

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday April 26, 2022
(Approved 5/10/22)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:02pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Jane Palmer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher said the senior grab-and-go meals are continuing and 36 meals were distributed last Wednesday.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of 4/12/22. Seconded by P. Low. The vote passed 3-0-2. M. Kelley and S. Pilcher abstained. M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of 3/26/22. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 20425 in the amount of \$11,384.71. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve AP 20425 in the amount of \$39,928.75. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. M. Kelley asked if there was anything outstanding left on the new town hall. The answer was that there are a few small things. There are three more payments on the 2020 truck.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following permits were reviewed and approved:

ELEVATION EXCAVATION & SEPTIC SERVICES

GARY MOULTON

VTUMS VERMONT UTILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC

MA REDMOND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LLC

ST ROGERS TRANSPORT LLC

BACON TRUCKING LLC

ACKER WASTE MANAGEMENT, LLC

BRADFORD TRUCKING INC.

NEZIN EXCAVATING
ROSS ORVIS
S. DENTON EXCAVATING, INC.
WHITETAIL LANDSCAPING AND EXCAVATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT – 3776 MOUNTAIN ROAD

The permit asked to excavate across the road to upgrade power service sometime during the time period of 5/23-6/10. S. Pilcher said one way traffic should be provided for. M. Kelley asked if the town provides flaggers. S. Pilcher responded that it is the property owner's responsibility. All excavations will be filled by the end of the day and there needs to be proper signage.

M. Kelley moved to approve the permit with the listed conditions. J.

McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

HOMEWARD BOUND CONTRACT – ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER UPDATE

The contract costs the town \$450/yr for three dogs a year, extra dogs are more money. There are other fees for feeding and bedding. The pet owner would be responsible for those fees. Monkton has used the contract every year. The Animal Control Officer gets a combination number so they can use a kennel if needed after hours. There is a question about how to handle stray cats from Monkton. J. Palmer said that if the money is a problem for the town, she would be willing to be paid by the hour instead of a yearly fee. She values the service provided by Homeward Bound. The Select Board thanked J. Palmer for her generosity but that allowed that that was not necessary. **B. Martin moved to approve the contract with Homeward Bound. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

TOWN OFFICES LANDSCAPE PROJECT – STONE WALL

J. Mansfield has given a quote for \$8000. By the selectboard policy, any project over \$5000 is supposed to be bid out. There was some discussion about the design. There was discussion about whether it will block service vehicles from accessing any needed areas. M. Kelley is good with the plan as is. S. Pilcher will write up a request for bids, and will ask the landscape committee to come in for the next meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOB DESCRIPTION / PAY RATE

There are some questions about health benefits and paid time off. The position could be zoning and town administrator. J. McNerney said he is not sure if we should combine job descriptions. It may be that we will find one person to handle both jobs, or it may be that we have 2. S. Pilcher said he would try to create a

town administrator job description. The position will require someone who would manage the day-to-day work, create the Select Board agenda, work with other committees, facilitate communication, watch budgets, secure grants.

APPOINTMENTS

S. Pilcher spoke with B. Layn-Gordon who said S. Gordon was interested in the DRB position. C. Johnston has never resigned and has been removed from the DRB page. If a member doesn't attend meetings, how does that person's role change? **B. Martin moved to appoint Scott Gordon to the DRB with a term expiring March 2024 pending the resignation of Charles Johnston. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney nominated M. Boltz-Robinson as an alternate to the DRB with a term ending March 2026. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney nominated M. Boltz-Robinson to the Energy Committee with a term expiring 3/2025 and J. Dunham to the balance of a term expiring March 2023. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

B. Martin said there are 4 salvage yards. Two people are in the process of tidying up, one is in probate, one will be cleaned up with legal enforcement.

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

There is an updated proposal but it was felt that more information was needed in the budget section and there is a question of responsibility: is the town going to be responsible for management of the building and expenses? Is the proposal for the town to still own it? Or is the Historical Society going to own and maintain the building?

S. Pilcher mentioned that the Historical Society has not responded to his suggestion of utilizing the building now to do a trial run, running the museum and other activities out of the building to see how it works out P. Low wondered if food trucks would create traffic hazards.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

There was discussion about how to score proposals. They need to have very defined budgets with accurate numbers. Also, who is responsible for making the proposal happen and for ongoing management of the program? A business plan is needed for some proposals - especially the big ticket or complex topic issues.

J. McNerney asked why the bias against big projects in the scoring system. The ARPA money needs to be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026. J. McNerney observed that things get tangled if we are using Town/State/Federal \$\$ to help a private commercial business. We will have to tread carefully in such instances. M. Kelley asked what is done in neighboring towns with cooperative childcare? Are they in community buildings? P. Low commented that the housing market is very challenging now.

SIGN

B. Martin said the new town hall/library sign should be here by the end of April and the road crew will install it.

The signs for parking around Raven's Ridge will be here in two weeks.

And road signs were ordered to help enforcement of traffic laws.

OTHER BUSINESS:

T. Payea requested the Community Room. She also offered to put some of her landscape art in the new town hall. The Select Board agreed that local artwork would be welcome. **P. Low moved to approve the use of the Community Room by the Cedar Lake Association on 5/7/22 from 4-6pm. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

E. Doyle requested the Community Room for every Sunday at 4:30-5:30pm for a yoga class. This is the first time the Board has considered the room use for an ongoing event. There was conversation about not being able to guarantee the usage every week if another entity would like to use the space. And who will keep track of the schedule? It was decided to do a trial period to see how things work out.

P. Low moved to approve Sunday Yoga from the present until 6/12/22 while noting that it may be bumped for another's use. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

MAUSD would like to use the Community Room on Tuesday 8/16/22 from 12-9pm for an annual board retreat. 20-25 people are expected. The concern was that this large a group using it while the town hall is open would disrupt town business. It would also conflict with the MPC meeting at 7pm. J. McNerney suggested that offering a Wednesday would be a good option since the town hall is closed that day. The Energy Committee might need to use a smaller room. S. Pilcher said he would follow up.

P. Low announced that bags for Green Up day can be picked up on Friday evening 5/6/22 from 5-8pm at the Monkton Park and Ride by the school, and on Saturday, 5/7/22 from 8am-3pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7pm.

B. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm. All voted in favor.