

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Monday August 23, 2021
(Approved 9/13/21)

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Peter Norris, Delores Norris, Kristen Farrell, Gil Coates, Eric Bown, Steve Park, Jessika Yates, Sam Burr, Josh Giard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of August 9, 2021 as written. M Kelley seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1 (B. Martin abstained).

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve A/P #10820 in the amount of \$20,862.71. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve P/R #10816 in the amount of \$9,469.63.. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve A/P #10810 in the amount of \$61,778.17. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permit was reviewed and signed:

-Scott Manning

PUBLIC COMMENT

P. Norris spoke to the Board about paving town roads. He is suggesting that Davis Road should be higher priority because of the businesses on the road (Yates Orchard, Full Belly) and that it is also used by commuters avoiding Silver Street. He is requesting that next year's budget include money for Davis Road paving. S. Pilcher thanked Mr. Norris for bringing this up and will put this on a future agenda. He also noted that an info meeting could be scheduled to get feedback from the public. S. Pilcher noted he can ask Addison County Regional Planning to do a study on Davis, Hardscrabble & Mountain Road to see what the counts are. P. Norris asked if federal funds could be used for this.

E. Bown reiterated P. Norris' comments re: commuter traffic on Davis Road. He noted that there has been very little presence by the Sheriff over the past few years and that speed is a problem. S. Pilcher noted that the Board can ask the Sheriff to sit on Davis Road. S. Park stated that he agreed with E. Bown & P. Norris. He noted that he has seen multiple wrecks in front of Full Belly Farm. He also suggested dropping the speed limit down to 30.

K. Farrell came before the Board about the old 1859 Town Hall. She asked the Board 3 fundamental questions: 1) what is the interest that the Board has in the sale of the old Town Hall (revenue? Pay down debt?); 2) Could COVID \$\$ be used to turn it into a museum?; 3) What is the process for putting an article on the Town Meeting warning for keeping the old Town Hall as a historical museum? D. Norris noted that there has been a lot of private conversation among people in town that the old town hall should not be sold, but should be given to the Monkton Historical Society & Museum. She feels that there is more support than people realize. S. Pilcher noted that would a \$120K hole in the budget. K. Farrell noted that this issue has divided the historical society. S. Pilcher noted that he will put this on the Agenda for Sept 13th - does the SB put it on the open market or should there be an article at Town Meeting or a special election to ask voters how to deal with the old Town Hall?

S. Burr asked the Board if they had seen Seven Days and the taxation issue. He also noted that the Monkton listers can generate a list of priority properties to be visited during a town-wide reassessment.

J. Giard noted that he has started a delivery and vending business and asked if he could place a candy vending machine at Town Hall. J. McNerney noted that it might need to be addressed under the facility use policy that is being developed. It would be a commercial use, and presumably a long-term or permanent installation, which the policy does not currently address. S. Pilcher noted that this would have to be an agenda item for a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

SET MUNICIPAL TAX RATE

B. Martin made a motion to set the municipal tax rate for the upcoming tax bills for the Town of Monkton at 0.4383. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

NAYLOR AND BREEN REQ

S. Pilcher noted that this is another requisition from Naylor & Breen for 190,123.33. S. Pilcher noted that most of this is paying the 10% retainer that all the subs were required. The town has asked N&B to retain \$63,000. There are still some issues with the public water supply, acoustics, and the gravel parking area. Everything else is covered by change orders. The patio will be done on August 30th. **M. Kelley moved to approve the Application & Certificate for Payment from Naylor & Breen in the amount of \$190,123.33. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

BRYAN ROSE CURB CUT – DAVIS ROAD

P. Low did the site visit with the Road Foreman. Site lines were good. **M Kelley made a motion to approve curb cuts for lot 2 & 4 subject to subdivision approval by the DRB, the payment of fee in full, and that it be built to the state driveway standards. J. McNerney seconded. B. Martin abstained.**

PARKING IN ROW

S. Pilcher noted that years ago the Selectboard tried to create a parking ordinance but it went nowhere. He will send the proposed ordinance around in case any Board member is interested in taking it up.

COMMUNITY ROOM USE – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Insurance requirements were discussed. The proposed application was reviewed. **B. Martin moved to adopt the most recent Facility Use Application and Policy. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

CURB CUT POLICY

The Board discussed culverts and who is responsible for payment. As it reads now the property owner would be responsible. There was discussion as to whether or not the curb cut permit should be recorded in the land records. **B. Martin moved to adopt the Town of Monkton Access policy for curbcuts and driveways as amended tonight. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

COVID RELIEF FUND INFO MEETING/WORKSHOP

Scheduled for Thursday August 26, 2021 via Zoom or at Town Hall at 7:00pm.

IT SERVICES

No action taken

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

Patio will be going in on Monday Aug 30th. There should be an update on the water tomorrow (8/24).

OLD BUSINESS:

MONKTON FIRST RESPONSE AND ADDISON COUNTY SHERIFF

No action taken

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

P. Low stated that the State has reached out to a few folks about salvage yards in Town.

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher noted that a rock came off the Town Mower and took out a windshield of a Monkton citizen. The insurance adjuster is recommending paying the claim **B. Martin made a motion to approve the payment of the claim. J. McNerney seconded. . All voted in favor.**

S. Pilcher noted that Sam Burr sent an email asking the Selectboard to host an informational meeting regarding Mt. Abe Union School District and Monkton Central School. P. Low asked Mr. Burr how the Selectboard could help with this. S. Burr noted that the question is regarding the elementary school. S. Burr noted that the difficulty is that there is not much information coming to town. Lincoln is having a vote to leave the district and Starksboro is thinking about it. S. Burr's concern is that right now there isn't anyone representing Monkton's interest in all this and feels that the Selectboard can represent the Town's interest. He wants to make sure the community has as much information as possible. S. Pilcher asked if anyone knew how Starksboro's community event went. S. Pilcher noted that the School Board should rotate through the 5 towns

and have meetings at each school. B. Martin asked if he should speak with the Chair of the School Board for an update. S. Pilcher noted that he'll put this on the next agenda. B. Martin will get an update from the School Board chair and S. Pilcher will get an update from Starksboro to see how their event went.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Sept 13, 7:00pm.

Thursday, Aug 26h @ 7:00pm via Zoom or in person is the COVID relief \$\$ meeting.

**J. McNerney moved to adjourn. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown
Recording Secretary