

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING

Minutes

DATE: Monday March 22, 2021

S. Pilcher called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Selectboard Members Present: Stephen Pilcher (Chair), Marikate Kelley, Paul Low, Bill Martin, John McNerney

Selectboard Members Absent: None

Others Present: Chelsea Smiley, Betsy Brown (Recording Secretary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Selectboard has made an offer to Shane Lawrence for the Road Foreman position.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2021. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

P. Low made a motion to approve A/P #10309 in the amount \$10,719.90. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve A/P #10318 \$817,503.19. J. McNerney seconded. It was noted that the entire amount of this bill was to transfer funds received from the bond on the new Municipal building to pay off the bond anticipation loan the town has from National Bank of Middlebury. **All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to approve P/R #10315 in the amount of \$10,673.95. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve A/P #10321 in the amount of \$199,055.73. J. McNerney seconded. Discussion ensued. M. Kelley asked if the Town Hall project is still on budget. S. Pilcher noted yes and that there is still some contingency left over. Some of it the contingency will be spent on paving the parking lot rather than leaving it

gravel. A vote was then taken. **All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to approve A/P #10322 in the amount of \$10,168.96. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and signed:

John G. French & Sons Trucking Inc

Nick Bissonnette

Cota Trucking Company

Camp Precast Concrete Products

Ormond Bushey, & Sons Inc

Ljm Construction Llc

Browns Certified Wending Inc

Green Mountain Feeds, Inc

Amerigas

Scott Oberle DbA Oberle's Bulldog Trucking

S.D. Ireland

Many Excavating Inc

Dennis W. Casey

Allen Pidgeon

Birdseye Building Company

Ross Express, Llc

Weston Pulpwood Sales

Debisschop Excavating Llc

Moe Dubois Excavating, Inc.

Vaillancourt Transport

Hlg Excavation, Llc

Randall Fisher / R&J Trucking

Ronnie Wells

Bevins Excavating, Inc.

Dubuis & Son Sawdust, Inc

Waterman Siteworks, Llc

Fedex Freight Inc

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION STATUS

Chelsea Smiley noted that there is interest in membership on the commission and would ask that the size of the Commission be expanded. M. Kelley feels that if people are interested and willing to put in the time then she sees no problem with expanding the size.

M. Kelley moved to increase the membership of the conservation commission to seven members. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

C. Smiley also stated that the Conservation Commission voted to request \$1,500 for a field naturalist to do an ecological assessment for that portion of Monkton which was not covered by a similar assessment done about 5 years ago. J. McNerney noted that the information provided by such a survey is very helpful when seeking funding for conservation projects in town. M. Kelley noted that her concern is that there really isn't a general fund "slush fund". There was discussion among Board members regarding where in the budget this money could come from. M. Kelley noted she is more inclined to deficit spend it as that it is not a lot of money and would be a valuable tool for the town. **J. McNerney moved to approve the Conservation Commission request for \$1500 toward a Field Naturalist to complete the ecological assessment for the Town of Monkton. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

The Conservation Commission has reached out to the Rec Committee to work on a management plan for Morse Park. Last year there was a timing issue with mowing and bobolink nesting. The CC is hoping to work with the Rec Committee to have some guidelines on conservation projects they could work on together and is looking for feedback from the SB. M. Kelley suggested that the CC should work directly with the Rec Committee. She doesn't think the SB needs to get involved unless an issue arises. P. Low and S. Pilcher agreed.

REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Appointments made:

J. McNerney nominated Bill Joos for Town Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney made a motion to appoint the following people to the following committees:

Phil Russell DRB

Kris Perlee 911 Coordinator

Deborah Gaynor Solid Waste

Jessica Demeritt Solid Waste
Chris Boeckman Energy Committee
Whitney Leighton ANAC
Whitney Leighton Recycling Coordinator
Mark Boltz-Robinson Tree Warden
Ian Shulze Web Master
Callie Brynn Town Forest Committee
Mark Boltz Robinson Addison County Communications Union District
(Maple Broadband)

P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

STIPEND FOR RECYCLING COORDINATOR

S. Pilcher noted that it was discussed in passing as to whether or not the recycling coordinator should have a stipend. All agreed that something should be given. Discussion ensued about other positions which have a stipend associated with them.

M. Kelley made a motion to approve a \$250 yearly stipend for the recycling coordinator. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

S. Pilcher noted earlier that it is still on budget. All interior windows are in. Standing seam roof is going on. The vault door move has a plan in place.

PHONE SYSTEM FOR NEW OFFICES

There are 2 proposals. One is Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom and the other is from Comcast. He noted that he'll give more formal proposals to the Board at a later meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

No action taken.

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

S. Pilcher noted that he has not heard back from the Clerk or Treasurer.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

Culvert by Ken Wheeling's house - M. Kelley asked what the status of this is. S. Pilcher noted that his understanding is that the Town has the temporary culvert to go in there.

B. Martin noted that advertising for the open highway crew member should happen sooner rather than later.

B. Brown suggested reaching out to neighboring towns to possibly share an Animal Control Officer. S. Pilcher noted that one of the Town's problems is that we don't have a kennel. Strays go to Middlebury (Homeward Bound), but we have no places to put dogs that need to be impounded. P. Low and S. Pilcher both noted that in order to find someone the pay needs to be better.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

April 12th at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Kelley made a motion to adjourn. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.