

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, December 26, 2023
(Approved 1/9/24)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:02 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Paul Low (left at 9:35), John McNerney, Marikate Kelley, Walter Crandall

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Matt Dupont, Debra Sprague, Curtis Layn, Rick Gomez

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

W. Crandall moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023 as written. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31218 in the amount of \$128,710.63. It was noted \$98,000 of this payment was for the fire department as approved by voters in March. **M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31222 in the amount of \$4,046,316.86. M. Kelley seconded. It is a best guess at what the full education tax payment will be, said S. Pilcher. W. Crandall asked what was paid last year. S. Pilcher said he could not put his fingers on that number at this time. **All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31213 in the amount of \$27,749.00. It was noted that this payment was for the social services approved by voters. **M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to approve PR 31218 in the amount of \$12,752.40. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

P. Low moved to approve AP 31214 in the amount of \$26,597.74. It was noted that a portion of the money included a compactor purchase for the highway department. **W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

none

FACILITY USE REQUEST

P. Low said there was a request to rent the space for a surprise party in 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSAL FOR ARTWORK IN TOWN OFFICES

The new librarian made a request for art to be displayed in the building. Insurance coverage is being investigated. P. Low suggested the artists sign a waiver to hold the town harmless, noting that another facility had discontinued display of artwork due to damage to the works and concerns over liability. There was discussion about the impact of liability and insurance costs.

REVIEW MONKTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT FOR FIRE TRUCK CHASSIS

The MVFD asked the Selectboard to take a look at the contract with Alexis Fire. M. Kelley said her concern was signing off on the whole truck before voter approval: \$637,000. The Selectboard approved \$150,000 from ARPA funds. It's a lease to own program, explained M. Dupont. It will be built into the fire department budget. The current effort is building a few years of truck payments into the budget. M. Kelley noted if the budget did not pass, the fire department would be on the hook. There was discussion about bonds. M. Dupont said prior fire department trucks had been purchased on similar lease to own programs. It was noted that Bristol had a large truck fund and paid directly from that. It was noted that when the lease ended on prior trucks it could have been still added to the budget to build a truck fund. M. Kelley asked if the fire department needed to pay sales taxes. M. Dupont said it was a non-profit. There was discussion about the best way to save money.

2024 BUDGET

R. Gomez presented the Selectboard with the 2024 MVFD budget. There was discussion about costs and income, actuals and budget requests. \$60,000 will hopefully be the annual lease payment for the new truck, with a 15 year lease. This will need to be added to the departments regular operational budget. The budget discussion continued, including numbers still needed, payroll increases, town forest, social services, highway department, health insurance, and library.

2024 TOWN MEETING WARNING

S. Pilcher said he sent out a rough draft of the warning. A significant issue to be discussed is the change to the lists.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL REVIEW

S. Pilcher finished the review. He noted that he made changes to the job description. S. Wilbur said he approved the changes. **J. McNerney moved to**

approve the performance review for the town administrator for 2023. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON
no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was discussion about the Selectboard write up for the town report.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none required

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt