

**MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

Marikate Kelley opened the meeting for discussion only at 7:32pm. The online portion of the meeting experienced technical issues. An official meeting could not be held because the meeting was warned as a hybrid meeting.

Members in attendance: Paul Low, Walter Crandall, Marikate Kelley

Members absent: Stephen Pilcher, John McNerney

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Debbie Houghton, Randy Charbonneau, Tom Steadman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

no action taken

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

no action taken

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

WHITETAIL LANDSCAPING AND EXCAVATING INC

S & J STEARNS INC.

SCOTT PIDGEON

S DENTON EXCAVATING INC

MCELWAIN CONTRACTING

FEDEX FREIGHT INC

AMERIGAS

J&J PINNELL TRUCKING LLC

LEWIS EXCAVATING LLC

DRISCOLL BROTHERS EXCAVATING LLC

HENRY EXCAVATING LLC

MIKE MORSE TRUCKING LLC

CONANT TRUCKING LLC

ROSS ORVIS

T & C TRUCKING LLC

GARY MOULTON

ARNOLD BLAIR / BLAIRS FORESTRY HAULING

CLAIRE LATHROP BAND MILL INC / LATHROP FOREST PRODUCTS

ELEVATION EXCAVATION & SEPTIC SERVICES
SARGENT CONCRETE AND CONSTRUCTION LLC
BROWNS CERTIFIED WELDING INC.
CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, INC

FACILITY USE REQUEST

P. Low said there were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Since Jan of 2023, R. Charboneau said he has asked for information which he has not received. He is researching delinquent tax reports. He is an auditor of the town doing this research on his own time. He read a statement regarding his efforts (see attached). M. Kelley asked if what he needed was read only access to the town reports on his own behalf. She asked if the town auditors were in agreement with these issues. R. Charboneau replied they wondered why he had not received the information. M. Kelley suggested that the auditors could maybe ask for the information. R. Charboneau said the info was supposed to be public information.

T. Steadman said he came to the meeting to discuss appointments. He was expressing interest again in being the delinquent tax collector in Monkton; he currently holds that position in Ferrisburg. He discussed the treasurer position and the qualifications required. P. Low spoke about how the Selectboard was working on how to make the individuals and the positions all work. M. Kelley said she appreciated T. Steadman expressing interest in the treasurer and/or the delinquent tax collector positions.

D. Houghton said she was interested in serving on ANAC or the Forest Committee. She expressed her interest in land stewardship. She is willing to work as a volunteer for fundraising for the possible town forest.

NEW BUSINESS:

OPEN DOOR CLINIC REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDS

There was discussion about specifics regarding the request for funds.

MUNICIPAL ROAD GRANTS IN AID PARTICIPATION

P. Low signed as the liaison to the highway department a letter of intent to participate only, not a contract or agreement.

ADDISON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AGREEMENT

P. Low said all the surrounding towns in Addison County are banding together for support during emergency situations. It was compared to NATO. It was noted that Bristol, Lincoln, and Starksboro were not currently enrolled. W. Crandall asked if anyone knew why those towns had not signed the agreement. S. Wilbur said he could ask someone to come speak to the matter.

APPOINTMENTS

no action taken

PERSONNEL POLICY

M. Kelley said it would probably not be completed until the lacrosse season was over in June.

LOWER PARKING LOT AT TOWN OFFICES

P. Low said until the funds are secured for the project, quotes would be put on hold.

BEAVERS

P. Low said the Boro Hill issue has been complex and is a work in progress. He has spent a lot of time speaking with the state, the landowner, and the contractor. J. Demeritt said she would offer some examples of beaver ordinances to assist the conversation.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

M. Kelley thanked P. Low for fixing the roof on the 1859 building. There was agreement that all members of the Selectboard should have the information to run a Zoom meeting from the town hall.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7pm.

W. Crandall moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt.

See attached statement from R Charbonneau below

Subject: Town Of Monkton Select Board (Delinquent Tax Questions)

Date: 4/25/23, 3:56 PM

Town of Monkton Select Board,

Since January 2023, I have asked for information regarding the Delinquent Tax (DT) receipts, however it's been an uphill battle. I still have not received any information with regards to my question. Some approaches I have taken to get information, walk in and ask for information from the Town Treasurer only to be informed of other priorities; sent e-mails requesting information only to receive partial/redacted reports or nothing at all; schedule a meeting with the Town Treasurer to discuss my request, which ended within a few minutes, only to be told I need to email all requests. I also attended a Select Board Meeting without resolution.

I'm currently, looking at the Delinquent Tax report, where the Budget sheet is listing \$169,289.12 in DT revenues collected. However, comparing last year's and this year's DT report it shows \$139,918.91 collected which is a difference of \$29,370.21. I received an email of the 2022 Tax Receipt Report for the past year from a Select Board member, allowing me to subtract the November 2022 'Grace Period/Stamped Mail Date' monies of \$20,791.31. This leaves a balance of \$8,578.90. The Town Treasurer should be able to provide the necessary reports as to where this money was collected/applied to against the DT so that I can continue my research.

I cannot imagine this an "excessive burden to the staff" when a computer system generated report should enable me to find answers to my question. This is the reason why I wanted to meet the Treasurer was to determine what report I should request.

I am an Auditor for the Town of Monkton doing this research without compensation. I keep the other Auditors informed of my discoveries or lack thereof. My goal is identify any concerns I have with the Town Financial Reports and work with the various Town Officials to bring resolutions to these concerns, one issue at a time so as not to become an "excessive burden to the staff". In addition to the DT question, I have other concerns with the Town Financial Reports that I would like to research. I want a working relationship where information is provided freely and without reservations. I had spoken to the Select Board about this in our meeting in February.

I contacted the Secretary of State, State Auditor and the Vermont District Court to inform them of my issues of not receiving information from the Town of Monkton and they provided avenues for which I could seek resolution. Prior to pursuing those avenues, I ask the Select Board to work with me to resolve these issues at the local level.

One solution is to provide me "Read Only" access to "All Reports" in the Town of Monkton computer system while I hold the position of Auditor. This will enable me to run various reports without having to interrupt the daily work schedule of the Town of Monkton staff, allowing me to find answers to my concerns.

Randy Charboneau