

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: Monday January 25, 2021
(Immediately following Unified Planning Document Hearing)
REMOTE MEETING ONLY

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:18pm.

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

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Jaime Schulte, Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary), Sara Snider, Shawn Snider

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher noted that he got a text from the Town Clerk that there was a call from someone who was looking for the Animal Control Officer.

M. Kelley announced that Jess Demeritt is working with Whitney Leighton to take over the recycling center and wants to thank Jess for all the work she has done and welcome Whitney aboard.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes of 1/11/2021 were reviewed. P. Low noted a spelling correction (should be "he" instead of "the") under the Town Warning Draft section. B. Martin noted that under the Hallock lot section he said it was "partially swamp", not "all swamp". B. Brown noted that "Russell" is spelled wrong under the New Town Offices and Library Status section.

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of 1/11/21 as amended. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve check warrant P/R #10115 in the amount of \$11,936.63. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve check warrant A/P #10121 in the amount of \$22,244.34. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve check warrant A/P #10125 in the amount of \$171,784.49. J. McNerney seconded. P. Low asked what Bellwether does on a

regular basis to inspect the project as it progresses. S. Pilcher noted that there is a weekly meeting on Tuesday mornings to look over what is happening and answer questions. P. Low asked if he could be included as he is interested in what is happening. **All voted in favor. Motion passed**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

- Denis Beloin
- Hinesburg Sand & Gravel
- Newport Sand & Gravel/Carroll Concrete Co., Inc. B. Martin noted that one vehicle was not approved due to its stated weight (100,000 pounds).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE

No action taken.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Robin Huizenga would like to come in and help the Auditors help put together the Town Report. There is an open Auditor spot. **J. McNerney moved to appoint Robin Huizenga as auditor to fill the position vacated by Mary Jane Huizenga until the next municipal election. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

REQUEST TO CONSIDER ADDING PAY RATES FOR TOWN OFFICIALS TO TOWN REPORT

This request was from a citizen. M. Kelley noted that for transparency purposes she doesn't have a problem putting in pay rates. P. Low stated that he feels that since this is public record, the person can just go to Town Hall and request this since it would be a chunk of work to put this document together. J. McNerney suggested putting something like "a schedule of salaries is available at the Town Clerk's office" notice in the town report instead. B. Martin stated that he agrees with P. Low, but likes J. McNerney's suggestion. It was decided to not add a list to the report.

REQUEST TO REPORT DELINQUENT TAXES BY NAME IN TOWN REPORT

P. Low noted that he does not feel this is necessary to publish by name. He noted that this is public information and can be obtained at the Town Hall. S. Pilcher noted that it would avoid embarrassing folks who may have come into hard times and can't pay their taxes for one reason or another. The taxes get collected eventually, with interest and

penalties, either through the taxpayers voluntary payment or through a tax sale of the property. It was noted that years ago, this information was in the town report, but the practice was discontinued. The Select Board declined to change the current practice.

HALLOCK LOT

S. Pilcher noted that he spoke with the Listers, who did indeed have it as a buildable lot. They have now corrected that. M. Kelley suggested the landowner go to the Board of Abatement. S. Pilcher noted that more research needs to be done on how this lot came to be and what authority the BOA has in this regard. He stated that he will be in contact with the landowner.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher noted that there is no new info since the last meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR STATUS RE: COVID-19

People 75+ can now register for vaccinations.

OLD BUSINESS:

OLD STAGE ROAD

J. McNerney noted that there are additional signs ordered but won't go up until spring when the ground thaws.

INFRINGEMENT OF ROW ON JOCKEY LANE

J. McNerney noted that he has an email into the Town Attorney almost 2 weeks ago regarding a Cease & Desist letter, but has not heard back yet.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

No action taken

TH 36 ROAD RECLASSIFICATION

No action taken

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

S. Pilcher noted that the Town's hosting agreement for the Town's website is due at the end of the month and is put on his personal credit card. S. Pilcher suggested that the SelectBoard authorize the Treasurer to get a credit card and the Treasurer will be the only person who could use it. Before the card can be charged it needs to show up on a warrant. S. Pilcher noted he will write up a draft policy for the next meeting. J.

McNerney suggested including a backup approved user, should the Treasurer be unavailable or incapacitated.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

J. Schulte and S. Pilcher will take this up.

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Martin noted that there was a barking dog complaint on Mountain Road. Since the Town currently does not have an Animal Control officer, B. Martin noted that he would be glad to speak with the dog owner.

S. Pilcher shared a document showing Animal Control pay rates for surrounding towns. Monkton's pay rate is \$15/hour with a guaranteed 3 hours per month.

J. McNerney would like to express the Selectboard's appreciation to Jane Huizenga for her years of service as an Auditor to the Town of Monkton.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

February 8, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

J. McNerney made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.