

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:03 p.m.

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

Members absent: Joe Szarejko

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Lisa Boeckman, Janet Fairchild, Debra Sprague, Landel Cochran, Michael Brennan, Jane Palmer

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

J. Demeritt requested the Selectboard members state their names when making and seconding motions.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2024. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 3-0-1. W. Crandall abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 40617 in the amount of \$13,663.98. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40624 in the amount of \$31,793.15. W. Crandall seconded. The big ticket item was a tractor payment. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40621 in the amount of \$51,125.87. It was noted that this was the final tax payment for the year to MAUSD. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40617 in the amount of \$43,793.01. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 40612 in the amount of \$11,974.15. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

M.B. Countryside, LLC DBA Countryside Water Hauling

Parent Construction, Inc.

Kilburn Transport

Huntington Homes, Inc.

Allard Lumber Co.

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FACILITY USE REQUEST

W. Crandall noted there were two.

PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Cochran introduced himself. He has been serving as a Selectboard Member in Huntington. He is running for the Vermont Senate as a Republican. He expressed concern about affordable living in Vermont and spoke about finding consensus.

NEW BUSINESS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE - JOE SZAREJKO

S. Pilcher received an email from J. Szarejko who was not in attendance: On June 17th, Shane and I met with Pete Bouvier and discussed the upcoming Mountain Road project along with work to be done on Hardscrabble Road. The week of July 8th the Highway Department is going to be starting work on Mountain Road with Chris Acker, brush is going to be cut on the shoulders of the roadway along with the road being ditched from Church Road north and then at the conclusion gravel is going to be added to the road to get the proper crown. Shane and I worked on a letter to post online for Mountain Road residents to make them aware of the upcoming project In hopes that residents will not bother the roadcrew and will call the town hall instead. Since last meeting the highway department has continued to work on grading several roads, the new grader tires have been put on the grader. Roadside mowing has continued and the majority of the roads have been mowed at this point. Several culverts have been replaced to include J. Jewel's culvert. The crew did a very good job with that and it was some good public relations on Shane's part. The culvert at the southern end of Old Airport Road was also fixed along with several others throughout the town.

TOWN GARAGE / RECYCLING GATE

S. Pilcher noted that a grant request for a gate would go to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. S. Pilcher said he is getting a quote from Middlebury Fence. The farmer still needs to be contacted.

SIGNS IN MONKTON RIDGE/DAVIS ROAD TRIANGLE

S. Pilcher noted that he thought the sign could move back a couple of feet to improve visibility. M. Kelley suggested a tall skinny sign around the pole may work as well. There was conversation about visibility around the Bennett Road/Hollow Road intersection.

RECYCLING FACILITY CERTIFICATION

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S. Pilcher said every 10 years the town recycling drop off needs to be recertified. **J. McNerney moved to submit the application to recertify Monkton's recycling center. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

There was discussion about moving forward with finishing the back room in the town hall for use by both the library and the Monkton Museum and Historical Society. J. Fairchild asked how to move the project forward. S. Pilcher suggested taking measurements, considering lighting needs, and other specifications. S. Pilcher explained that the project would need to be bid out, and then the work would need to be scheduled. There was discussion about having the library and the historical society sign an agreement for shared use.

APPOINTMENTS

J. McNerney noted that another person expressed interest in the Development Review Board (DRB). **J. McNerney moved to delay the decision of appointing a DRB alternate position until the next meeting to allow for both candidates to be spoken with. M. Kelley seconded.** M. Kelley said she would like to hear from the DRB about their thoughts on the candidates. **The vote passed 3-1-0. S. Pilcher voted against.**

CHANGES TO OPEN MEETING LAW

S. Pilcher noted that Act 133 takes effect July 1, 2024. There are meeting differences for advisory and non-advisory boards or committees. In Monkton, non-advisory boards include the Selectboard, the Development Review Board, and the Board of Civil Authority. These boards must record meetings, keep recordings for 30 days, and must have an in person or hybrid meetings.

BIKE/PEDESTRIAN ROUTE SCHEDULE

S. Pilcher explained the schedule of information sharing from Dubois and King. He is very interested to see their work.

NEW PERSONNEL POLICY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

M. Kelley noted there were a few details that needed filling in before sharing the policy with town employees. There was discussion about vacation, sick leave, and more.

OLD BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Palmer noted a difficult situation with a dog on Boro Hill Road. A neighbor repeatedly felt unsafe while walking due to an unleashed dog. J. Low came to the Selectboard meeting seeking guidance on how to handle citations. J. McNerney said he would assist. J. Palmer requested an outdoor kennel. The Selectboard supported her looking for one.

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The wage and benefit survey will be out in August.

J. McNerney commented on unauthorized signs in the right of way. He would like to see no temporary signs on town property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7 p.m.

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt