

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING  
AGENDA

Tuesday January 25, 2022  
(Approved 2/8/22)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:01pm

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Laura Farrell, Jaime Schulte, Sam Burr, Bernard Wisnioski, John Howard

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

S. Pilcher announced that according to the state, Monkton's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 87.78%. J. McNerney asked when is a town re-appraisal required? S. Pilcher replied it is required when the CLA drops below 80%.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES

**B. Martin moved to approve the minutes from 1/11/22 as written. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**M. Kelley moved to approve PR 20114 in the amount of \$12,960.92. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve AP 20124 in the amount of \$27,216.09. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:  
Newport Sand & Gravel, Inc/Carroll Concrete Co. Inc.  
J & J Pinnell Trucking LLC

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

ANAC FUND REQUEST

L. Farrell said the town has reduced the amount given to ANAC for the last two years (to reduce the tax rate) from \$50,000 to \$15,000. ANAC has a current balance of \$122,000. With the current projects the money would be rapidly

depleted. There is some concern that with a lack of funds ANAC would not be able to move quickly which has been a benefit for the conservation of agricultural land. J. McNerney asked what is the request from ANAC? L. Farrell replied \$65,000. M. Kelley asked what amount does ANAC need in their account to be useful? L. Farrell replied \$40,000 to \$100,000. The all inclusive town budget was .447 cents said S. Pilcher. There was discussion about how to list articles for discussion at the informational meeting. M. Kelley said there was benefit in letting the town vote separately on each article. And sometimes there are amendments. But a group vote given the current virtual info meeting followed by everything voted by Australian ballot with no option to amend might leave everyone with no money. J. McNerney clarified that the .447 S. Pilcher mentioned included the bigger ask from ANAC and the fire department. He also observed that keeping ANAC funded is important to preserve the option of conserving land in the face of the heavy development pressure on land throughout the town. S. Pilcher said he thinks the question is how much money ANAC needs to operate. He said Town Meeting would be an interesting time to find out how much appetite there is to continue conserving land in Monkton. B. Martin and M. Kelley would like the articles to stay together. L. Farrell said she appreciated the work of the Selectboard. P. Low thought some people may not approve, he's hesitant, but in favor.

#### REAPPRAISAL PROPOSAL FROM NEMRC

S. Pilcher said they put out an ask for bids for a townwide reappraisal and got one bid: \$96,000. Payments would start in July 2022, and the appraisal would happen in 2024. The money to pay for it would come from the state money for property tax. Sam Burr said there is \$79,000 currently available in the Lister's budget, but that the account should be up to the level needed to cover the contract by the time the contract is completed. The Listers are satisfied with the proposal. M. Kelley asked if there would be interior inspections. S. Burr replied that the Listers would be working to make appointments for that. **B. Martin made a motion to approve the reappraisal agreement between Monkton and NEMRC. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### NEMRC MAINTENANCE TOWN AGREEMENT CHECKLIST

S. Pilcher says this agreement is about how much NEMRC does and how much the Listers do. What is the future of listers in Monkton? S. Burr is a consultant and B. Wisnioski is going off the board. NEMRC could have a role to train future listers. The current Listers have not discussed how that might work. S. Burr observed that some of the work is very specialized and those stepping into the role would need a lot of training to do it. S. Pilcher said the future may look like NEMRC would do assessing and valuation work. The Listers would do day to day tasks in the town office. The Selectboard has advertised for Listers on FPF and Facebook and will run an ad in the Addison Independent. J. McNerney asked how the Lister role would change if NEMRC is doing the assessments? S. Burr said the lister would be in the office doing computer work and making sure the

state requirements for the grand list are met. J. McNerney asked how many office hours there might be? S. Burr said that was difficult to answer based on the three current Lister's work. NEMRC thought it would be 4-6 hours a week. There is currently one candidate for the Lister's office. S. Burr thought \$30,000 was an accurate budget number for 2022. S. Burr observed that the Lister's pay has been \$15/hour for fifteen years. S. Pilcher replied let's see what happens, no one has asked the pay rate yet.

#### PACE AND HAWLEY ENGAGEMENT LETTER

S. Pilcher said they do Monkton's financial report every year and \$3,175 is the total maximum bill. **J. McNerney made a motion to approve the financial review of Monkton by Pace and Hawley in the amount of \$3,175. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### RADAR SPEED SIGNS

S. Pilcher looked at radar signs. Bristol's police chief said theirs were \$3,200 and solar powered. B. Martin found out from the sheriff that sometimes people use them to see how fast they can go. There was some interest in giving one a try.

#### 2022 BUDGET

There was discussion about a number of line items. S. Pilcher observed delinquent taxes were low this year. He said Monkton has not had a tax sale for a number of years and it may be a good idea to do one this year. There is a line item for a town administrator who may do the zoning administration also. There is a significant increase in payroll. Debt payments are higher due to the new town offices and community building. There was a discussion about funding requests for social services. J. McNerney suggested that future new requests or significant increase should require a minimum number of signatures of Monkton residents. Highway revenue is down quite a bit due to a smaller grant revenue. The general fund is showing a deficit that matches delinquent taxes. The tax rate is almost level with 2021. J. McNerney asked if some MVFD items could be funded through ARPA funds instead of town taxes. M. Kelley thought maybe time was short now to make that determination, but maybe. **B. Martin moved to approve the budget. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### TOWN MEETING WARNING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING

J. McNerney suggested adding the truck's weight to Article 6. There was discussion about reducing the late payment penalty for property tax payment. Article 7 will reflect that change. There was a discussion to remove an Article (natural gas distribution) until the town can have an in-person meeting. There was discussion about determining a date to determine the disposition of the old town hall. The informational meeting will be recorded and available on the town website.

#### REVIEW SELECTBOARD REPORT

B. Martin thanked S. Pilcher for creating the report. The board accepted the report with updates to some numbers to be made.

#### ARPA FUNDS STATUS

S. Pilcher noted that there were a number of new requests coming in.

#### UNIFIED PLANNING DOCUMENT RETURN TO PLANNING COMMISSION

B. Martin checked on Hinesburg's UPD and legal issues. **J. McNerney moved to return the UPD to the MPC. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### REVIEW LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER POSITION

There were two letters of interest. B. Martin proposed having them come before the Select Board.

#### MONKTON MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY LETTER REGARDING EXPANSION ROOM

K. Farrell was looking for a formal response from the Select Board. The Select Board members recalled asking the library and the MHS to work together on the use of the expansion room.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

##### SIGN

no action taken

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

##### DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**B Martin moved to adjourn. All voted in favor.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.