

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

MONKTON TOWN HALL

August 8, 2011- Minutes

DRAFT

Members Present: John Phillips, Anne Layn, Stephen Pilcher, Terry Cunningham, Peter Norris

Others Present: Mike Fisher, Dave Sharp, Chuck Roumas, Micheal Cross

Call to Order: John Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Announcements

None at this time

Visit from State Representatives Mike Fisher and David Sharp

Dave Sharp and Mike Fisher attended the Select Board meeting to discuss the legislative session and to listen to any concerns the Select Board might have.

- Mike Fisher is part of the committee working on the new health care legislation.
- David Sharp remarked that they have been in contact with the leadership expressing disapproval of the reapportionment of legislative districts – moving to single representative districts – current proposal would cut Monkton in half.
- David Sharp noted that he is on the Ways and Means Committee and has been doing a lot of work on energy legislation.
- Mike discussed the current health care bill. There was a wide ranging discussion of current legislation, taxes, property taxes, HR 110 tax department study of state administered collection of education taxes. Tax Department advised against.
- Terry urged diverting transportation monies to towns rather than doing state level projects, the towns being much more efficient. This may be county specific.
- mfisher@leg.state.vt.us and dsharp@leg.state.vt.us

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes

Stephen Pilcher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended for July 25th, 2011.

Anne Layn seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Warrants

The following warrants were approved.

P/R	8/01/11	#10801	\$8,384.11
A/P	8/8/11	#10808	\$20,343.75

Overweight Permits Approved

None

Old Business

Mountain Road

Mike Cross attended the Select Board meeting to advocate paving the unpaved portion of Mountain Road. Over the last 5 years the maintenance cost of the unpaved portion of Mountain Road has been approximately \$51,900 per year in figures Mike said he got from Wayne Preston. As the unpaved portion of Mountain Road is approximately 4.5 miles long this works out to \$11,533 per mile. The estimated costs for paving, again from Wayne, are \$80,000 per mile to prep the road, \$95,000 for black top and \$20,000 per mile for chip seal top coat after 10 years (which will last an additional 8 years). Using these figures Mike Cross estimates that the cost to pave and maintain a mile of Mountain Road for 18 years would be 195K/mi. or approximately \$10,833 per mile per year. This would be a savings of \$700/year/mi. He also claims that driving on a dirt road is costing him money in car repairs. Mike Cross also felt that given the number of houses on Mountain Road the users of Mountain Road more than paid their share of road maintenance taxes. Mike Cross urged the Select Board to pave Mountain Road to Chris Ackers driveway. Various issues were raised concerning increased speed and traffic if the road were paved and the resultant safety issues. Mike Cross offered to help on grant writing. The Select Board urged working on consensus for paving mountain road. A proposal was made to get traffic study for Mountain Road to determine the number and speed of cars using the road.

Emergency Plan

No action was taken.

Road Sign Replacement

No action was taken.

2011 Tax Rate Preliminary

Listers lodged grand list with the State – 1,742,038.34. Peter Norris made a motion to set Municipal Tax rate to 44.18 cents on the tax dollar which is an increase of 2.5 cents over last year. The increase is based on expenses voted on town meeting and takes into account the \$111,311.95 surplus last year. The municipal tax rate is still lower than the rates in 2008 and 2009. Motion was seconded by Stephen Pilcher and passed unanimously.

Town Policy for penalties for late filed Homestead Declaration

Legislator has left to the Town the power to assess penalties for late or incorrectly filed Homestead Declarations. These penalties are currently set at either 3% or 8% of the difference between the tax rate for resident and non-resident tax rate depending on which is higher and whether the declaration was late or incorrect. Chuck Roumas urges the Select Board to not adopt any penalty given the minimal difference between the Resident and Non-Resident tax rates. The Town collected between \$800 to \$1800 for undeclared Homestead Declarations last year from 20 to 25 tax payers total. Anne Layn made a motion that no penalty be assessed by the Town for late or incorrect filing of Homestead Declaration. Motion was seconded by Stephen Pilcher and passed unanimously.

New Business

Review health plan options

VLCT health trust has decided to include more vendors. The Towns current health plan will not be extended for next year. VLCT would like us to sign a brokerage agreement from the Town of Monkton. with Hickcock Boardman Group plan. The Northeast Delta Dental plan will not change. The letter assigns Hickok and Boardman Group Benefits as the Town of Monkton Broker/Consultant of Record. Motion to sign the letter was made by Stephen Pilcher, seconded by Anne Layn. Motion passed unanimously..

DRB Letter

The Select Board has received a letter from the DRB recommending removing Alex Goodrich from the DRB. Stephen Pilcher made a motion to remove Alex Goodrich from the DRB on the basis of poor attendance. Terry Cunningham seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Select Board will advertise for both a full time and alternate DRB members. Appointment will be done at the next Select Board meeting. The DRB has established an attendance policy.

Driveway Maintenance

Terry Cunningham suggested that the Select Board should generate a letter to send to citizens whose driveways are washing out into the roadways or which have restricted lines of sight. Many curb cuts are granted with a line of sight which is not being maintained by the land owner.

Next Meeting

The next regular Select Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 22nd at 6:30 pm. At the fire station. There will be an evidentiary hearing on new zoning regulations at 8:00. Copies of the plan given to the Select Board are available at Town Hall.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Terry Cunningham, seconded by Anne Layn. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectively Submitted,
Stephen Pilcher