

**MONKTON SELECT BOARD MEETING  
MONKTON TOWN HALL  
MINUTES  
August 14, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Steve Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

**ATTENDANCE:**

Steve Pilcher, John McNerney, Henry Boisse, Anne Layn  
(absent: Roger Parker)

Guests: Ken Wheeling, Katie & Nick Lambert, Ivor Hughes, Melissa Cook, Jessica Johnson, Stephanie Spencer, Nate & Jane Pamer, Jennifer Baker, Tom Murray (VGS), Adam Gero (VGS)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- S. Pilcher announced that we have received the education tax rate. It has been calculated at \$1.5544 for homestead, and \$1.4648 non-resident.
- John Huling has accepted the offer of a full time position with the road crew.
- The town is automatically a party to PUC 17-3550 Investigation Regarding Alleged Failure by VT Gas to Comply with the CGP (depth of cover issue)

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

- **REVIEW MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes as written for July 24, 2017 meeting made by J. McNerney, seconded by H. Boisse, Approved. 3-0-1.** (A. Layn abstained)
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS**

#PR 70724	7-24-17	\$10,686.27
#AP 70731	7-31-17	\$16,715.36
#PR 70807	8-07-17	\$8,887.74
- **REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS:**  
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- **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
**TURKEY LANE BUILDING ISSUE:** Melissa Cook made comments regarding a permit issued for building on Turkey Lane. Ms Cook contends the permit was issued as part of a home business. She explained her understanding of the conditions of the permit, and feels the owner is

violating those conditions. Stephanie Spencer commented on the sale location, contending that building permits have never been posted at the site. S. Pilcher detailed his review of the original permit and conditions. Also discussed the construction of an Ag. building (for beef cattle) on the same premises. A question was asked about permitting for Ag buildings. Ken Wheeling (Zoning Administrator) clarified that the town has no jurisdiction over farm buildings, but he does post copies of permits for informational purposes.

**PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE:** Ivor Hughes summarized the Planning Commission's recent activities. After the 8/10/17 hearing, the P.C. approved the UPD without further changes. The P.C. requested that white curb lines in Monkton Ridge and Monkton Boro be added, and that this become part of our regular road crew practice for this area. He mentioned that the Town Plan is due to be updated in 2019. The viewshed study is now available on the town web site.

**LOAD HISSING NOISE FROM VT GAS MAIN LINE VALVE:** Jane Palmer reported on an issue where a loud hissing sound was coming from the areas of the main line valve. Renee McGuinness had called VT Gas regarding the sound asking if there was work being done on the line. VT Gas said they had no crew in the area. Ms McGuinness eventually called 911 to report the noise. 911 called the fire dept. It later turned out that the noise was scheduled maintenance: sand-blasting being performed by a sub-contractor. VT Gas was not aware that a contractor was working in the area. Concern expressed by several in attendance that VT Gas was not aware where work was being done on the pipeline. S. Pilcher agreed that this is something that VT Gas should notify us about in advance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **ROTAX RD DAMAGE / Operating Unpermitted Trucks:** Nick Lambert commented that he was sent a bill for damage to Rotax Rd by unpermitted trucks running on the roads. However, he says that the repairs were made by the town the week before he ran the trucks on the roads. S. Pilcher reviewed occurrences of unpermitted trucks which have been reported to the town.

S Pilcher also discussed the relocation of the Lambert driveway to the private road and some of the issues with the culvert relocation. Mr Lambert explained his rationale for putting the culvert where it is. S. Pilcher and H. Boisse will arrange a site visit to discuss both issues with the Lamberts and the Road Foreman.

- **JOHNSON CURB CUT & STORAGE CONTAINER:** Jessica Johnson expressed frustration at being singled out for having an unpermitted storage container when others in town have them. S. Pilcher explained

that our zoning enforcement is often triggered by complaints to the Zoning Administrator. Ms Johnson pointed out that this complaint was issued by Mr Pilcher. Mr Pilcher stated that he submitted that complaint as a citizen. MS Johnson again stated that she was the only one in town to receive a violation letter. J. McNerney pointed out that the Johnsons were not the only violation notice: John Phillips, who is a former select board member and current Assistant Town Clerk was also cited for a violation. This citation also came about as a result of a complaint from a town citizen. Mr McNerney also noted that this will most likely not be the end of the shipping container citations.

- **ADDISON COUNTY SHERIFF CONTRACT:** Reviewed the contract contract submitted by the Addison County Sheriff at our previous meeting. **H. Boisse moved to accept the contract. J. McNerney seconded. Voted and approved 4-0-0**
- **HOMESTEAD DECLARATION LATE FILING FEE:** S. Pilcher explained that waiving this fee has been our longstanding practice. **H Boisse moved to waive the late filing fee for Homestead Declaration. A. Layne seconded. Voted and Approved 4-0-0**
- **MUNICIPAL TAX RATE:** The listers made a minor change to the Grand List, which resulted in a recommendation to lower the municipal tax rate. **J. McNerney moved to lower the tax rate from the previously approved \$0.3945 to \$0.3929. H. Boisse seconded. Voted and approved 4-0-0.**
- **BANK NOTE FOR DUMP TRUCK:** No action taken.
- **TOWN ENERGY ANALYSIS:** Nate Palmer obtained information on the MCS energy usage for 2016. The school used 6900 gallons of heating oil at \$1.75 per gallon. Mr Palmer ran that number on the VGS website savings calculator: if the school had been using natural gas is would would have amounted to a savings of \$1,140 Per year. At the school's present fuel oil price of \$1.62 per gallon, they would realize a savings of \$269 for the year. Mr Palmer noted that these numbers do not include any conversion costs or loss of efficiency due to converting an oil burner to gas vs. using a new gas fired boiler.

Mr Palmer also researched residential savings: The Vermont Fuel Dealers Association says the average Addison county home uses 750 gallons of fuel annually. Using current pricing from two different fuel oil dealers, the savings for using natural gas would range from \$0.23 to \$142.73 annually. These savings still do not include the conversion costs. Also, VGS customers pay the distribution fee YEAR ROUND, so this MR Palmer's conclusion was that at this point fuel switching has little to no benefit.

- VT GAS GATE STATION PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: T. Murray of VGS explained that the presentation is a precursor to their section 248 45 day notice to install the gate station and distribution network. He described the overall dimensions of the gate station and the general set up. There was a question on the noise levels from the station. A. Gero described a hiss or similar sound. He said he would have to check on the actual decibel level. Someone questioned why this was so much smaller than other installations. A Gero explained that this station had a fraction of the expected demand that the other station referenced has. I. Hughes asked about the status of the instrumentation package which is sent down the line to check integrity and whether the AC mitigation and cathodic protection were installed. Mr Gero explained that the testing will be done this winter – when the flow rate is high enough to run the package through, and that the AC mitigation and cathodic protection were in place at the time the pipeline was activated. A resident asked of there are enough people interested to justify distribution. T. Murray explained that there were not. This was agreed to as part of the negotiation of the MOU with Monkton. He further explained the approval process for a project of this scope does not require the economic justification that the transmission pipeline required.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- FIRE STATION ADDITION: No update. The deadline for remedying the door issue & completing the project remains at August 28.
- USE OF TOWN GASOLINE IN PERSONAL VEHICLE: H. Boisse and S Pilcher clarified with Road Foreman the policy regarding use of gas from the Town tank while using a personal vehicle on town business: Town gasoline is not to be used in personal vehicles.
- ANIMAL CONTROL POLICY: No action taken

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- NEXT MEETING: August 28, 7 PM at Monkton Town Hall

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- **Motion made by A. Layn seconded by H. Boisse to adjourn at 9:02 PM, Approved 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted  
John McNerney