

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

(Approved 7/23/24)

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

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

Members absent: Marikate Kelley

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Shane Lawrence, Michael Brennan

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

J. McNerney noted that a beaver deceiver has been installed on the old kaolin pond spillway, which was paid for by the Vermont Land Trust.

S. Pilcher noted that VGS is withdrawing its request for a certificate of public good for the natural gas distribution station in Monkton.

S. Pilcher noted that DuBois and King has provided the town with results from the bike/ped scoping study. The Selectboard will review the information, and later schedule a hearing.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2024 as amended.

J. Szarejko seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

W. Crandall moved to approve PR 40701 in the amount of \$13,577.00. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40705 in the amount of \$67,472.14. W. Crandall seconded. J. McNerney noted a large portion of the warrant was for paving the lower parking lot, some of which was covered by a grant. **All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

none

FACILITY USE REQUEST

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

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S. Lawrence noted that the road crew has been cutting trees and brush on Mountain Road, and ditching is coming next. Bristol Road was paved. Yellow lines should be coming next month, to be done by the state for Class 2 roads. W. Crandall noted that the work the crew did on the south end of Old Airport Road was very good. S. Pilcher asked about stop bars at intersections. S. Lawrence noted that Monkton shares a paint sprayer with Hinesburg. J. Szarejko asked about using ARPA funds to buy gravel for the town. S. Pilcher noted that the town has budgeted \$85,000 for a number of years for gravel and road maintenance. He said most of the ARPA funds have been allocated. There was discussion about the upcoming rain forecast from Hurricane Beryl. S. Pilcher noted that ARPA funds have been committed for future opportunities rather than recurring costs.

TOWN GARAGE / RECYCLING GATE

S. Pilcher said the town received a quote from Middlebury Fence for about \$5,000 for an installed gate. **J. McNerney moved to approve the proposed contract from Middlebury Fence to install a gate across the driveway for the town garage and recycling, for the 24 foot option subject to review by S Lawrence to determine best fit, for an amount not to exceed \$5296.92. J. Szarejko seconded.** There was discussion about access for the farmer. There was discussion about a combination lock and the location for the gate. **All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to apply for a grant from ACSWMD for 50% of the cost of the gate. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

HIGHWAY ACCESS POLICY

S. Pilcher asked if the policy was the same as procedure. He noted that the Highway Access policy references AOT B-71a driveways that have 1-2 houses need a 12' wide driveway. For more than 2 houses, AOT B-71b says that driveways need to be 24' wide. S. Pilcher noted that the policy may need to be adjusted as houses continue to be added to roads. He suggested having AOT come out to make suggestions. When is it a driveway versus a road, asked S. Pilcher. J. Szarejko said he would check in with Todd Eaton on these concerns. S. Pilcher asked about driveway culverts and policy. The town's policy is that culverts and headwalls are the homeowner's responsibility. In practice, the town sometimes replaces the culverts. Driveway culvert replacement takes about half a day, and with the culvert, the cost is about \$3000. There was discussion about town versus homeowner driveway culvert responsibilities.

There was discussion about the road crew members' progress.

APPOINTMENTS

M. Brennan has expressed interest in being an alternate on the Development Review Board. The other candidate withdrew their interest in the position. **W. Crandall moved to nominate M. Brennan as an alternate on the DRB for a term expiring in March of 2026. J. Szarejko seconded. J. McNerney expressed a concern. The vote passed 3-1-0. J. McNerney voted against.**

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VERGENNES AREA RESCUE PAYMENT

S. Pilcher noted that the treasurer had some reservations about when to send funds to the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad because of a signed contract and because of the social services appropriation. **J. McNerney moved to approve the Selectboard authorizing the payment of the Vergennes Area Rescue ambulance service agreement according to the terms of the invoice. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

WELCOME TO MONKTON SIGNS

There was discussion about what the welcome to Monkton signs should look like. J. McNerney suggested replacing the signs with a similar sign, or something that ties in with the signs that were a Boy Scout project several years ago based on the Monkton flag. A design will be proposed and reviewed.

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

There was discussion about how the budget numbers are presented.

MONKTON/VERGENNES ROAD TRAFFIC REPORT AND SCHOOL ZONE

S. Wilbur noted that the 85th percentile speed was 42 mph. He discussed the school zone signage option. The cost would be between \$7,000-\$10,000. S. Pilcher said it could be discussed at next year's Town Meeting. There was discussion about traffic calming in the Boro. A report will be requested from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

NEW PERSONNEL POLICY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

no action taken

OLD BUSINESS

none

OTHER BUSINESS

S. Pilcher noted there was a right-of-way permit application from GMP for a power pole installation. A request will be made for a sketch of the pole location.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 7 p.m.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt