

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday December 27, 2022
(Approved 1/10/23)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:05 pm.

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

Members absent: Marikate Kelley

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Jaime Schulte, Debra Sprague

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For anyone interested in closing the barn door after the horse is gone, J. McNerney noted that Harbor Freight has a 20% off sale on generators. S. Pilcher said the common level of appraisal is at 80.78%. The COD (measures appraisal uniformity) is at 15.89%. Monkton is in the process of doing a townwide reappraisal.

S. Wilbur said the library received a grant to assist paving the lower parking lot.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2022 as written. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

P. Low moved to approve AP 21226 in the amount of \$3,589,936.57. J. McNerney seconded. This amount paid the Mount Abraham School District assessment. **All voted in favor.**

P. Low moved to approve AP 21224 in the amount of \$27,749. J. McNerney seconded. This amount was disbursed to the social service program funding approved at town meeting. **All voted in favor.**

P. Low moved to approve AP 21223 in the amount of \$18,082.88. J. McNerney seconded. S. Pilcher is looking in to finding a new company to work on the town water system. **All voted in favor.**

P. Low moved to approve AP 21219 in the amount of \$55,040.43. This payment covered sand and gravel for the highway department. **J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

P. Low moved to approve PR 21219 in the amount of \$11,454.05 J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS - SELECTBOARD

no action taken

REVIEW HEALTH PLANS

S. Pilcher said the town uses a Blue Cross Blue Shield high deductible plan. The town pays the first \$2500 of the deductible in the form of a contribution to the employees' HRA account. The previous company doing the HRA (health reimbursement arrangement) had been providing poor service. S. Wilbur is working on moving the service to Blue Cross Blue Shield.

S. Pilcher explained that if employees don't use all those funds, they come back to the town.

ANAC REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL AREAS FUND FOR P. CLOSE APPLICATION

J. Schulte said P. Close has 270 acres that is a mix of forested and agricultural and he would like to conserve it. The closing is expected in late January to early February. The request is for \$31,800 to cover the cost for appraisal and the New England Forestry Foundation monitoring endowment. P. Close will be donating the conservation easement. It would protect the land from being developed and allow the forest to become old growth. S. Pilcher said when ANAC spends money normally the funds leverage many other funding dollars, for example, \$65,000 raised \$450,000. J. Schulte said the comparison is similar in size of acreage, and average funding contribution is similar, too. The difference here is that the owner is donating the conservation easement rather than selling it. (In effect, the owner is providing the other financing.) Once the appraisal is in the numbers will be more clear.

J. McNerney moved to approve \$31,811 of ANAC funds for this project. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW VICIOUS DOG HEARING FINDINGS AND ORDER

S. Pilcher reviewed the draft of the letter describing the findings from the hearing on December 16 required the dog to be confined while in Monkton. In addition, the dog is not allowed in Monkton until satisfactory proof of a valid rabies vaccination is provided to the town health officer. **J. McNerney moved to approve the hearing decision protective order. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

2023 BUDGET

S. Pilcher said numbers need to be inserted by the treasurer in order to see where the General fund and highway fund sit. The board will take the budget up

on January 10, 2023. There was discussion about various town department budgets. There was discussion about the damage from the December 23 storm.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

P. Low said there were 3 recent requests.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

P. Low said the heat is off and the water is drained.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher said he failed to get an ad into the paper in time to hold the UPD hearing on Jan 10, so he would like to move the hearing on the UPD to January 24, 2023. **P. Low moved to have the UPD hearing on January 24, 2023. J. McNerney seconded.** An informational session would occur at 6:30pm, and the hearing at 6:45pm. The times for the information session and hearing can be extended if necessary. **All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney noted that the Town Treasurer has accounted for the donation toward the mapping project by entering it into the Conservation Commission donations account.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7pm.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.