

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday November 3, 2022
(Approved 11/22/2022)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:04 pm.

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

Members absent: Bill Martin

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Debra Sprague, Ann Miller, Callie Brynn, Ivor Hughes, Jamie Schulte

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher said Shane Coyle accepted the road crew job offer and his first day will be 11/14.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

P. Low moved to approve the minutes of October 25, 2022 as written. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 21025 in the amount of \$335,255.72.

This included \$200,000 for asphalt, and paid \$98,000 toward the debt and principal on the new town hall. **Seconded by M. Kelley.** She asked what was in the budget for asphalt. \$123,000 was budgeted, said S. Pilcher. There was a similar situation last year. There is a belief that grants cover the overage. S. Pilcher will check with S. Lawrence. **All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTRACT FOR MAPPING PROJECT

The board looked at a draft contract that has not been reviewed yet by Arrowood Environmental, LLC. S. Pilcher had a question about the final deliverables. J. Schulte said Arrowood didn't have a contract to send to the MCC. S. Pilcher

asked about the payment schedule. I. Hughes answered the payment schedule will probably be adjusted by Arrowood. M. Kelley had some suggested edits. There was also discussion about when the contract might be canceled and why. There was discussion about how to resolve liability issues. **J. McNerney moved to authorize S. Pilcher and M. Kelley to review any proposed changes from Arrowood and, if they are satisfactory, S. Pilcher may sign the contract. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.** I. Hughes asked about the money. J. McNerney invoices will come to the town treasurer and be paid following our standard practice.

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE UPDATE

C. Brynn said the timber cruise (evaluation) was completed, and the appraisal should be done 11/11/22. VT Land Trust suggested they draft an Option to Buy contract. There is uncertainty about how much money might be requested from the town regarding ARPA funds. S. Pilcher said it might be wise to wait until the appraisal number is in. J. McNerney and J. Schulte said that the hope was that the town might be responsible for 10-20% of the project.

CLARK/BLOUIN CURB CUT

P. Low said S. Lawrence provided a report. There are a lot of trees that would need to be removed, and a 15 inch culvert would be needed, and 20 feet of ditching to direct water. Curb cuts require 12 feet of level ground with a maximum 15 degree slope after. It's not clear whether something that fits the driveway standards will fit. An engineered driveway design will be needed.

Fu further conversation ensued about a recently approved curb cut. The installation as built does not meet the standards. Owner will be notified that the curb cut should not be used until it meets the State standards for driveways.

BUDGET STATUS REVIEW

There was discussion about clarity for a few points: debt/principal, truck payment, grants.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

Paul received one, and has already taken care of it

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

P. Low said the old town hall needs to be heated while the water stays on for the sale of the old Russell Memorial Library. There was discussion about the shared water systems of both the old town hall and the new town hall.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

S. Pilcher said he has been making a little progress on affordable housing. NeighborWorks administers the VT housing improvement program. They are exploring the possibility of handling the administration of loans for Monkton for affordable housing. S. Pilcher would like to try to work further on other projects at the next meeting. M. Kelley said she would like to hear an update from Maple Broadband. There was discussion about a schedule for when trucks need to be replaced for the fire station and whether the Fire Dept would be making a request for ARPA funds.

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Wilbur and S. Pilcher went before the Planning Commission to discuss what their vision is for potential projects such as pedestrian infrastructure, sidewalks, a scoping study grant, and bike routes in Monkton. The Agency of Transportation has a program for sidewalks. There was an old study done for a bike/pedestrian lane to be added to the road from the school to the Bristol Road intersection which may have been part of the safe roads to school program from the AOT. There was agreement that it was challenging to put in sidewalks in some of the areas in Monkton where they might be of most use. A scoping study seems like a good idea. M. Kelley asked if the AOT money was for a study or work? S Wilbur said a study. He said the work could be done in pieces. The issues of town water and sewer were discussed and need a study. S Pilcher said a town sewer feasibility study could be paid for with a loan that was later forgiven. There was discussion about working on the intersection of State Prison Hollow Road and the Ridge Road.

S. Pilcher said the village center application is complete and has been submitted.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 7pm.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.