

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday November 22, 2022
(Approved 12/6/22)

The meeting was called to order by Bill Martin at 7:00 pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Mark Dupont, Curtis Layn, Bob Howard, Lisa Burns, Margo Casco, Rick Gomez, Allie Gomez-McLam

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of November 3, 2022 as written.

M. Kelley seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. B. Martin abstained

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 21107 in the amount of \$12,383.15. J.

McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 21121 in the amount of \$11,110.66. P Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

MONKTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

C. Layn presented the Selectboard with a list of Fire Department trucks and their ages. The current issue is replacing a 1998 pumper for an roughly estimated cost of \$500,000 to \$700,000. There is an 18 month to 2 year lead time for a replacement. All of Monkton's current fire trucks are paid for. There is a possibility to sell 2 usable fire trucks after receiving delivery of the new one. There may be grants available. B. Martin asked if the fire department would like to get a request

for money before the voters in March. C. Layn answered he would also like to ask for ARPA funds. Monkton does have a truck replacement fund, but it represents less than 10% of the cost of a new truck. M. Dupont said Bristol and Starksboro put large amounts yearly into a truck replacement fund. There was discussion about establishing a fire department equipment replacement plan similar to what the town uses for the Highway Department equipment.

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE UPDATE

J. McNerney said the appraisal has not yet been received.

ENERGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

no action taken

ADOPTION OF UPDATED POLICY FOR PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES

M. Kelley moved to adopt a new policy for a delinquent tax penalty of 4% as approved by the voters in March, a change from the current policy of 8%. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF LISTER

M. Kelley moved to appoint Lisa Burns to the position of lister for a term expiring in March 2024. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR BIKE/PED SCOPING STUDY

S. Wilbur said the town is seeking a transportation alternative grant to study a route from the Ridge to the school, to Pond Road and back up to the Ridge at Davis Road. The cost for the scoping study is \$44,000. The grant would offer \$35,200. The town's cost would be \$8800. S. Wilbur said the whole thing would not need to be built at once. It would take a year for the study. **M. Kelly moved to submit a grant application to the Vermont Agency of Transportation for a scoping study. J. McNerney seconded.** B. Martin mentioned a previous attempt had eminent domain issues. An archeological study is included in the scoping study. **All voted in favor.**

APPROVE APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT

S. Pilcher said grants such as this have been used to create a concept for housing development. The deadline for application needs to be completed by December 1, 2022. Addison County Regional Planning would do the study, said S. Pilcher. The grant would help the Monkton Planning Commission to work on criteria for where we want growth and where it makes sense. It would look at land use and minimal lot size. M. Kelley asked what it might cost the town. S. Pilcher answered around \$2500. **M. Kelley moved to approve the application for the municipal planning grant . P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

ROAD CREW

One experienced road crew member will be leaving in December.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

P. Low said there were 2 requests and they are on the calendar. P. Low will drain the water from the old town hall so the heat can be turned off.

OFFERS ON OLD RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING AND ROAD CREW - EXECUTIVE SESSION

M. Kelley moved to go into executive session at 8:50pm for the purposes of discussing a personnel issue and a real estate issue. M. Casco and S. Wilbur were invited to join. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to leave executive session at 9:25pm. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to make an offer to Dan Bourgeois for a position with the road crew and for S. Lawrence and B. Martin to negotiate the offer. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

S. Pilcher moved to accept the offer from Bob Wahl on the old Russell Memorial Library for \$75,000. M. Kelley seconded. It was the highest offer the town received. B. Martin said there was discussion about what would be the nicest option for the town, but the Selectboard has a fiscal responsibility to the town. **The vote passed 4-0-1. B. Martin abstained.**

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON
no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS
no action taken

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS
no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

Bill Martin said he will be resigning from the Selectboard effective November 30, 2022. S. Pilcher said he appreciated the work he has done, as well as his willingness to work with the road crew, and all the knowledge he has brought. M. Kelley also expressed thanks.

A special meeting is tentatively planned for Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7pm to discuss the UPD.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7pm.

S. Pilcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:39pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.