

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Monday October 25, 2021
(Approved 11-8-21)

The meeting was called to order by S. Pilcher at 7:01

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher(chair), Paul Low, Bill Martin, Marikate Kelley

Members absent: John McNerney

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Wendy Sue Harper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

M. Kelley noted that her last name includes an "e".

S. Pilcher moved to approve the minutes as amended. P. Low seconded.

The motion passed 3-0-1. S. Pilcher abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 11012 in the amount of \$9478.98. Seconded by P. Low. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 11015 in the amount of \$16,571.99. Seconded by B. Martin. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 11025 in the amount of \$11,183.65. Seconded by B. Martin. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permit was reviewed and signed:
-Barnard and Gervais

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR STATE BYLAW MODERNIZATION GRANT

W.S. Harper thinks the grant will help the planning commission do many things:

- 1) go through all our zoning regulations so there will be no problems for the town
- 2) bring regulations current with modern thinking
- 3) define how the town could grow: town center, town water and sewer, affordable housing

This may make Monkton more attractive to young families.

There was a suggestion to have a few towns apply together, we would get more money, about \$20,000. Bristol would administer. It's a two year grant.

S. Pilcher asks if it would incentivize multiple family houses. A prior grant was to help look at PUDs(Public Utility Districts). M. Kelley asks if there would be two resolutions, one for Bristol as well. W.S. Harper says yes. M. Kelley asks if the State changes act 250 will that be taken into account? Wendy Sue says act 250 is another layer. In general Act 250 has only been applied once in Monkton to her knowledge. The decision on who gets the grant will be made in January.

WHEREAS, the municipality of Monkton is applying for funding as provided for in the FY22 Budget Act 74 and may receive an award of funds under said provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Community Development may offer a Grant Agreement to this Municipality for said funding; and

WHEREAS, the municipality is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes or that the municipality has voted at an annual or special meeting to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes, Now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Legislative Body of this Municipality enters into and agrees to the requirements and obligations of this grant program including a commitment to match funds in accordance with the program's requirements;
2. That the Municipal Planning Commission recommends applying for said Grant; Wendy Sue Harper, Planning Commission Chair,
3. That (unknown person at this time)is hereby designated as the Grant Administrator, the person with the overall Administrative responsibility for the Bylaw Planning Grant program activities related to the application, and any subsequent Grant Agreement provisions.
4. If the grant application is successful, and funds are awarded, the following individual will be the signatory on behalf of the municipality, Stephen Pilcher,
5. The municipal legislative body recommends applying for said Grant.

M. Kelley moved to authorize S. Pilcher to authorize the grant, FY22 Municipal Resolution for Bylaw Modernization subject to identifying a competent administrator. Seconded by B. Martin. All voted in favor.

RML BOARD APPOINTMENT

Ian Smiley resigned from the Russell Memorial Library(RML) Board of Trustees on 10/3/21. Jane Low asked that Cindy Walcott be appointed.

M. Kelley moved to appoint Cindy Walcott to complete I. Smiley's term. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

RML PROPOSAL REGARDING ROOM DESIGNATED FOR EXPANSION AT NEW TOWN OFFICES

The Board of Trustees for the library have asked to use the expansion room, and finish it with money from their capital campaign. The Monkton Historical Society has also approached the room with a similar interest. Could both use it? asks M. Kelley. P. Low points out that there may be some access issues. The Select Board suggests that the Historical Society and the library could discuss the issue. Paul will talk to J. Low, and S. Pilcher will address the Historical Society. M. Kelley wants to thank Jane for her positive letter and enthusiasm.

DISCUSSION REGARDING TOWN RIGHTS IN THE EVENT OF A MERGER

The time pressure regarding the merger has been released; the vote is not occurring town meeting day. S. Pilcher suggests drafting a letter to the School Board or Merger Committee with preferences. E. Doyle can create a petition to show the preferences of the town. There is concern that towns will not be able to decide about a merger, and lose the ability to leave a merged school district. M. Kelley thinks the school board is going to look at the issue. M. Kelley thinks everyone is looking for the best outcome for students. This is an information gathering time. Pilcher proposes the Select Board will want to host another informational meeting at a later date. Pilcher asks M. Kelley to forward any useful information to the Select Board. Kelley suggests that the School Board members could do the same.

SUGGESTION FOR CREATING BIKE/WALK LANE ON HOLLOW ROAD

Mike Winslow at Addison County Regional Planning found the VT State design standards; we need a wider paved portion to make that happen. There was discussion about other places that made a lane; maybe ARPA monies could be applied.

ARPA FUNDS MOVING FORWARD

A number of projects have been proposed for the American Recovery Plan Act(ARPA). S. Pilcher thinks maybe the Select Board could find people in the community to champion individual projects, that a committee is not efficient. For example, one resident was interested in preserving forest connectivity. Other projects include weatherization programs and replacing funding lost by non-profits. There is a three year time limit on expenditure. \$629,000 to spend, how are we going to spend it?

START OF 2022 BUDGET PROCESS

S. Pilcher will ask for budgets by 11/15/21. Two big budget questions 1) do we want to budget for a town administrator this year? People will vote on it at Town Meeting. 2) The grader is long in the tooth. Do we budget for it? \$250,000? There was a question as to whether all the building expenses are captured, something to focus on.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

The sole heir for the Russell Memorial Library will be getting the key soon. The legal processes are underway, including septic and well easements.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISTURBANCE OF SURVEY PIN IN ROW – MACKENZIE

The surveyor is not committing to replacing the pin. Maybe split the cost of replacing it with the town and the surveyor? The conversation with the surveyor is ongoing.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

A credit card has been issued.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

S. Pilcher is looking at Google for cloud storage.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There is a community meeting for the merger committee, all remote, 11/16/21 6:30pm, people will need to request a sign in ahead of time.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7pm at the new town offices.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Martin moved to adjourn, P. Low seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Demeritt
Recording Secretary