

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

(Approved 12/10/24)

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

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Walter Crandall, Marikate Kelley (arrived at approximately 7:50 p.m.), John McNerney, Joe Szarejko

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Jaime Schulte, Sue Stasny, Vincent Bent, Kevin Lambert, Janet Fairchild, David Moore, John Zaikowski, Paul Low, Sue Grover, Debra Sprague, Callie Brynn

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

S. Pilcher stated that the assistant town clerk's last day will be December 6. She's done a lot of great work for the town. When asked, S. Pilcher estimated it was about 22 hours of work per week.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

W. Crandall moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2024 as written. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

W. Crandall moved to approve AP 41120 in the amount of \$23,198.97. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

J. McNerney moved to approve PR 41118 in the amount of \$11,565.80. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

none

FACILITY USE REQUEST

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

J. Schulte announced that the town closed on the purchase of the town forest.

NEW BUSINESS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

J. Szarejko noted that the road crew were getting the trucks ready for the winter. They are grading roads and replacing signs. S. Lawrence has been pricing out a new truck.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

(Approved 12/10/24)

FEMA STORM DAMAGE PROJECTS

S. Wilbur noted that the town is working on a damage inventory for FEMA.

APPOINTMENTS

J. McNerney moved to appoint D. Moore to the Conservation Commission with a term expiring in March 2028. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

OLD AIRPORT ROAD

S. Randall Davis asked to establish a reconciliation committee to work on the maintenance agreement between the town and the residents of Old Airport Road. She noted that there were some problems with the survey of the road. S. Pilcher asked for an email detailing the problems so they could be addressed by the surveyor. S. Randall Davis noted that landowners on Old Airport Road are concerned about liability. S. Pilcher noted that the Selectboard was also anxious to work with the town's new neighbors on Old Airport Road. J. McNerney and S. Pilcher agreed to serve on a committee. P. Low noted that the easements on the new town forest will benefit the property owners on Old Airport Road.

SOUTH WING PROPOSALS

S. Pilcher noted that he had three proposals. Red Schoolhouse Construction had a bid of \$56,000. Red Lion Construction had a bid for \$45,300. Millbrook had a bid for \$91,000. J. Fairchild looked at the three proposals with T. Schwegel. They chose Red Lion as their first choice, and Red Schoolhouse as the second choice. W. Crandall asked if there were any references? S. Pilcher noted it would take another two weeks to make a decision.

ANAC OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

J. Schulte noted that ANAC received the feedback from the Selectboard and would work further on the guidelines in January.

ARPA FUNDS

K. Lambert noted that he spoke with B. Conner with Bushey and Sons regarding their bid on the hardcourt. Their bid is attractive because: they want to expand business, they are offering a discount because an employee lives in Monkton, they currently have time to do the work, and they would like to expand their presence in this area. The work would begin this winter, with the asphalt going on in the spring. It was noted that the Rec Committee was in favor of the hardcourt. J. Zaikowski noted that the Morse Park management plan needs to include the hardcourt. S. Pilcher noted that any work in Morse Park would need to wait until the management plan is approved at a Selectboard meeting. J. Schulte asked if VHCB was okay with the court? K. Lambert noted the original plan had specified the possibility of surfaces for tennis. J. Schulte noted the original plan was in 1994 and included a basketball court and archery range and ice skating and tennis. He noted that the Conservation Committee and the Rec Committee had

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

(Approved 12/10/24)

already approved the current draft. K. Lambert offered to call Bushey to see if they can wait for two weeks. S. Pilcher noted that he didn't see that there was any change in the plan that would require waiting. S. Pilcher noted that the town is being asked to sign a contract that is beyond the \$60,000 ARPA request. K. Lambert expressed confidence in raising the costs through grants and fundraising. S. Pilcher asked for a contract with phases so the town would not be signing a contract for more than the \$60,000. **J. McNerney moved to authorize the Chair to sign a phased contract with Bushey and Sons not to exceed \$60,000 with the balance of the project to be raised through private fundraising. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.**

S. Pilcher noted \$15,000 remained in ARPA funds.

J. Szarejko noted a quote for \$3,900.50 for a delivered twenty foot storage container. The container would be used at the Rec Field as a mouse-proof way to store recreation gear.

W. Crandall moved to use ARPA funds to purchase a twenty-foot storage container from Brandon B. Curtis Enterprises LLC for the amount of \$3,900.50. J. Szarejko seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

J. McNerney moved to allocate the remaining ARPA funds to the town forest fund for kiosks, trail maintenance, and other purposes. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

S. Pilcher noted the ARPA fund was now depleted.

ITEMS IN THE TOWN RIGHT OF WAY

S. Pilcher took pictures documenting a property with many items in the town's right of way. He proposed drafting a letter to the property owner. J. McNerney agreed to draft a letter and have the town attorney look it over.

TOWN PLAN REVIEW AND HEARING SCHEDULE

S. Pilcher proposed a hearing on the Town Plan on December 19. The informational portion would begin at 6 p.m., and the hearing would begin at 6:30 p.m. S. Pilcher reviewed proposed changes to the Town Plan. There was discussion about affordable housing.

2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

S. Pilcher noted that everyone needed to have their budget information to the Selectboard by December 10, 2024.

PERSONNEL POLICY

J. Szarejko noted that the road crew had feedback on the personnel policy. There was discussion about paid holidays and time off for road crews compared to other towns. Vacation rollover and sick time rollover were discussed. Pay rates, vision benefits and health insurance costs were discussed.

BARNUM FORESTRY EASEMENT

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

(Approved 12/10/24)

C. Brynn noted that the town did not sign the easement because there was a request for another point of access for forestry purposes in the event that the dam was to be removed. A suggestion was made that the easement could be signed as is, or the easement could not be signed and an alternate route could be investigated and proposed. It was agreed that the communication would be conveyed through the town lawyer. C. Brynn requested that the Selectboard release the agreed amount for road maintenance. S. Pilcher stated that the town needed to see what the property owner's paid for road maintenance before releasing funds. It was agreed that those numbers would be available at the next Selectboard meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

none

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Zaikowski noted that the Morse Park Management Plan needed to be updated to address changes to the mowing schedules that accommodate a ground nesting bird, the bobolink. He noted that when changes are made to the park, they need to be included in the plan. We also needed to define the process by which proposed changes to the plan are considered and adopted. J. Zaikowski summarized the plan. S. Pilcher complemented the good work. S. Pilcher proposed inviting public comment on the plan at their next meeting, or the public could email the committees with comments. Formal requirements of the plan were discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Personnel Evaluation

J. McNerney moved to go into executive session for the purposes of personnel evaluation at 9:27 p.m. W. Crandall seconded. S. Wilbur was invited to join the session. The vote passed 5-0-0.

J. McNerney moved to exit executive session at 10:08 p.m. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7 p.m.

W. Crandall moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt