

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

(approved 8/27/24)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 8:02 p.m.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Joshua Giard, Shane Lawrence, Debra Sprague, Tom Kenyon, Michael Hurlburt, Anthony Delgreco, Jane Palmer, Janet Fairchild, Jaime Schulte, Chris Acker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

S. Pilcher noted that the town was awarded a grant from the Addison County Solid Waste Management District(ACSWMD) to pay for half the cost of a gate for the town garage/recycling access.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024 as written. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve minutes of the 2024 Town Meeting of March 2. Seconded by W. Crandall. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

W. Crandall moved to approve PR 40729 in the amount of \$15,164.64. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

W. Crandall moved to approve PR 40812 in the amount of \$11,599.55. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

W. Crandall moved to approve AP 40813 in the amount of \$22,066.84. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40729 in the amount of \$19612.20. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permit was reviewed and approved:

Bakemark USA, LLC

FACILITY USE REQUEST

There is one facility use request under review, said W. Crandall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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J. Giard asked about a road surplus that was discussed from the March 2024 town meeting minutes. S. Pilcher took some time explaining the town's budgeting process. Surpluses and deficits are not carried over at the end of the year. Surpluses or deficits get used to determine the following year's budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

S. Lawrence explained that wind and rain had caused a lot of damage. The July 11, 2024 storm washed out Silver Street, Boro Hill, Higbee Road, Hollow Road, Mountain Road, and more. Chris Acker and Roger Parker were hired to help with repairs. Old Stage Road and Piney Woods are still closed. Mountain Road is being ditched, and State's Prison Hollow needs ditching. Some work is needed on the mudslide that happened on Bristol Road. S. Lawrence noted that the Tyler Bridge Road culvert has been sinking, and has been researching temporary fixes. J. McNerney asked about FEMA money for that culvert. Pond Road is on the list for work this year if funding allows. On Hollow Road, S. Lawrence noted that there is a concern about vehicles parked in the town right of way, which will interfere with mowing and especially snow plowing. S. Pilcher noted that the town has been pursuing enforcement of the state's scrapyards laws in that area for some years. J. McNerney said he would follow up with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). S. Pilcher asked about billing for the storm repairs. S. Lawrence thought costs might have approached \$80,000. A. Delgreco suggested that Piney Woods Road was going to be a continual problem and proposed some solutions. It was noted that FEMA has not yet made a declaration. There was discussion about the timing of fixing Piney Woods Road. M. Hurlburt suggested Piney Woods Road was a scenic route and had washed out three times already. He suggested three culverts, or a bridge. He suggested widening Old Stage Road on the two blind hills. J. Szarejko said Chris Acker had been asked to propose a solution on Piney Woods Rd. Larger culverts were proposed. Pouring headwalls on the culverts and ditching was proposed. S. Pilcher asked about a hydraulic study for Piney Woods Road. S. Lawrence suggested that because it was an emergency situation, it was not a concern. J. Szarejko asked about funding and work. S. Pilcher said it depends on FEMA funding. S. Lawrence asked if he is to hold off on Piney Woods Road work at this time. J. McNerney asked if the town wanted to spend several hundred thousand dollars on Piney Woods without FEMA funds. S. Pilcher suggested waiting. J. McNerney noted that it may be difficult to get culverts. M. Hurlburt asked about getting local stone for road work.

T. Kenyon asked where the money would come from to fix the roads. He asked who has the authority to enforce the driveway ordinance. S. Pilcher said the Zoning Administrator enforces the driveway ordinance. S. Pilcher noted that many of the town's driveways do not meet the town's ordinance. They cause washouts on the town's roads. T. Kenyon suggested it was cheaper for someone to fix the driveways. M. Hurlburt asked about hiring extra help for the road crew.

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S. Pilcher explained that contractors had been filling in. S. Pilcher noted there was money set aside for the Tyler Bridge Road culvert, and may be used for other road expenses. There was conversation about the town borrowing in anticipation of taxes. There was discussion about the remaining ARPA funds. J. Szarejko asked about maintaining the momentum of road repairs. J. McNerney said he could ask VLCT about the driveways and the town's options. M. Kelley asked that if a driveway gets washed out and it's being rebuilt, could the town require them to get approval from the town for compliance. M. Hurlburt noted that if a snowplow is hitting a tree, it probably ought to be cut.

TOWN GARAGE / RECYCLING GATE

J. McNerney moved to approve the proposal from Middlebury Fence to install a 28' wide gate on the town garage road for the amount of \$5,176.55. J. Szarejko seconded. S. Pilcher noted that ACSWMD would pay for half of the cost. **All voted in favor.**

SOUTH WING BID DOCUMENTS

J. Fairchild noted that she had drafted something for the Selectboard for a bid. S. Pilcher explained how the town may solicit bids. There was discussion about other needs for the South Wing. M. Kelley asked if the Historical Society had been involved in the discussions.

ANIMAL CONTROL CITATIONS

There was discussion about issuing a summons. There is a problem dog and resolving the issue has been challenging. J. Palmer has been in touch with the judicial bureau. J. McNerney said he would be available to visit the home.

OLD BUSINESS

none

OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion about an advertisement to be placed in the Addison Independent with a photo of the Monkton Fire Department and inclusion of an ad. There are two openings and two candidates for the Planning Commission. There is an opening on the Conservation Commission.

The next meeting will include the bike/ped scoping study and the hazard mitigation plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 7 p.m.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m. All voted in favor.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt