

MONKTON SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
Monday July 6, 2020

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

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Ben Hollwedel, Anthony Curtis II, Robin Hopps

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/>

S. Pilcher would like to acknowledge Stephanie Murray for her years of service on the Recreation Committee. She has announced that she will be resigning from the committee when she moves away from Monkton this August. She was one of the original members and has done a ton of work for the Recreation Committee. She brought a lot of energy and commitment to the committee and will be missed. All Select Board members echoed S. Pilcher's comments

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REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

B. Martin moved to approve the June 22, 2020 as written. JM seconded.

Motion passed 4-0-1. A Roll call was then called since the vote was not unanimous.

M. Kelley - yea

B. Martin - yea

P. Low - yea

J. McNerney - yea

S. Pilcher - abstained

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley made a motion to approve payroll warrant #P/R 00702 in the amount of \$8,582.45 dated 7/6/2020. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

NOTE - I have not received the list from the Town Clerk at the time of preparation of these minutes - Betsy

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD STAGE ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUES

A. Curtis spoke to the Board about speeding on Old Stage Road. He noted that there have been many accidents. He also noted that dogs have been hit as well as people. He is afraid someone will be seriously hurt or killed. S. Pilcher noted that the sheriff has been down there and has caught one speeder, but noted that that is not the answer. S. Pilcher opened it up to the rest of the Selectboard for ideas. J. McNerney noted that the Curtis' had requested "caution Horse" signs and put them in touch with B. Hollwedel about that, Ben has noted that the town has installed similar warning signs for other landowners if they pay for the sign. J. McNerney suggested the town consider other signs as well such as "narrow road" or "blind curves". He noted that signs are unlikely to solve the problem, since most of the speeders are speeding on purpose. M. Kelley noted that making it a one way might reduce traffic hazards, but would inconvenience folks who live on the road. M. Kelley asked if there have been any traffic studies done. S. Pilcher noted that the Town could ask the State and could possibly get some grant money. J. McNerney thought that maing it one way may reduce vehicle to vehicle accidents, but might not curtail the speeding. S. Pilcher noted that emergency vehicle access needs to be considered. J. McNerney asked about throwing up the road and closing it entirely north of the section where the houses are. J. McNerney thinks the first step would be to contact the Dept of Transportation for guidance. P. Low suggests having the sheriff flood the area for a couple weeks and write a lot of tickets. He feels that signs don't work. S. Pilcher noted that he would like to explore the idea of blocking the road off to through traffic to see what difference it makes. S. Pilcher also noted that Mike Hurlburt should be consulted before closing to through traffic, since it may cause troubles with farm access.

BRISTOL ROAD CULVERT BIDS

B. Hollwedel noted that there were 4 bids. This project is covered by a grant. Parker, Hutchins and Avery Brothers were roughly the same price. Otter Creek wrote a letter of recommendation to approve Parker. **B. Martin made a motion to approve the recommendation of Otter Creek Engineering to award the Bristol Road culvert replacement project to Parker Excavating. M. Kelley seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

HEALTH ISSUES AT VAUGHN TRAILER PARK

It was brought to the attention of the Town that there is a rat infestation of an abandoned mobile home at Vaughn Ct. ACCT is working with an attorney in Middlebury. The attorney is trying to get the parents and daughter to sign the bill of sale. Timeline is unknown. R. Hopps is trying to motivate those involved by writing a "Regular Health Order". The Selectboard would then authorize the letter. The letter will state that the mobile home needs to be removed or renovated so that there are no rats on the property. R. Hopps noted that she will have the letter ready for the next meeting.

BOND RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATE

S. Pilcher shared the Bond Resolution & Certificate. S. Pilcher recommends following the lead of the Bond Attorney who wrote these documents.

B. Martin moved to adopt the Resolution and Certificate as provided by the bond attorney. M. Kelley seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

LOAN AGREEMENT

J. McNerney moved that the Selectboard authorize S. Pilcher to sign the loan agreement dated 8-1-2020 with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

MUNICIPALITY TAX CERTIFICATE

M. Kelley moved to adopt the Municipality Tax Certificate. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

M. Kelley made a motion to adopt the General Obligation Bond. J. McNerney seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

BOND COMMITMENT LETTER

This is a letter from the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank saying they approved the project and will loan the money. Closing will be on or around August 6, 2020.

B. Martin made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair, S. Pilcher, to sign the 2020 Series 2 Loan commitment memo. M. Kelley seconded.

Discussion ensued: M. Kelley asked about first payments. S. Pilcher noted that the first

principal payment is due Nov 1, 2021 and the first interest payment is due Nov 1, 2020. A vote was then taken. All voted in favor. **Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

S. Pilcher explained that the purpose of these districts is to ensure fiber optic internet buildout throughout the entire district. It is a stand-alone entity. Addison County Regional Planning (ACRPC) has been awarded a grant to do the work to hire consultants to look into the feasibility of doing this in Addison County. Two or more municipalities need to be willing to join the district for this to go forward. S. Pilcher noted that there is no risk - by state statute, no municipal tax dollars may be used. What the Town would get is a seat on the Board. S. Pilcher noted that this normally would have to go before the voters at Town Meeting...but is exempt because of COVID 19. J. McNerney asked if specific providers need to be partnered with, since the town is served by more than one provider. S. Pilcher answered no. S. Pilcher noted that the resolution could be approved without named representatives so that the Town could then go out and solicit members of the community to become members of the District Board.

M. Kelley made a motion to join the Communications Union District. J. McNerney seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REVIEW DELINQUENT TAX POLICY FOR TEMPORARY CHANGES

No action taken

BOND ANTICIPATION LOAN

J. McNerney moved to approve the Resolution to authorize Willam Joos, Treasurer, or S. Pilcher, Selectboard Chair, to sign for advances and repayments on the Bond Anticipation Loan on behalf of the Town of Monkton. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

Municipal note Line of Credit from the Nat'l bank of Middlebury with an interest rate of 1.7% per annum. This is a bridge loan until the Bond comes through. **J. McNerney moved to approve the Municipal Note Line of credit from the National Bank of Middlebury dated July 6, 2020. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0.**

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher noted that the Dept. of Fire Safety has issued their permit. The water test

results are back from Church well and it passed. The construction documents have been completed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19

S. Pilcher noted single digits a day with new cases.

OLD BUSINESS:

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney noted that there is no new information at this time.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

No action taken

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. Hollwedel noted that the paving companies are starting to reach out. Paving amount in the budget is around \$110k. He noted that we will need to make a decision soon on whether to delay the planned project or not. P. Low asked B. Hollwedel asked about the effects of delaying paving for this year. B. Hollwedel noted that there won't be any detrimental issues to waiting until next year. Depending on how harsh winter is it could be a slightly rougher ride. The areas slated for re-paving are Hardscrabble from Piney Woods to Barnum and Mountain Road from States Prison Hollow to the end of existing black top. B. Martin is in favor of removing this from the budget for this year, but since this is not on the agenda, can it be voted on. S. Pilcher noted it would have to be at the July 13 meeting. B. Hollwedel noted that they can patch some of the bad spots for little money. J. McNerney suggested that B. Hollwedel let the Select Board know if we should keep some funds in the budget for such repairs.

It was noted that some recreational activities have started back up at Morse Park such as Addison United soccer.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

July 13, 2020 via Zoom at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Martin made a motion to adjourn. J. McNerney seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Brown
Recording Secretary