

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
(Approved 4/11/23)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:03 pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Sean Beatty, Dawn Vukas, Debra Sprague, Tom (remote attendee with mic and camera off), Sam Peisch, Jane Palmer, David Lynch, Maddison Shropshire

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING 7:00-7:15

ELECT VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY

J. McNerney nominated Marikate Kelley to Vice-Chair. All voted in favor.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

P. Low moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2023 as written. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. M. Kelley abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 30327 in the amount of \$12,715.44. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30228 in the amount of \$27,557.84. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to AP 30322 in the amount of \$7,828.78. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30316 in the amount of \$19,439.85. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

S.B. COLLINS

SWEET CAROLINE'S TRUCKING

SCOTT OBERLE DBA OBERLE'S BULLDOG TRUCKING

LJM CONSTRUCTION LLC

SCOTT MANNING

VAILLANCOURT TRANSPORT
802 EXCAVATION LLC
GOODRO LUMBER CO.
ROBERT GABOREAULT – RED CEDAR TRUCKING
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY PLUMBING AND HEATING
CANOPY TIMBER ALTERNATIVES
NEWPORT SAND & GRAVEL INC / CARROLL CONCRETE CO.
CASELLA WASTE
ORMOND BUSHEY & SONS INC
S.D. IRELAND
RICE LUMBER
DAVID NEWTON INC
BTF INC DBA BUNDYS SEWER & DRAIN
ST ROGERS TRANSPORT LLC
BEACON SALES ACQUISITION
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS
HARRISON CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION INC
HARRISON REDI-MIX CORP
CLARENDON AND PITTSFORD RAILROAD CO.
FYLES BROS. INC.
CURTIS LUMBER
CAMP PRECAST CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC.
SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES / GRIFFITH ENERGY
VERMONT WELL & PUMP
MONUMENT FARMS, INC
BP WASTEWATER SVC, LLC

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

D. Vukas stated it's hard to help people in this position. She is ready to step down and is willing to stay on for 30 days. J. Palmer said she is willing to take the position. She said the ACO is really just for dogs and to enforce the dog ordinance, and she feels like some community education is needed to support that role. There was discussion about using a private caller number using Google. There was discussion about salary. D. Vukas said she would stay on as a volunteer deputy for support or backup. M. Kelley said she would help work on the dog ordinance to clarify barking limits. S. Pilcher clarified that the role of the ACO is to enforce the dog ordinance. If the ACO needs support when visiting a home, a Selectboard member can step in. **J. McNerney moved to appoint J. Palmer as ACO beginning April 30, 2023. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

PROPOSAL FOR FIREWORKS IN MORSE PARK

S. Beatty said he first offered fireworks because of COVID and isolation. He continued because people seemed to like it. Then he learned that there was an issue for a farmer in town. He was wondering if there was a good location to offer the show. He wants to offer the show while respecting everyone. J. McNerney said he appreciated the amount of effort S. Beatty has made to reach out. P. Low agreed. He said there was a conservation easement on the park, and he invited S. Beatty to come to the Rec Committee meeting in April to further discuss the possibility. S. Pilcher asked about event insurance. S. Beatty does not have it. The fire chief has been signing a permit for the fireworks on private property. J. McNerney said maybe a large property owner could hold the event. There are challenges due to disturbing farm animals. The town's insurance company would need to weigh in. The next step is for S. Beatty to attend a Rec committee meeting. P. Low said it may come down to the neighbors. S. Pilcher said he would reach out to the town's insurance company. S. Beatty said if the wind is more than 20 miles an hour, or if things are too dry, then the show will not go on. S. Beatty recorded the fireworks set up and show and it is on youtube.

HOMEWARD BOUND CONTRACT

M. Kelley moved to approve the Homeward Bound contract for \$450. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Maddison Shropshire is the energy planner for the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. She presented the MERP. There are mini-grants for public outreach that the energy committee could implement. S. Pilcher asked what other towns were doing. M. Shropshire responded: energy fair, diy workshop, rebate education. There is also an opportunity for free energy assessments. MERP also offers large implementation grants. There was discussion about what facilities in town might benefit. The town garage and the fire department might be candidates. Solar and EV charging for the town offices may be eligible.

MOWING

no action taken

TAX SALE

S. Pilcher said there are about \$129,000 total delinquent taxes for the town, about half is from this year. Tax sale parcels are sold to the highest bidder and the parcel owner gets a year to pay the tax bill or accept the tax sale money. Tax sales involve all the properties in a town that are delinquent. The Monkton delinquent tax collector is proceeding with a tax sale.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments were discussed. The following slate was created:

Jaime Schulte, DRB, term ending 3/27

Paul Low, Recreation Committee, term ending 3/26

Jaime Schulte and Nancy Wilson, Conservation Commission, term ending 3/27

Kesta Osborne, Conservation Commission, balance of term ending 3/24
Sue Stasny, Conservation Commission, balance of term ending 3/25
Deborah Gaynor, Jessica Demeritt (alt.), ACSWMD Delegate, term ending 3/24
Jaime Schulte and Laura Farrell, ANAC, term ending 3/26
Steve Parren, ANAC, balance of term ending 3/25
Jessica Demeritt, recycling coordinator, term ending 3/24
Mark Boltz-Robinson, tree warden, term ending 3/24
Jane Palmer, ACO, term beginning 4/30-3/24
Dawn Vukas, volunteer ACO, term ending 3/24
Deborah Gaynor, Green-Up coordinator, term ending 3/24
Ian Schulze, webmaster, term ending 3/24
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Maple Broadband, term ending 3/24
J. McNerney moved to appoint the slate as listed. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

PERSONNEL POLICY

M. Kelley said she is on that and VLCT is advising.

OVERWEIGHT PERMIT POLICY

no action taken

LOWER PARKING LOT AT TOWN OFFICES

S. Pilcher said it appears that there is less than ½ acre impervious surface. The lower parking lot would allow exterior handicap access. There was discussion about utilizing design/bid proposals. P. Low and S. Wilbur will work on the details for the bids.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

P. Low said there were two.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

The state has been in contact with some Monkton residents.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

S. Peisch was asking for ARPA money to support a mobile van for the Open Door Clinic that operates out of Middlebury. They treat anyone in Addison County who doesn't have health insurance and are known for helping migrant workers. They have applied for ARPA funds from other towns. They do serve Monkton residents. M. Kelley spoke about the process for choosing projects for Monkton's ARPA funds. The Selectboard wanted to know if other towns are responding positively, and if the project is going ahead. They asked for a formal request for ARPA funds and a proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. McNerney moved to approve the Yates Family Orchard liquor control application. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

S. Pilcher thinks the beaver dam on Boro Hill Road is not in the town right of way. There was discussion about hiring Skip Lisle for his opinion for the right solution for that location. There was discussion about the need for a maintenance agreement for water flow devices.

S. Pilcher noticed there are two large patches of asphalt shingles missing on the 1859 building. P. Low said his business does that work regularly.

D. Sprague would like to do a pollinator garden on a triangular patch where Church Road meets Mountain Road. J. McNerney said it can't obstruct site lines.

P. Low said he would take a look at it.

D. Sprague asked what happened to the radar speed sign that was previously discussed. S. Pilcher said he would look into it.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7pm.

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt.