

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, November 28, 2023
(Approved 12/12/23)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:00 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Paul Low, John McNerney, Marikate Kelley, Walter Crandall (arrived at 7:22)

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Robin Hopps, Avery Williams, Will Elwell, Shane Lawrence, Joe Szarejko, Tom Kenyon, Jim Jewell

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

S. Pilcher noted that the Selectboard received a very nice thank you from the Open Door Clinic regarding the receipt of ARPA funds in support of their new van.

S. Wilbur said there are hearings coming up regarding a bypass route around Vergennes for trucks: 12/4, 12/11, 12/12 and 12/13 from 6-8pm. J McNerney noted the choice of routing could affect truck traffic through Monkton.

M. Kelley noted that the sheriff is writing tickets on the Monkton-Vergennes Road.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023 as written. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 31120 in the amount of \$12,148.43. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 31120 in the amount of \$26,775.59. J. McNerney seconded. It was noted that \$13,000 was for winter sand. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

none

FACILITY USE REQUEST

P. Low noted there were four, some of them extending into January.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

S. Lawrence said they have been ditching on Mountain Road. He said Junior Lewis came three weeks ago for training. The grader broke down and will hopefully be repaired 11/29. Help has been received from Hinesburg with grading. A sinkhole on Covered Bridge Road led to a culvert replacement. S. Lawrence explained that Todd Eaton came by before Thanksgiving. There are a lot of trainings the crew hopes to attend. Establishing a record keeping system was proposed. It was noted that there are limited guidelines for our town highway crew positions; having clear expectations would be helpful. S. Lawrence shared that Todd Eaton suggested getting a committee together to improve the road department. He said the committee should include some of the people who have been bringing concerns forward. He said Junior will come back in the spring to help with shoulders. Grading varies depending on the season. There was discussion about expectations, road crews across the state, and using contractors for gravel application.

RADAR SIGNS

P. Low noted that the constant reminders of radar signs seems helpful to reduce speeds, especially when followed up by enforcement by the sheriff's department. There was discussion about how many to install. S. Wilbur was asked to purchase two..

SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST PROCESS

S. Pilcher said he generated a letter for social services that are new or asking for 10% more than last year. The Selectboard would like a petition signed by 1% of the voters. W. Elwell of Bristol Rescue, said Bristol is picking up a larger portion of Monkton as Charlotte will no longer provide services. There was discussion about how calls for emergency services work. Bristol is asking for \$6 per capita as a starting point. There was discussion about funding for Bristol Rescue. S. Pilcher asked for an overview budget for the funding request. M. Kelley thanked W. Elwell and acknowledged the staffing challenges. J. McNerney asked if there was a map of which rescue squads served what sections of Monkton. W. Elwell said he would share one.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE PROCESS

There was discussion about specific changes for the policy. M. Kelley said she will generate a draft of the changes and share it.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL REVIEW

S. Pilcher said he hoped to do the review on 12/12. There was discussion about the process.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

R. Hopps noted that J. Demeritt will be stepping down from the recycling coordinator role at the end of her term. A. Williams and R. Hopps will step in as co-coordinators and plan on continuing providing a place for socializing and recycling education.

J. McNerney noted that the town forest committee has not spent the \$1000 in their 2023 budget. There was discussion about budget needs for a UVM graduate student study and using the \$1000 vs . P. Low asked about how ARPA money is being released regarding the recreation committee.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 7:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none required

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt