

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

(Approved 6-11-24)

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

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Debra Sprague, Tom Kenyon, Vicky Stern, Jaime Schulte

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

S. Pilcher noted that the option to buy the town forest has been extended.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES

**J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of the Old Airport Road Hearing of March 28, 2024 as amended. M. Kelley seconded. The vote passed 3-0-2. W. Crandall and J. Szarejko abstained.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of May 14, 2024 as written. J. Szarejko seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. S. Pilcher abstained.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40520 in the amount of \$9,815.86. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40521 in the amount of \$89,550. W. Crandall seconded. It was noted that this was payment for the Mack truck dump bed and plow. All voted in favor.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve PR 40520 in the amount of \$11,469.19. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve 40528 in the amount of \$5,975.59 W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

Redline

Green Mountain Siteworks

Roberts Energy (fleet)

Roberts Energy (single)

Mitchell Excavation

David M. Newton, Inc

FACILITY USE REQUEST

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W. Crandall reported that there were no new requests.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

none

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT STATUS

J. Szarejko noted that S. Lawrence was here last meeting. A new hire started work. Some culverts came in and ditching will be proceeding on Mountain Road. There was discussion on how to get a CDL. J. Szarejko said paving on Bristol Road by Meader Swamp would start in the month of June. There was discussion about paving the Ridge. With a cost of \$38,000 there was no appetite for proceeding.

#### TOWN GARAGE / RECYCLING GATE

J. Szarejko said the road crew would prefer a security gate to be placed on the straight away before the curve. S. Pilcher noted that a manual gate is \$4-5000, and an automatic gate would be \$15,000. Sand for the resident use would be outside the gate. T. Kenyon noted that Charlotte does that.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TIME CLOCK

J. Szarejko noted that the cost for a time clock was from \$100 to \$1000. S. Pilcher suggested it should assist the road foreman's workload. Bristol has one that works well and J. Szarejko will share the one Bristol uses with S. Wilbur. T. Kenyon was in favor of a time clock.

#### CURB CUT - THOMAS STEADMAN

**J McNerney moved to approve the Steadman curb cut subject to all the appropriate permits being in place for the project. J. Szarejko seconded.** It was noted that second curb cuts are discouraged. **The vote passed 4-1-0. M. Kelley voted against.**

#### RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT APPLICATION - DENTON

J. Szarejko said the work would take 3-4 hours. J. McNerney noted that Bennett Rd is a dead end road and that affected people needed to be notified. Special restrictions and conditions were added, S. Pilcher noted. **M. Kelley moved to approve the Denton Right-of-Way permit application subject to the conditions. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

#### TOWN OFFICES LANDSCAPING

W. Crandall noted that a concerned citizen asked when the beds around the town offices would be taken care of. When asked, B. Barrows noted that he had not yet cleaned up the beds this year. He committed to do the work as soon as possible.

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### APPOINTMENTS

**J. McNerney nominated S. Pilcher and D. Sprague to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission for a one year term starting July 1. J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.**

S. Pilcher explained that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) chooses what towns get grants for transportation projects. They have been running the Vergennes Bypass Project. D. Sprague has been trying to keep informed about the roads and noted that the road foreman or the Selectboard liaison to the Road Crew would be more knowledgeable. There was discussion about the culvert on Tyler Bridge Road. **J. McNerney nominated D. Sprague as delegate to the TAC, and S. Pilcher as the alternate. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.** The one year term begins July 1. The fire warden paperwork was discussed. There was discussion about appointments to the Development Review Board (DRB).

There were some technical difficulties with the Zoom meeting.

M. Kelley noted that it looked like V. Stern had done the DRB work before. Her resume had many good qualifications. **M. Kelley made a motion to appoint V. Stern to the DRB for the balance of a term expiring 3/25. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.** Mike Brennan has expressed interest, noted S. Pilcher. He could serve as an alternate and could come in and speak with the Selectboard.

### KENYON OLD AIRPORT ROAD (OAR)

S. Pilcher was unsure how to approach it, but he would like to resolve the issue of road ownership on OAR. J. McNerney asked if there was attorney advice regarding the issue. S. Pilcher replied that there was.

**M. Kelley moved to go into executive session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss the legal matter regarding T. Kenyon and OAR. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 3-0-2. J. Szarejko and W. Crandall abstained and recused themselves from the discussion. M. Kelley moved to return from executive session at 8:20 p.m. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 3-0-2.**

**Szarejko and W. Crandall abstained and recused themselves from the discussion.** S. Pilcher said there was no decision, but that negotiation would continue with the Town Forest Committee. S. Pilcher said one of the issues with the land from A. Johnson is that the western edge is very hard to access. T. Kenyon said he had been offered the land, and declined because it was no man's land. He said A. Johnson took the land and destroyed some of T. Kenyon's land while accessing the western portion of the proposed town forest. S. Pilcher explained that the Selectboard has a financial responsibility to the town. They are trying to find the best solution. T. Kenyon said the town purchasing his portion of OAR would make things clear.

### LED TOWN ANNOUNCEMENT SIGN

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S. Pilcher said the sign would go in front of the town offices. T. Kenyon asked if it was needed with social media and other news sources and noted light pollution. S. Pilcher said the old sign is showing its age. T. Kenyon suggested purchasing a newer similar sign. There was discussion about reappraisals for the whole town and how it affected taxes. J. McNerney noted that he preferred a red LED sign instead of a full color sign. M. Kelley clarified that at the last meeting, there was a discussion that the sign might be on the island. There was discussion about options. S. Pilcher tabled the discussion.

### SCHEDULE DELIBERATIVE SESSION RE: OLD AIRPORT ROAD

The deliberative session was scheduled for June 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. The Selectboard will be deciding whether to change Old Airport Road from a private road to a Class 4 road. A deliberative session is closed to the public.

### NEW PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW

The personnel policy was discussed. Topics covered included types of leave, overtime, employee harassment and discrimination.

### OLD BUSINESS

none

### OTHER BUSINESS

J. Demeritt noted that the Steadman curb cut had last been approved in 2012.

W. Crandall asked about recusing himself from the evening's OAR executive session. There was discussion about the conflict of interest policy. J. McNerney asked if recusing yourself means you cannot sit in on a meeting, or you cannot participate in a meeting? There was discussion about information missed and the ability to best serve on the Selectboard.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 7 p.m.

**M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. All voted in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt