

Monkton Selectboard
Tuesday, May 11, 2020
Via ZOOM

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Stephen Pilcher, John McNerney, Paul Low, Marikate Kelly, Bill Martin

Members Absent: None

Others Present: John Phillips, Carolyn Fogg, Ian Smiley, Chelsea Smiley, Bonne Brennan, Kevin Brennan, Jason Towsley, Will Bown, Tom Steadman, Gary Straight, Renee McGuinness (experiencing technical difficulties), Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Selectboard meetings are being recorded and being put on the Town website. The link to access the recordings is here: <http://monktonvt.com/town-hall/select-board/select-board-recordings/>

A link to the recordings can also be found on the website of NEAT-TV.
<https://neatbristol.com/>

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2020 as written. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

B. Martin made a motion to approve check warrant A/P #00430 in the amount of \$48,734.83. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

J. McNerney made a motion to approve check warrant A/P #00507 in the amount of \$39,892.62. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

B. Martin made a motion to approve payroll warrant P/R #00511 in the amount of \$11,034.34. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

Timothy Morse Trucking, LLC

Mike Morse Trucking, LLC

Parent Construction, Inc.

Green Mountain Siteworks, LLC

Bradford's Trucker, Inc.

Bevins Excavating

United Natural Foods, Inc.

Champlain Valley Plumbing & Heating

Hinesburg Sand & Gravel

PUBLIC COMMENT

T.Steadman had a question about the new truck and how it was paid. S. Pilcher noted that the truck portion was paid out of the highway capital fund last fall. The snow plow attachment and dump body was a separate payment which was financed.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR 2019

Pace & Hawley submitted their audit to the Selectboard in a letter dated May 8, 2020. B. Martin noted that on page 2 that having separate bank accounts could be confusing. S. Pilcher noted that Kathy Nolan will create a Capital Asset Policy.

APPOINTMENTS

Gary Strait has shown interest in the open Planning Commission spot. Gary attended the last PC meeting. He has an urban planning degree. G. Strait noted that he would like to learn more about the community and do his part to serve. Gary noted he has been in Monkton for 3 years. He had been living in the finger lake region of NY. S. Pilcher asked about his thoughts on property rights and the bigger interest of the Town. G. Strait noted that he has noticed how conscious planners are in keeping the "Vermont" landscape. He would like to find a way to balance growth vs. the physical landscape.

B. Martin moved to appoint Gary Strait to the Planning Commission term expiring March of 2022. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

J. McNerney made a motion to switch Sam Burr on ANAC from full member to Alternate member, and Nora Woolf to full from alternate, keeping the original expiration dates. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

TOWN HALL BOND REDUCTION OPTIONS – R. MCGUINNESS

C. Fogg asked if an emergency vote can go out to the residents to see where everyone is at. She noted that the economy is tough right now. She feels it is the Selectboard's responsibility to come back to the town to see what everyone's feelings are on the new Town Hall given the current status/economy with COVID-19 R. McGuinness had some technical difficulties getting on - S. Pilcher noted that since this item was on the agenda at her request, he will push this on to the next agenda and help her resolve the technical issues in the mean time.

I. Smiley noted that he would still vote for the bond, even today. He stated that the time has passed for doing a re-vote. He asked if the SB has heard from people who voted for the bond is wishing that they hadn't. P. Low noted that has spoken with approx 15 people in the community about this and noted that no one has said that they would change their minds on their vote. People who voted against it were still against it, people who voted for it are still for it. He feels that people's confidence in the future is high. He also noted that he truly feels bad for people who have lost their incomes.

J. McNerney noted that his experience has been similar to Paul's, based on comments heard from 15-20 residents. He noted that the other factor to consider, that if we stop this, the taxes for this year will be higher than if we went for the bond. J. Towsley noted that he would like to echo what C. Fogg said. T. Steadman asked about what would happen if people are delinquent on their taxes. S. Pilcher noted that the Town would have to take out a larger Tax Anticipation Note than is normally required *[editorial note: a Tax Anticipation Note is a short-term loan taken out by many Vermont towns to bridge the time from when their bills come due and the property tax payments start coming in.]* S. Pilcher also noted that most people end up paying their taxes, and if not, the properties eventually go to tax sale.

DRAFT EASEMENTS BETWEEN TOWN OF MONKTON AND MONKTON RIDGE CHURCH ASSN.

Rather than a shared use agreement, Kevin Brennan (Attorney for the Church) drafted 2 easements. One is access to the well and making the Town responsible for maintenance of the well and the public water source. The 2nd easement is to allow the Church access to a location where they can have a wastewater system in an event that their current

wastewater system fails. J. McNerney asked whether or not the Select Board can approve this tonight or if there is a requirement for a more involved procedure to grant an easement on town property. S. Pilcher thinks there is a fairly lengthy process to grant easements on town land. Steve noted that it will most likely have to be warned, and the prescribed procedure followed before the Select Board can consider approving it. B. Martin asked if by giving the Church an easement in case their septic fails, will the Town still have space for a back-up location in case the Town's fails? J. McNerney does not want to give up the Town's replacement site. P. Low agreed. It was noted that the existing wastewater permit for the Town Hall is for a septic and back up. The way the easement is written, the Church would have to find another acceptable spot on the property for a back-up and the Church would have to go through the wastewater permitting process. The State would not allow the Town to give their replacement site to the Church per K. Brennan. W. Bown noted that what is provided is the Church an option down the road. The Church would have to do all their own engineering if it ever comes to fruition. K. Brennan noted that he will make some minor changes to the wording based on the discussion tonight.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher noted that he put an update on the Town website. The bond has been applied for. The design process is 4 weeks ahead of schedule. The process has moved from design documents to construction documents. W. Bown noted that the bid package for the Civil work went out last Friday. Otter Creek will be doing some boring any day now.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19

S. Pilcher noted that the case load is low in Vermont. He noted that the State Legislature has passed S. 344 that the Selectboard may want to visit. It allows Towns to change late fees, penalties, etc. for tax collection.

REVIEW OF BUDGET STATUS

Approximately 36% of the way through the year. Salt & Sand are up.

OLD BUSINESS:

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney has not heard anything further from the Town Attorney at this point.

FUTURE TOWN HALL STAFFING

No action taken

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted that this is a dead issue until the State moves on it.

TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Martin noted that he will try to contact the current dog control officer at her place of work to see if she is interested in continuing. He has not been able to reach her via her home phone or email.

S. Pilcher noted that there is a contract with Homeward Bound that was in the inbox at Town Hall. He will put it on the next agenda.

S. Pilcher noted that there have been 2 calls in the past 2 days - one about a vicious dog on Jockey Lane and another from someone who thinks he hit a dog on Mountain Road.

J. McNerney noted that the Town doesn't have a Green Up Coordinator. The event is at the end of the month. J. McNerney will be picking up the materials this week. P. Low will contact the Parkers to see if the Scouts would be interested in coordinating Green Up Day.

S. Pilcher noted that Peter Norris suggested that as the new Town offices are built out that the war memorials be moved from in front of the Grange in the Boro and put in front of the new Town Hall.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

May 25th, 2020 at 7:00pm . B. Martin moved, P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Martin made a motion to adjourn. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.