

# MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

(Approved 6/25/24)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:30 p.m.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Debra Sprague, Wayne Zeno, Shane Lawrence, Roger Parker, Michael Brennan, Mark Burritt, Joshua Giard, Brett Conner, Sara Twombly, Anthony Delgreco, Jim Jewell, Jessika Yates, Tom Kenyon, Stephen Park

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

S. Pilcher and B. Raphael from Wooden Hammer were interviewed by the Vermont Council on Rural Development on the Village Trust Initiative. Ten to fifteen towns will be selected to be interviewed further by the end of June.

M. Kelley said she and S. Pilcher met with members of the Russell Memorial Library and Monkton Museum and Historical Society regarding the expansion room and the library. She noted that progress was made and everyone worked well to make the shared use work.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

### APPROVE MINUTES

**J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024 as amended. J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor. S. Pilcher abstained. The vote passed 4-0-1.**

**J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of June 6, 2024 as written. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

### REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**M. Kelley moved to approve PR 40603 in the amount of \$11,507.41 J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

**M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40530 in the amount of \$27,841.33. J. McNerney seconded.** M. Kelley noted this was payment for digitizing the land records and NEMRC is working on putting those records online. S. Pilcher commented that ARPA funds were likely covering this cost. **All voted in favor.**

**M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40607 in the amount of \$51,221.67.** She noted that the big items were digitizing records and highway department items. **J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

### REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:  
Parent Construction, Inc.

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Kilburn Transport  
M.B. Countryside, LLC DBA Countryside Water Hauling  
Huntington Homes, Inc.

### FACILITY USE REQUEST

W. Crandall said there was one request for a date in August.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

T. Kenyon asked for an update on the time clock for the highway department. S. Pilcher noted that it had been discussed with the Selectboard and they believed the highway department could make the decision on the time clock. Anthony Delgreco suggested that a time clock would be a good idea. He expressed concern about materials getting washed away. J. Jewell asked about the time clock and choice. R. Parker said he wanted to value employees and also get value out of the work. S. Lawrence said he had located the old manual time clock and will be using that to start.. He is waiting for time cards to come in. He noted that his employees are uncomfortable using a time clock app for now. S. Pilcher commented on the manual time clock and the efficiency of plowing and punching in. He expressed the efforts to grow the highway crew and the leadership learning of S. Lawrence. J. Giard spoke in favor of a time clock app. He suggested looking into ADP. W. Zeno asked J. Szarejko how he viewed the progress on the roads. There was agreement that grading and in general the roads were showing some improvement. W. Zeno asked about plowing and washouts on the sides of the road. J. Jewell expressed concern about the timing of road repairs. S. Lawrence said he has been using recycled asphalt mixed with gravel for road repair. W. Zeno said a section of Boro Hill Road was looking great. T. Kenyon noted a time clock was necessary for accountability. There was discontent expressed from the public.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

S. Lawrence said roadside mowing is ongoing, and some culverts have been replaced. He used hot asphalt to fill in some holes, and erosion stone needs to be applied. There was discussion about the time clock and time sheets. There was discussion about a culvert on Old Airport Road and Hardscrabble Road. S. Pilcher asked about digital speed sign installation. There was discussion about the grader tires. There was discussion about road material causing flat tires. There was discussion about what portion of Jockey Lane is maintained by the Town.

#### TOWN GARAGE / RECYCLING GATE

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The door to the recycling center shed has been kicked in again. S. Pilcher noted that there is a camera down there and may have some evidence. S. Pilcher described a 24 foot gate to install on the road to the highway department and the recycling center. S. Lawrence noted that a farmer uses the road as well, so the gate needs to be located so as not to interfere with that access. S. Pilcher said it would be necessary to follow up. J. Szarejko said he would do so.

### SIGNS IN MONKTON RIDGE/DAVIS ROAD TRIANGLE

S. Pilcher noted that there have been concerns raised about the signage in the triangle limiting visibility. He said removing the signs from that area might be the preferred solution for safety. J. Yates asked if the complaints were recent? She noted that the signs have been evolving. M. Kelley noted that in a low car it is hard to see past the signs. S. Park noted that that location is really important for his business because it successfully drives people to his farm. J. Yates asked if there was a possibility to make the signage high instead. J. McNerney asked if there was a possibility to speak to neighbors and place signs on privately owned property. S. Park noted that he mows the triangle to improve visibility.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW / PACE AND HAWLEY ENGAGEMENT LETTER

**M. Kelly moved to retain Pace and Hawley, LLC to do the financial review for the year ending 2023, for a fee not to exceed \$3500. J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.**

### ADDISON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

There was discussion about the contract and cost increases. S. Pilcher noted that the revenue versus expenses has been break-even for the existing contract. There was a question as to whether there was another option. J. Szarejko noted that the Hinesburg Police are providing services for Richmond. M. Kelley noted that either the Select Board or the sheriff could terminate services with a 30 day notice.

**J. McNerney moved to approve the contract with the Addison County Sheriff's Department. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

### VERGENNES AREA RESCUE SQUAD AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT

**J. McNerney moved to approve the ambulance agreement with the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 at an estimated cost of \$15 per residence, 222 residences. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

### OLD AIRPORT ROAD SURVEY PROPOSAL

S. Pilcher noted that the survey will be covered by a grant from ACRPC. **M. Kelley moved to approve the Short Surveying services for Old Airport Road. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 3-0-2. J. Szarejko and W. Crandall abstained.**

### FLOODPLAIN HABITAT RESEARCH REQUEST

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S. Pilcher noted that there was a request for a game camera placement on town owned land on Mountain Road for undergraduate research.

**J. McNerney moved to approve Lydia Emery from UVM to place a game camera on town owned land on Mountain Road to conduct research. J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.**

WELCOME TO MONKTON SIGNS

no action taken

JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney described a prior incident that occurred on Jockey Lane, and explained that survey pins were placed to mark the right of way. This section of Jockey Lane is a class 4 road. There has been an ongoing issue between neighbors regarding the location of the road. S. Pilcher would like to have the pins found and flagged. A copy of a letter from the town attorney dated March 4, 2021 has been resent to the affected parties.

CHILDCARE PAYROLL TAX

**J. McNerney moved for the town to pay the Childcare Payroll Tax in full. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

NEW PERSONNEL POLICY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

The policy is being circulated for comment. The comments can then be reviewed as the policy is reviewed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

M. Brennan expressed interest in being an alternate on the Development Review Board and described his experience in the area. S. Pilcher encouraged him to attend a DRB meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

none

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 7 p.m.

**J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m. All voted in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt