeting.

REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Chris Acker, DRB - 4 yr term expiring March 2025

John Zaikowski, Rec Committee - 3 yr term expiring March 2024

Rick Imes, Rec Committee - 3 yr term expiring March 2024

Bailee Layn-Gordon, Town Service Officer - 3 yr term expiring March 2024

Pam Tingiris, Conservation Commission - 4 yr term expiring March 2025
Kevin Lambert, Conservation Commission - 4 yr term expiring March 2025
Alex Perkins, Energy Committee - term changed: Bal of term expiring March 2023
Chris Beckman, Energy Committee - term changed: 3 yr term expiring March 2024
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Maple Broadband - 3 yr term March 2024
Deb Gaynor, Green Up Coordinator - 1 yr term expiring Jan 2022

B. Martin made a motion to approve the slate of appointments. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

YATES LIQUOR LICENSE

M. Kelley made a motion to approve the renewal of Yates Family Orchard LLC. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

MOWING BID FROM B. BARROWS

Bid is \$4,000.00. **B. Martin made a motion to accept the bid from B. Barrows. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

HOMeward BOUND CONTRACT

This is for dog impounding/boarding services. The cost is \$450 and first 3 dogs are free, after that \$75.00 per dog. **M. Kelley moved to accept the 2021 contract (Option 1) for the Animal Holding facility at Homeward Bound. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

2021 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

S. Pilcher noted that he updated this plan and replaced Ben Hollwedel with Shane Lawrence as the emergency contact. **J. McNerney made a motion to adopt the local emergency management plan for the Town of Monkton. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

RUNNING NEMRC IN THE CLOUD – COST AND BENEFIT

Our accounting software, NEMRC, currently runs off the Selectboard computer which is not efficient per S. Pilcher. If it's on the Cloud, it can be accessed by staff working at home. Cost is \$10/user per month. M. Kelley noted that COVID funds may be able to be used for this. **J. McNerney moved to switch to running NEMRC in the Cloud. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

FINANCING OF NEW TRACTOR AND MOWER

Discussion ensued about taking money from the Highway Capital Projects Fund vs. financing. J. McNerney noted that he would lean toward financing as much as possible since interest rates are so low right now, preserving the capital equipment fund for

larger purchases in the future and/or when interest rates are higher. All agreed.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

May 27th is the proposed move in date.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING. April 26, 2021 at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Kelley moved to adjourn 8:55pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown