

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026

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1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by W. Crandall at 7:00 pm.

Members in attendance:

Walter Crandall, Sam Peisch, John Dunham, Joe Szarejko

Others in attendance:

Stan Wilbur (Town administrator) Tom Steadman, Kim Barbour, Trevor Currier (Town road foreman), Ashley Haefele, Mark Guillemette, Anne Guillemette, Kirk Lea, Randy Charboneau, Lisa Burns, Elizabeth Armstrong, Tom Kenyon, Mark Burns, Jaime Schulte, Kathy Malzac, Jim (Online, no last name), Robin Hopps, Carroll Maxwell, Debra Sprague, Stacy Jones (minutes recorder)

2. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

None offered

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION - INTERVIEW

S. Peisch moved to enter Executive Session to find that premature general public knowledge would cause a substantial disadvantage to the public body or a person, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A). Seconded by J. Szarejko. **The motion passed unanimously.**

S. Peisch also moved to enter Executive Session for the specific purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector position, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Seconded by W. Crandall. **The motion passed unanimously.**

T. Steadman inquired if the interviewee had received written notice, or been otherwise informed of the questions they would be asked prior to the session. They were not.

Upon exiting the Executive Session, W. Crandall moved to offer the position of Treasurer (salary \$45,000/year) and Delinquent Tax Collector (salary \$6,000/year) to Kim Barbour. J. Szarejko seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

A member of the community E. Armstrong posed an objection to the job offer, claiming she had not received a proper legal interview, and was advised the Selectboard would discuss the matter.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None offered.

5. SELECTBOARD VACANCY

The Selectboard announced the continued vacancy on the board following the resignation of the former chairperson. This vacancy will be filled by appointment at the next regular meeting on March 24, 2026, or a meeting thereafter.

S. Peisch moved, seconded by J. Szarejko, to approve the Notice of Vacancy for posting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

6. ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

The Selectboard reorganized its officers and adopted standing procedures:

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Elect Officers:

Chair: Sam Peisch (Nominated by J. Szarejko, seconded by J. Dunham).

Vice Chair: John Dunham (Nominated by S. Peisch, seconded by J. Szarejko).

Clerk: Sam Peisch (Nominated by J. Szarejko, seconded by W. Crandall).

Set Regular Meeting Schedule: S. Peisch moved, seconded by J. Szarejko, to set the regular meeting schedule for the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at Monkton Town Hall. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Designate Agenda Posting Location(s): S. Peisch moved, seconded by J. Szarejko, to maintain the current physical posting locations: inside and outside Town Hall and at the Post Office. **The motion passed unanimously.** The Board noted that virtual posting on platforms like Front Porch Forum or Facebook is not permitted as an official posting location due to accessibility requirements, but that community members can link or repost in those locations.

Designate Newspaper/News Source of Record: S. Peisch moved, seconded by J. Szarejko, to designate the Addison Independent as the newspaper of record. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Rules and Procedures: S. Peisch moved, seconded by J. Szarejko, to adopt the Selectboard's standing rules and procedures as adopted the previous March. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Guillemette raised two issues: First, a drainage pipe issue. He described an ongoing problem with a drainage pipe that diverts water from a neighboring property into a town ditch, including reports of vandalism and damage. He requested the Road Foreman conduct a visual inspection to determine a long-term plan, noting he cannot simply shut off the water flow. Road Foreman T. Currier agreed to contact him to set up a site visit. Second, he informed the Board that the Zoning Administrator did not notify him of a change in hearing date from March 9th to March 23rd, despite his involvement as the respondent in the issue.

8. APPROVE MINUTES

February 24th, 2026 Meeting Minutes: W. Crandall moved to approve the minutes as written. S. Peisch seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Monkton Annual Town Meeting Minutes (February 28th, 2026): These minutes were Tabled for review at the next meeting, as not all members had a chance to read them.

9. REVIEW & APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

W. Crandall moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #60310 in the amount of \$13,439.51; primarily for a payroll transfer and Green Mountain Power. J. Dunham seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

W. Crandall moved to approve Payroll Check Warrant #60309 in the amount of \$16,912.91; for town employee payroll. S. Peisch seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. REVIEW & APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

W. Crandall reported that a large number of permits are being reviewed, with checks confirming insurance and adherence to the 80,000 lb state maximum weight limit.

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T. Steadman questioned how agricultural drivers, who are new to a 60,000 lb limit in the town's new ordinance, would know they need a permit, suggesting a need for better communication. S. Peisch committed to looking into better ways to communicate the new policy.

K. Lea asked how law enforcement could know which non-local commercial trucks passing through have a permit. S. Jones (Minutes Recorder) noted that approved permits are distributed to the Sheriff and Sheriff's deputies.

Permits approved since last selectboard meeting include:

ABC Supply, ALH Transit, Allard Lumber Company, Bevins and Sons Inc., Birds Eye Building Co., Casella Waste, City Feed and Lumber, Fedex Freight, Gauthier Trucking, Jackmans of Bristol, Moe DuBois Excavating, Oberle's Bulldog Trucking, Panoramic Landscaping, Poulin Grain, RK Miles, R Parker Enterprises, Richmond Home Supply, Ross Express, Scott Pidgeon, Stewarts Shop, Swan Sitework, Tim Thompson Trucking, and Weston Pulpwood Sales

11. FACILITY USE REQUESTS

Moving along busily.

12. APPOINTMENTS

S. Peisch presented a slate of reappointments for consideration, noting that a large number of current members had requested to be reappointed. T. Steadman questioned if the appointees met the requirements of the new appointment policy, specifically regarding sending a letter and attending meetings. The Board noted it relies on committee chairs to communicate attendance issues.

Contested position (Maple Broadband primary delegate) were deferred for separate discussion.

S. Peisch moved to approve the following appointments and reappointments as a slate:

- Jane Palmer: Animal Control Officer
- Lisa Burns: Cemetery Administrator
- Mark Burns: Recycling Co-coordinator
- John McNerney and Jamie Schulte: Town Forest Committee
- Devin Mason: Rec Committee
- Laura Ferrell: ANAC (Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee)
- Michael Brennan and Stephen Pilcher: DRB (Development Review Board)
- Janet Schwartz: Conservation Committee
- John Dunham: Energy Committee
- Joe Szarejko: Emergency Management Coordinator
- Sam Peisch: Town Service Officer (vacant position)

S. Peisch was reminded by J. Schulte of S. Pilcher's request to be reappointed to the DRB, which was inadvertently omitted from the slate and added. The revised motion was seconded by W. Crandall. **The motion passed unanimously.**

S. Peisch then nominated Deb Gaynor and Jessica Demeritt to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. The motion was seconded by W. Crandall. **The motion passed unanimously.**

S. Peisch noted there are still a few open positions to be filled, including an ANAC alternate, a position on the REC committee, and the Green Up coordinator.

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S. Peisch invited Ashley Haefele (applicant) to speak about the Maple Broadband position. Though he stated he would like to have Mark Boltz-Robinson weigh-in before making any final decisions. Mark (the current delegate) was not present at the meeting. A. Haefele, a Monkton resident, expressed strong interest in the Maple Broadband appointment. She disclosed a potential conflict of interest, stating that her marketing firm won a public bid to become the marketing firm for Maple Broadband. She emphasized that her interest stems from a "personal investment" in the mission for universal broadband access, extending beyond her professional role. A. Haefele noted that Maple Broadband "struggles to hold quorum" and that Monkton had only been represented in four of the past twelve board meetings. She was initially interested in the immediate appointment for the alternate position but is very interested in the primary delegate position upon learning it is up for reappointment. She highlighted Monkton's good fortune regarding high-speed fiber access. She described Maple Broadband's outreach efforts, including new affordability programs, and stated, "I just don't want to have to bill Maple Broadband for my volunteer hours." She mentioned prior board service with Special Olympics Vermont and the South Burlington Library.

A brief discussion followed regarding how to proceed. J. Dunham suggested appointing A. Haefele immediately to the alternate position to ensure Monkton representation at meetings. S. Peisch expressed a preference for allowing Mark (current delegate) to serve until the next meeting and deciding on the delegate position after the Board sought further guidance on A. Haefele's disclosed conflict of interest. A. Haefele stated she has discussed the conflict with the Executive Director and confirmed she would recuse herself from any governing board action related to marketing or promotional aspects.

S. Peisch recused himself from a discussion and voting for the webmaster appointment due to a conflict of interest (knowing one of the candidates). J. Szarejko initiated the discussion regarding the webmaster position. J. Szarejko inquired if all members had reviewed Charles Caldwell's resume and if there were any further questions.

J. Szarejko made a motion to appoint Charles Caldwell as the new webmaster. The motion was seconded by J. Dunham. **The motion passed unanimously.**

13. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

J. Szarejko reported on the Highway Department's activities. The 2020 GMC was prepped for the dealership, and its plow and sander were removed. The road grader was removed from storage for a trade-in, including repair work on a broken bearing bracket. The 524K loader was troubleshooted (coolant line, parts runs). The 2020 Mack was cleaned, and trucks were prepped for a potential ice storm. The fire pond parking lot was cleaned out. Parts were acquired for the 2024 Mack. Wing slides were repaired on the 2024 Mack and 2018 Western Star. The 2024 Mack was serviced, received new lights, a new wing blade, and its trucks were greased. The 2013 Mack got new headlights and a wire harness repair. Trips were made for parts (2024 Mack, 2013/2024 Macks).

The public sand pile was resupplied and new sand was later added to it. Banks were pushed back at the garage and park-and-ride. Four tons of cold patch were used on Monkton Road and Silver Street. Bus turnarounds were sanded. The main sand pile was screened. Time was spent on the 2026 paving quote sheet and calls with paving companies.

Snow plowing and sanding all routes occurred on one Wednesday, and asphalt roads were treated early Friday morning. The second week started Sunday afternoon with clearing asphalt

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roads (two passes), followed by clearing and sanding all routes early on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Drifts were checked/pushed back throughout the second week.

Road posted signs were fixed and put out. A few road signs were repaired.

Meetings were held with a selectboard member, Pike (paving), John Deere (new grader), and the Mack truck salesman. Meetings were also held with a lubricant salesman and about the Coyle curb cut.

The board discussed the necessary repairs for the town's GMC truck. J. Dunham reported that the truck was initially sent to a GMC dealer, who quoted over \$15,000 for a full rebuild, finding multiple issues including a transmission problem. The truck was then moved to a non-dealer shop, which provided a repair quote of just over \$10,000, with transmission and brakes being the major items. The discussion focused on the parts, particularly the transmission and brakes. The transmission from the second shop is a rebuilt/remanufactured unit with a three-year unlimited mile warranty. Concerns were raised about using aftermarket parts, as T. Currier noted that other road departments recommend OEM transmission parts due to the heavy-duty nature of the truck's work (plow and sander). T. Kenyon clarified that the aftermarket brake parts quoted are the "newest, heaviest duty, highest carbon, rust-resistant." T. Currier confirmed that the Highway Department crew is capable of performing the brake replacement (pads and rotors) and the axle seal repair in-shop, which would reduce the cost by approximately \$1,700 for the brakes alone.

Concerns were also raised by T. Currier regarding the lack of communication about the repair quotes and process with the Highway Department. S. Peisch acknowledged this as a failure of the Board and assured it would not happen again.

J. Dunham moved that the board move forward with the repairs at the second shop (Boras). J. Szarejko seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

J. Szarejko announced that the new grader will be delivered on Thursday, and the old grader will be traded in. T. Currier clarified that the old grader has been sold through Munson Earth Movers, a contact arranged by John Deere United.

S. Peisch publicly thanked T. Currier and the highway crew for their work during the long winter, noting the significant amount of plowing and late nights, and praised their excellent job. T. Currier thanked S. Peisch and mentioned the heavy use of the 2024 Mack truck, which had 370 hours of service recorded this winter, indicating a very busy season.

The selectboard confirmed the purchase agreement for the new grader. T. Currier confirmed that the signed document was all John Deere needed, as the Town of Monkton owns the machine in its entirety, and the signature was simply a formality to designate a receiving party. J. Szarejko confirmed that the purchase agreement copy was saved by S. Wilbur.

14. PINEY WOODS ROAD

J. Szarejko restated that the Town Meeting vote regarding Piney Woods Road was non-binding and that public concerns focused on wanting the road reopened but without box culverts, road widening, and a preference to keep the road as rustic as possible. A meeting is scheduled for March 11th, 2026 with FEMA, the state river engineer, and DuBois & King to discuss options for culverts and determine if the project scope can be changed, or if re-application for the FEMA grant is necessary. It was also noted that regardless of the decision (reopening or converting to a walk/path), there will be an expense for the town.

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S. Peisch suggested holding a future meeting or separate information session after gathering all possible information to allow residents to ask questions and inform the Selectboard's decision-making. S. Peisch reiterated that the Town Meeting vote was non-binding and that the Selectboard would seek substantial public input before making a final decision.

T. Steadman questioned whether the non-binding nature of the Town Meeting vote was known when the article was warned, expressing concern about the appearance of the vote's validity and the potential for division within the town given the limited attendance at Town Meeting. S. Peisch confirmed being aware the vote was non-binding and was receptive to feedback on how to make the process clearer in the future. The Selectboard agreed to report back after the meeting with FEMA and state officials.

15. NEW COMPUTER(S)

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16. PAVING RFP

S. Peisch introduced the item, noting that the approved budget at Town Meeting includes \$621,000 for hot mix paving, requiring an RFP per policy. A draft RFP was included in the packet. S. Peisch proposed an amendment to add more detail regarding the thickness of the shim coats in the RFP. T. Currier noted that Pike delivered their quote, and they were awaiting a quote from one other company.

S. Peisch moved to approve the RFP as amended to include more details about thickness. Seconded by J. Szarejko. **The motion passed unanimously.**

17. OTHER BUSINESS

None offered

18. ACTION ITEM ROUNDUP

S. Peisch

- Review overweight ordinance
- Update items on website
- Follow-up on appointments
- Attend FEMA meeting with J. Szarejko

J. Szarejko

- Attend FEMA meeting with S. Peisch
- Oversee grader delivery on Thursday

S. Wilbur

- Post notice of continued vacancy for Selectboard seat

T. Currier

- Follow up with M. Guillemette to schedule a site visit for inspection of the drainage pipe

19. DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Monkton Town Hall.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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S. Peisch moved that the premature general public knowledge of the subject to be discussed would cause substantial disadvantage to the public body or person. J. Szarejko seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

S. Peisch then moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel under VSA § 313(a)(3). J. Szarejko seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.** S. Peisch invited Stan Wilbur to attend the Executive Session.

The public left the meeting and S. Jones, minutes recorder, stepped out of the room.

S. Peisch moved to exit Executive Session. J. Dunham seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

J. Dunham moved that the Board authorize Sam to contact the town attorney for legal advice. J. Szarejko seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

21. ADJOURNMENT

J. Szarejko moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. W. Crandall seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Jones