

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by S. Peisch at 7:02 pm.

Members in attendance:

Sam Peisch (Chair, Clerk), John Dunham (Vice Chair), Joe Szarejko (Highway Liaison), Walter Crandall, Sarah Bouchard

Others in attendance:

Stan Wilbur (Town administrator), Marcel Lehouillier (Mack salesperson), Tom Steadman, John McNeerney, Stan Burritt, Tom Kenyon, Paul Cassarino, Tracie Cassarino, Jamie Schulte, Lisa Burns, Dave Lucey, Randy Charboneau, Carroll Maxwell, Trevor Currier (Road Foreman), Paul Low, Jane Low, Debra Sprague, Mark Burns, Beverly Soycek, Brandon Hanley, Callie Brynn, Kim Barbour (Treasurer), Don Mannigan, Amber Broderick, Lee (no Last name), Stacy Jones (minutes recorder)

Introductions were made by the Selectboard members (Sam Peisch, Joe Szarejko, Walt Crandall, John Dunham, and Sarah Bouchard). S. Peisch took time to review the Selectboard Rules and Procedures.

2. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Additions: Discussion of a property washout/flooding on Monkton Road (moved to Highway Department) and a proposal to change the town payroll cycle.

Deletions: None.

Adjustment: The Tandem Truck Presentation by Marcel Lehouillier was moved to follow Check Warrants.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT

None offered

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Broderick reported extreme flooding that washed out her driveway, noting the Highway Department assisted with repairs and informed her the surge was likely caused by a breached beaver dam upstream.

5. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

The Board confirmed they'd reviewed the minutes for the March 24th, 2026 regular meeting and the February 28th, 2026 Town Meeting.

S. Bouchard moved to approve the block of minutes as presented. S. Peisch seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. REVIEW & APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

J. Szarejko confirmed that all incoming permits were reviewed for compliance with weight limits and insurance requirements.

Permits approved since last selectboard meeting include:

Acker Excavating, All Terrain Excavating, Allard Lumber Company, Bacon Trucking, Blairs Forestry Hauling, Camp Precast Concrete Products, Canopy Timber Alternatives, Clark Wright

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

DRAFT

Septic Service, Consolidated Communication, Cota Trucking, Countryside Water Hauling, D & F Excavating, Debisschop Excavating Llc, Delphia Excavating, Don Weston Excavating, Driscoll Brothers Excavating, Freeguard Excavation, Green State Excavating, Harrison Concrete Construction, Harrison Read Mix Corp, Hinesburg Sand & Gravel, J & J Pinnell Trucking, John G French & Sons Trucking, Lawes Agricultural Services, Masterson & Son Excavation, Michael Morse Trucking, Moe Dubois Excavating, Mr. Bult's, Inc, New England Quality Service, Parent Construction, Qxo Inc, R & J Trucking, S Denton Excavating, T Palmer, Vermont Well & Pump.

7. REVIEW & APPROVE FACILITY USE REQUESTS

W. Crandall reported that the town is beta-testing a new online submission form for facility requests. One request was successfully received via the new system, reviewed against the calendar, and coordinated with the town clerk.

8. REVIEW & APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. Szarejko moved to approve accounts payable check warrant report number 60414 in the amount of \$33,691.43. W. Crandall seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

J. Szarejko moved to approve payroll check warrant report number 60406 in the amount of \$19,400.83. W. Crandall seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. TANDEM TRUCK PRESENTATION (moved from later on agenda)

The Select Board received an informational presentation from Marcel Lehouillier of Mack on the capital equipment replacement schedule and future truck ordering. The key information shared included:

- *Price Increase (2027):* New government-mandated emissions standards for the 2027 model year are expected to increase the price of each truck by \$10,000 to \$30,000 across all manufacturers.
- *Lead Times:* The lead time for plow equipment is currently around 18 months, with upfitters requiring the truck to be on order before the plow equipment is placed. Trevor Currier added that tandem bodies from Viking-Cives have a minimum lead time of two years. Truck ordering typically takes five to six months.
- *Availability:* Order slots for the popular Mack Granite model are very slim, and the price and availability of the new 2027 Mack Granite model are currently unknown.
- *Truck Lifespan:* In Vermont's "salt zones," the average turnaround for a municipal truck is 5 to 7 years due to the use of salt and brine.
- *Transmission and Warranty:* Mack offers an Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) that is \$8,000 to \$10,000 less expensive than an Allison transmission.
- *Warranties:* for municipalities include 84 months for the engine and emissions (capped at 250,000 miles) and a 60-month warranty for the transmission and clutch when using the Mack manufacturer transmission.

T. Currier noted that existing plow equipment could be transferred to a new truck. The Board agreed to discuss the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for future purchases at a later date.

10. REVIEW & APPROVE AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER

The Board confirmed they had all reviewed the audit engagement letter and understood the scope of work.

J. Dunham moved to approve the audit engagement letter. S. Peisch seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 14th, 2026
DRAFT

11. REVIEW & APPROVE MOWING BIDS FOR TOWN OFFICE & CEMETERIES

Bids were opened from Rick Rockwell and Big Hollow Lawn and Maintenance. They noted ambiguity in the total sums and scope of the Big Hollow bid.

The Board deferred action to seek clarification from the bidders before the next meeting.

12. REVIEW & APPROVE PURCHASE OF TOWN COMPUTERS

The Board compared a quote from The Tech Group for new equipment (\$13,930) versus a quote from Chris Morris for refurbished units (\$3,738.95). The Board favored the refurbished option for its significant cost savings and comparable quality.

J. Dunham moved to accept the quote for refurbished computers from Chris Morris. S. Peisch seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

13. PAYROLL CYCLE CHANGE (Added item)

The Board discussed shifting the pay cycle from the current Friday–Thursday schedule to a Monday–Sunday schedule to more accurately capture Thursday hours as recommended by the Treasurer and the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC). T. Currier, Road Foreman and L. Burns, Town Lister, supported the move for improved administrative accuracy.

W. Crandall moved to adopt the new pay cycle and reporting suggested by the treasurer. S. Peisch seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

14. GRAVEL BIKE EVENT

The Board reviewed a request for a fundraiser event on September 12th, 2026 benefiting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Organizers will place and remove their own signage. T. Currier requested more than two days' notice for road grading coordination. P. Low noted the event will use the Morse Park pavilion and facilities.

15. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

T. Currier reported the new grader is a "dramatic difference" in performance. The crew completed flagger training, and the new F550 truck body has entered production.

13-A. Shared Municipal Services Resolution

S. Peisch briefly reviewed a mutual aid agreement for Addison County Communities to share equipment and labor. T. Currier noted Monkton already benefits from the informal practice of mutual aid, particularly with regard to equipment sharing.

S. Peisch moved to sign the Shared Municipal Services Resolution. J. Dunham seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

13-B. Riverflow Right of Way Work Permit

The Board discussed a request to widen Cedar Lane for the Riverflow development. Abutting landowners T. and P. Cassarino expressed concerns regarding mature tree removal and the safety of a proposed passing spot.

The Board reached a consensus to conduct a site visit involving J. Dunham, T. Currier, the Monkton tree warden, and the adjoining landowners.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

DRAFT

13-C. Review & Approve Class II Grant Application

The Board discussed an application for repaving the paved section of Hardscrabble Road in 2027.

S. Peisch moved to approve the Class II grant application. J. Szarejko seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

13-D. Grader Financing

The Board reviewed terms for a \$150,000 state municipal loan (2% interest) and the remaining \$161,930 balance from National Bank of Middlebury. Discussion focused on the 5-year (4.2%) vs. 7-year (4.5%) terms.

S. Peisch moved to authorize the treasurer to submit the state loan application and apply for a 7-year loan from National Bank of Middlebury. W. Crandall seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

13-E. Plans for Spring and Summer Work

T. Currier outlined plans for ditching and raising the dirt section of Hardscrabble Road, followed by work on Church Road and the south end of Mountain Road.

13-F. Monkton Road Washout (added item)

T. Currier detailed a significant washout on Monkton Road, possibly caused by a beaver dam breach. The crew performed emergency repairs to restore home access for a homeowner (A. Broderick). J. McNerney noted potential state law violations regarding unauthorized dam manipulation.

The Board reached a consensus for J. Dunham and T. Currier to investigate the source of the breach.

16. PINEY WOODS ROAD DISCUSSION & VOTE

S. Peisch summarized two public forums held in the previous week. He shared input: 60% of residents on the road favor reopening, while 20% prefer decommissioning, making the road a legal trail, or converting to class 4. Discussion centered on FEMA funding (\$800k+) and the risk of "clawback" if the money is not utilized. Following further discussion, the Board reached consensus to authorize Dubois & King to proceed with design and permitting and to start the bid process for road repairs.

S. Peisch moved to authorize Dubois & King to proceed with design and permitting and to start the bid process for road repairs. J. Szarejko seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

17. BUDGET REPORT

S. Peisch noted that conditional use revenue is higher than expected due to town development, with no other major red flags in the current report.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

S. Peisch moved to enter executive session because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or person involved at substantial disadvantage. J. Szarejko seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

DRAFT

S. Peisch then moved to enter executive session to discuss confidential legal services under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) of the Vermont statutes, and for the purpose of discussing personnel matters under VSA § 313(a)(3). J. Szarejko seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

The public and S. Jones, minutes recorder, left the room. The executive session was entered at 9:05pm.

S. Peisch moved to exit the executive session at 9:30pm. S. Bouchard seconded. **The motion was carried unanimously.**

W. Crandall moved to increase the hourly wage of Becky Stearns to \$22.00 in accordance with increased duties related to town clerk matters. S. Peisch seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

J. Dunham moved to transition the Zoning Administrator role from salary to hourly (capped at 25 hours/week) at the same effective pay rate in accordance with increased duties related to zoning matters. S. Peisch seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

19. ACTION ITEMS

J. Dunham: Investigate Monkton Road washout and Cedar Lane site visit with T. Currier.

S. Peisch: Coordinate grader financing and payroll adjustment with Kim and return signed audit letter to Stan. Notify affected parties about changes to hours and pay rates.

J. Szarejko: Contact Dubois & King regarding Piney Woods Road.

Unassigned: Contact mowing bidders for clarification on scope of work.

20. DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Monkton Town Hall.

21. ADJOURNMENT

W. Crandall moved to adjourn. S. Bouchard seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Jones