

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

(Approved 3/26/24)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:01 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Joe Szarejko (left at 8:45pm), Marikate Kelley, Walter Crandall

Members absent: John McNerney

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Candace Polzella, Tom Kenyon, Wayne Zeno, Anthony Delgreco, Amy Savage, Dani Bois, Bill Joos, Danielle Wallace, Debra Sprague, Robin Hopps

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

S. Pilcher noted that Joe Szarejko was a new Selectboard member.

S. Pilcher noted that there will be a Bike/Ped scoping project local concerns meeting on Thursday, March 14 at 6pm at the town offices. He also said there will be a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting on Thursday, March 21, at 7pm at the town offices.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 7:00-7:15

ELECT CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY

M. Kelley nominated S. Pilcher as chair. All voted in favor. W. Crandall nominated M. Kelley as vice-chair. All voted in favor. M. Kelley nominated J. McNerney as secretary. All voted in favor.

SET REGULAR MEETING DAYS, TIMES, PLACE

S. Pilcher said the Selectboard would continue meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the town offices.

DESIGNATE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD AND POSTING LOCATIONS FOR AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

S. Pilcher noted that the newspaper of record is the Addison Independent. The posting locations are inside and outside of the town hall, and at the post office.

REVIEW SELECTBOARD PROCEDURES

S. Pilcher noted that the new personnel policy is under review; the old one is in effect now. He noted that under our current policy, a bid process is required when a project is expected to exceed \$5000. W. Crandall and J. Szarejko will team up to be the liaison to the highway department. The Selectboard will look at it again in a few months.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

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**M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of February 27, 2024 as amended.
W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**M. Kelly moved to approve PR 40311 in the amount of \$12,600.38. W.
Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

**M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40311 in the amount of \$20,337.29. W.
Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

R. Parker Enterprises dba Parker Excavating

Kennedy Excavation, LLC

Consolidated Communications

Red Cedar Trucking, Robert Gaboriault

Waterman Siteworks, LLC

S & J Stearns, Inc

Panoramic Landscaping & Excavating, LLC

Ormond Bushey & Sons, Inc

Vermont Utility Management Services

R. K. Miles, Inc

BSP Trans, Inc

Cole Trucking, Doug Cole

Bevins & Son, Inc

Ackers Excavating, LLC

BTF, Inc dba Bundy's Sewage and Drain

Gauthier Trucking Co, Inc

Richmond Home Supply, Inc

Livingston Farm Landscape Products, LLC

802 Excavating, LLC

C.P. Site Construction

A. Duie Pyle, Inc

Swan Sitework, LLC

FACILITY USE REQUEST

S. Wilbur noted there were 6 requests. With Paul Low on vacation, S. Pilcher said he will be following up.

PUBLIC COMMENT

T. Kenyon spoke in support of J. Szarejko becoming the road liaison. A. Delgreco agreed.. R. Hopps asked about a facilities request follow up on May 5. W. Zeno commented that for a few years the roads in Monkton seem neglected. He expressed concern about some culverts and paving. S. Pilcher suggested a kind email to the road crew about specific concerns may be useful to address an issue. There was discussion about the road paving process. S. Pilcher noted Monkton had been lucky to have a road crew that worked together for thirty

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years. He noted that the town is trying to repeat that success with the current road crew. W. Zeno noted that in the past a dirt road had been paved every year. He wondered how that worked. A. Delgreco noted safety concerns about plowing without chains.

NEW BUSINESS:

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS REQUEST - TURNING POINT CENTER

D. Wallace is the director of the Turning Point Center of Addison County. She has been serving since 2007. The Turning Point Center meets with individuals, and hosts meetings, 135 meetings last year. She said the focus for next year is to get coaches to people's homes instead of people coming to them. D. Wallace said it is a peer recovery center. Services are confidential so it is difficult to determine which towns are receiving services. B. Joos noted the town receives a little over \$500 for opioid treatment. M. Kelly asked about outreach in Monkton. D. Wallace said they work with Valley Vista, Mountain Healthcare, and the Hub in Bristol. **M. Kelley moved to disperse Monkton's funds of approximately \$570 in opioid settlement funds to the Turning Point Center. W. Crandall seconded.** W. Crandall asked if there are other services like the Turning Point Center in Addison County. D. Wallace responded that only the Turning Point provides peer support. Other treatments in the area are medical or prevention. **All voted in favor.**

TAX SALE DISCUSSION

S. Pilcher asked B. Joos what years of delinquent taxes should be considered for a tax sale. B. Joos said the last tax sale was on 11/20/17 for properties that were delinquent in 2014-2016. B. Joos asked if the sale should include 2023. He recommended 2017-2022. He encouraged patience on 2023 delinquencies. He noted there is good success in collecting on delinquent taxes. There are maybe 7 properties that will probably not pay. If Monkton had a tax sale today, \$41,000 could be collected in back taxes, and if 2023 was included, \$86,000, for a total of \$126,515 for 2017-2023. He noted that these are our neighbors, and the town needs the money. He thinks with time, most of our neighbors will meet their delinquent tax burden. M. Kelley asked if some of the people had worked out payment plans? B. Joos said people make sporadic payments, but do not have plans. There was discussion about taxes and timing and interest. M. Kelley asked what percentage do you anticipate collecting in the next couple months? B. Joos responded that \$66,500 in delinquent taxes have been received since January 1. B. Joos noted that delinquent tax notices are sent monthly. S. Pilcher said his experience is that when a tax sale is held, rarely does anything go to the tax sale process. S. Pilcher noted that sometimes the delinquent taxes get rolled into mortgages. S. Pilcher noted that if the town has a lot of delinquent taxes, the worst thing that happens is the town gets a tax anticipation note. **W. Crandall moved to begin a tax sale on properties delinquent from 2017-2022. J. Szarejko seconded. The vote passes. 3-1-0. S. Pilcher voted against.**

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2024 PAY RATES

There was discussion about adjusting the stipend for the co-coordinators of the recycling center. **M. Kelley moved to approve the town of Monkton pay rates as amended. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS - WCVT TYLER BRIDGE AND TWIN RIDGE

M. Kelley moved to approve the right of way permit for Jayson McAlister for WCVT for fiber optic on Twin Ridge Road. J. Szarejko seconded. All vote in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve the right of way permit for Jayson McAlister for Tyler Bridge Road and Gilman Road for fiber optic infrastructure. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

SCHEDULE OLD AIRPORT ROAD INSPECTION

S. Pilcher described the process for a change in road classification. That process includes an inspection of the road. The Select Board, and Road Foreman will attend. Interested members of the public are welcome. Abutting land owners will be sent certified mail informing them of the inspection. **M. Kelley moved to hold an inspection of the Old Airport Road on April 21 at 10 AM as part of proposed laying out of Old Airport Road as a Class 4 road. The road to be inspected is the 0.9 miles of a currently traveled private road 50' in width known as Old Airport Road (OAR) as the traveled surface of OAR is currently located on the ground starting at OAR's southern terminus at its intersection with Hardscrabble Road (T.H. #5) and running to OAR's northerly terminus at its intersection with Hardscrabble Road (T.H. #5). W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

ZONING FEES

S. Pilcher said the Zoning Administrator asked for fee increases. **M. Kelley moved to adopt zoning fees of \$100 Conditional Use Fee, \$50 fee for newspaper warnings and any other warnings, and make the applicant responsible for recording fees. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROCESS

W. Crandall moved to approve the employee performance evaluation process. J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.

CURBCUT - POMARICO POND ROAD

W. Crandall and the Road Foreman inspected the site. A culvert was proposed 100 feet from the road. A second culvert was proposed. It's a very wet site and will serve multiple residences. **W. Crandall moved to approve the Pomarico curb cut on Pond Road. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments were discussed. The following slate was created:

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Bill Joos, Town Treasurer, term ending 3/25

Stan Wilbur, Town Administrator, term ending 3/25

Steve True, 911 Coordinator, term ending 3/25

Steve True, Zoning Administrator, term ending 3/25

Deb Gaynor, Jessica Demeritt (alt) ACSWMD delegate, term ending 3/25

Lisa Burns, Assessor, term ending 3/25

M. Kelley moved to appoint the slate as listed. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

NEW PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW

There was discussion about benefits and who qualifies as a town employee.

There was discussion about holidays.

HIRING POLICY

There was discussion about the changes and updates. S. Pilcher asked, who is an employee? M. Kelley suggested salaried positions are employees. There was discussion about public officials versus employees, and appointments versus hiring.

OLD BUSINESS:

none

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher noted that a letter had been received from Kevin Corrigan concerning signage on an intersection on Monkton Ridge. M. Kelley asked if the town had a sign policy. There was discussion about visibility and signage.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 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