

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, January 9, 2023
(Approved 1/23/24)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:05pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Theresa Schwegl, Janet Fairchild, Debra Sprague

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of December 26, 2023 as written. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. P. Low abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31227 in the amount of \$20,784.07. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve PR 31229 in the amount of \$14,992.03. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31229 in the amount of \$32,082.84. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31226 in the amount of \$9,001.97. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

Clair Lathrop Bandmill dba Lathrop Forest Products

Dan Menard Concrete Construction Inc.

Barrett Trucking

FACILITY USE REQUEST

P. Low noted that there were two requests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

T. Schwegl asked about policy or procedure for funding the storage space buildout in the town offices. S. Pilcher noted the Historical Society said they

would pay for their infrastructure, and the library would do the same. S. Pilcher said he thought the Selectboard was waiting for an estimate for wiring, fixtures, etc. He said the town might contribute from the building fund, or from the ARPA fund. T. Schwegl asked what the application process would be to access those funds. S. Pilcher noted that \$500,000 of the ARPA funds were committed. There was discussion about the building fund, and funding in general. M. Kelley said the library and the Historical Society need to work together to determine how much money is needed and make the request. M. Kelley suggested the two parties inquire with the community regarding support for storage space buildout. J. McNerney said he has no knowledge of anyone else requesting use of that space. There was discussion about possibilities for the space. The lower lot and fixing the building doors are a priority for the building fund. Appreciation was expressed by both the Selectboard and the Library Trustees.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 BUDGET

S. Pilcher said the current proposed budget adds a penny to the tax rate, one cent equals about \$26,000. It was noted that town clerk fees were below budget, probably due to limited real estate sales. It was noted that dog license compliance is low. There was discussion about delinquent taxes and a possible tax sale in 2024. The lack of an assistant treasurer was discussed. There was discussion about listers, the custodian, computer contract service, the sheriff department, property maintenance, insurance, payroll, a lighted sign, a Tyler Bridge Road culvert, and grader costs. S. Pilcher said the budget would be finalized on 1/23/24.

2024 TOWN MEETING WARNING

no action taken

PROPOSAL FOR ARTWORK IN TOWN OFFICES

The town's insurance company said there would need to be some signed paperwork on the value of the artwork, said S. Pilcher. P. Low asked who would curate the art in the town hall. S. Pilcher said that it would be the library.

PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGES PROCEDURE

M. Kelly said she and S. Wilbur had worked up changes for the personnel policy. They would present the work to the Selectboard in sections. J. McNerney asked about clarifying medical benefit coverage.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL REVIEW

M. Kelley moved to approve the town administrator job description as amended. Seconded by J. McNerney. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

none

OTHER BUSINESS:

W. Crandall moved to sign the Certificate of Highway Mileage Year Ending February 10, 2024. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. Monkton has 25.52 miles of Class 2 roads, and 27.33 miles of Class 3 roads.

A map was shared showing the areas that Vergennes Rescue and Bristol Rescue handle for rescue calls in Monkton.

M. Kelley noted that librarian Deb Chamberlin's retirement party is 1/20/24.

J. McNerney noted that there was vandalism at the recycling center.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 7:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none required

W. Crandall moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt