

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday February 14, 2023
(Approved 2/28/23)

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

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Jamie Schulte, Henry Boisse, Jane Palmer, Bob Heiser

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P. Low attended the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department annual dinner and said it was great to meet a lot of people and see the coordination within the program. S. Pilcher said Kathy Nolan sent in a letter of resignation. She is willing to stay until June. The Mountain Road culvert project has been put out to bid, said S. Wilbur.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2023 as written. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of the UPD hearing and the Selectboard meetings of January 24, 2023 as written. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 30213 in the amount of \$12,294.38. Seconded by J. McNerney. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 30130 in the amount of \$13,433.79 J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30124 in the amount of \$12,185.98. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30214 in the amount of \$7,565.35. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30212 in the amount of \$992.97. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30210 in the amount of \$21,531.92. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were approved:

ADAM LAFOUNTAIN (ADAMS TRUCKING INC)
GIROUX'S POULTRY FARM INC
SPENCE EXCAVATING & CONSTRUCTION
KENT NUTRITION GROUP
DILLON OWEN HFM SERVICES LLC
RIGGS DISTLER & COMPANY
DEBISSCHOP EXCAVATING LLC
MR. BULT'S INC
J. HUTCHINS, INC
DUTCH VALLEY TRANSPORTATION
ACKER EXCAVATING LLC
LAWES AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, INC.
CHEVALIER DRILLING CO, INC.
NEW ENGLAND QUALITY SERVICE INC.
VELCO
BSP TRANS. INC.
D&M PETROLEUM, INC.
DON WESTON EXCAVATING, INC
SPAFFORD & SONS OF WILLISTON, VT INC
PANORAMIC LANDSCAPING & EXCAVATION INC.
BARRETT TRUCKING CO., INC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

J. Palmer said there have been quite a few barking dog complaints. D. Vukas came up with a suggestion for different wording for the ordinance: excessive barking that deprives others of the enjoyment of their home. Many neighbors are complaining about one neighbor. J. Palmer said there needs to be a way to prove the complaint and the new language may help. S. Pilcher said changing an ordinance is a process that needs to be warned, and the process takes six to seven weeks. M. Kelley said she could work with the animal control officers on the wording. The Selectboard encouraged J. Palmer to write up a citation now.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 BUDGET

J. McNerney moved to approve the 2023 budget as presented on January 24, 2023. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

TOWN ROAD AND BRIDGE STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

M. Kelley moved to approve the certificate of compliance for the town road and bridge standard. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

SYSTEM FOR AWARDS MANAGEMENT - DESIGNATION OF ENTITY ADMINISTRATOR

M. Kelley moved to approve S. Wilbur as entity administrator for SAM. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE STATUS

J. Schulte said it has taken some time to figure out how to find and purchase a town forest. The work was started in 2019. The committee found a parcel and approached the land owners who were very receptive. It's about 420 acres with a lot of variety including wetlands and ridgelines. The appraisal was done in 2022. There are some issues including road maintenance of a private road. Efforts of many made this work possible: Callie Brynn, Vermont Land Trust, and A. Johnson Co. B. Heiser from the Vermont Land Trust said town forests often become beloved places in towns. He explained the purchase price of \$899,000, Which reflects a discount offered by A. Johnson Co from the appraised value. He also detailed various other costs not included in the purchase price. The option to purchase is open until June 2024. VLT lines up the grants and details and then transfers the option to the town so the town can step in. The land would be conserved as a town forest open to the public. Motorized vehicles would be prohibited except for limited circumstances. Rare habitat/species would be protected. \$1.1 million project total includes a forest management fund among other needs. VLT will seek funding from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, federal grants, and private fundraising, with a \$185,000 fund request from the town, amounting to 17% of cost. VLT will do the heavy lifting on the project. J. Schulte said the Town Forest Committee is focused on funding deadlines and community engagement. They hope to share the project on March 9 and 18. There will be walks on the land when the weather improves. S. Pilcher said the board is excited about the opportunity. W. Crandall is an abutting land owner and will recuse himself during the vote. P. Low asked about the costs: parking and road maintenance. He would like to see all costs represented. J. Schulte agreed and said noted that the Town Forest Committee is working on determining those costs. There are still many steps to take. An interim management plan will be needed at closing within the broad bounds of the conservation easement.

PERSONNEL ISSUES - EXECUTIVE SESSION

M. Kelley moved to go into executive session at 7:58pm to discuss a personnel issue. S. Wilbur was invited. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to leave executive session at 8:28pm. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

WATER SYSTEM DESIGN PROPOSAL

S. Pilcher said Murray and Masterson submitted a proposal. S. Pilcher said the new water system operator is working on the defects on the water system: no gasket on the wellhead. no screening on the vent for storage. No disinfection system is needed at this time.

LOWER PARKING LOT DESIGN PROPOSAL

S. Pilcher said he has received a proposal from Murray and Masterson that was over the budget. He said he would reach out to Shane for more information. Concern was expressed for the runoff from the paved surface. P. Low said he could offer some names for paving.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

P. Low said there were 15 facility use requests. S. Pilcher said he appreciated P. Low's work. P. Low said almost every day has something scheduled. He suggested charging a fee to some of the categories that are not currently charged to help cover wear on the facility. He was concerned that reservations of the community room by the larger community will get to the point where the local community will have difficulty getting on the calendar.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON
no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

The Selectboard is waiting to see what happens at town meeting.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

S. Pilcher said the town forest would use a lot of funds, but feels there is still room for a major project. S. Pilcher would like to work with the fire department to aid in grant applications. The board would like to leverage the ARPA money.

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Wilbur brought up policies. M. Kelley suggested reviewing them, one at every meeting. P. Low wants to discuss the excess weight permit policy next.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7pm.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.