

**Monkton Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
Monday, September 13, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by S. Pilcher at 7:01pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Shane(road foreman), John Bennink, Josh Giard, Kristin Farrell, Dolores Norris, Gil Coates, Eugenie Doyle, Sam Burr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher announced the State has [mandated/recommended?] masks be worn for indoor meetings. Also, since the emergency declaration allowing for completely remote/online meetings has expired, at least one member of a town board or committee must be physically present at the publicly accessible location warned for that meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

APPROVE MINUTES

M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of August 23, 2021 as written. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve A/P #10825 in the amount of \$190,123.33. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve A/P #10827 in the amount of \$10,835.28. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve P/R #10830 in the amount of \$9,194.46. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve A/P #10831 in the amount of \$8235.95. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve P/R #10913 in the amount of \$8740.06. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

The following overweight permit was reviewed and signed:

Just one

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT STATUS

The Road Foreman says Duxbury made an unofficial offer for \$13,000 for Monkton's old roadside mower, waiting to get approval from the Duxbury Selectboard for purchase.

Shane Lawrence reported that one of our Highway Dept employees had recently received his CDL training as agreed when he was hired. He recommended an increase of \$1.00.

J. McNerney moved to increase the pay for a town highway employee from \$17.50 to \$18.50. Seconded by B. Martin. All voted in favor.

The Pond Road culvert work should occur next week, waiting for a contractor to confirm. A 2 year temporary culvert on Mountain Road is delayed due to waiting for an engineering design that was expected in July. We have received an extension from the State.

It is estimated that paving Davis Road would cost \$900,000 to \$1,000,000. There are currently car counters on Mountain Road and Davis Road. Paving Mountain Road and Vergennes-Monkton Road was \$4,000,000, a grant was obtained for Vergennes-Monkton Road. Fog lines are expected to be painted on the Vergennes-Monkton Road. J. McNerney reminded that we are painting narrower lanes in the Ridge and Boro village areas for traffic calming. The Monkton Road Crew is responsible for painting the stop bars.

ROW PERMIT ON MEADER ROAD

John Bennink submitted a permit request for work in the Right of Way on Meader Rd to replace a plastic 18" culvert on the class 4 town road. Mr Bennink stated that Ryan Hobbs out of Hinesburg will do the work. A certificate of insurance accompanied the application, naming the Town of Monkton as additional insured. The road's residents will pay for the work. **J.**

McNerney moved to approve ROW application to replace culvert on Meader Rd. B. Martin seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1. B. Martin abstained.

WAIVER OF LATE PENALTY FOR HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

M. Kelley moved to continue waiving the late filing penalty for the homestead declaration.

J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REINSTATEMENT OF 8% PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT TAXES

Last year's motion to discontinue the 8% penalty for delinquent taxes expired after one year. Board members discussed the legal and procedural issues. The discussion was tabled, the 8% penalty was reinstated. More information needs to be gathered for a future determination.

VENDING MACHINE IN TOWN HALL

J. Giard requested permission to place vending machines in the Monkton Town Hall. The machines would be candy machines. He is also offering a soda machine. In response to an inquiry from a Select Board member, he noted that he has vending machines in 3 other commercial locations, but does not currently have machines in any other municipal buildings. The Selectboard is not interested at this time and thanked J. Giard for coming.

DISPOSITION OF OLD TOWN HALL

K. Farrell was speaking as a concerned citizen, not as a member of the Monkton Historical Society. She had a petition with 72 resident signatures asking to delay selling old town hall, and to discuss it at vote on it at town meeting in 2022. She feels strongly that there is a lot of history to the building, and it is important to know the past. She thinks the building will only be used seasonally and therefore the cost of operating the building will be low. D. Norris asks the Board to just wait a bit to allow more residents to learn about the sale. She feels town residents did not know about the September proposed posting for sale of the old Town Hall.

P. Low wants to know what the historical society is doing about the Monkton Boro School and whether that could be used by the historical society? Some monies have already been invested there. K. Farrell feels the old town hall is much more visible, and in a much more usable state than the Boro School House. M. Kelley wants to know whether the historical society is behind the proposed budget. K. Farrell says it was put together by a committee of 4. M. Kelley wants to know if this info has gone back to the Historical Society. K. Farrell says it did not. M. Kelley is trying to understand the process, and where the historical society stands on it. S. Pilcher thinks the building might sell for more than the appraised value of \$55,000, close to \$100,000. Painting the building has been an ongoing issue and the only estimate obtained when it was put out for bid was about \$40,000 in part due to dealing with the existing lead paint. S. Pilcher observed that the previous 3 times we worked on new Town Hall votes the question of what to do with the old Town Hall was a sticking point since it was not specified. The Building Committee resolved by proposing to sell old Town Hall in this iteration. S. Pilcher says that the town will incur further cost by not selling the old Town Hall and continuing to maintain the building. J. McNerney asks if there will be a deficit to the town budget and does the Selectboard have the authority to make that change without a vote to amend the budget? S. Pilcher replied in the affirmative. J. McNerney believes a vote by the town will be advisory due to State statutes and that the Selectboard will have the final determination. He suggests a very clear cost analysis and a plan for how future costs will be handled and what organization would be responsible for the building. MK agreed that before a vote at town meeting there needs to be more clarity. G. Coates of the historical society, has researched what other historical societies have been doing for a museum. He feels the Historical Society is at a tipping point with no treasurer and no secretary, no space for displaying the collection.

B. Martin moved to delay the sale of the old Town Hall until after town meeting day 2022. J. McNerney seconded. The motion passed 3-0-2, P. Low and S. Pilcher abstained.

EDEN ICE CIDER APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

M. Kelley moved to authorize the Chair to sign the approval of an application by Eden Ice Cider application for special events at Yates Orchard. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

ACT 250 MUNICIPAL IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE

S. Burr says it is an amendment to add a 4 bedroom house to a 160 acre lot. Vermont Land Trust has allowed the right to 2 buildings in the conservation easement. The originally approved building site would not meet septic requirements, so this is a change of location.

M. Kelley moved to approve the chair signing the Act 250 municipal impact questionnaire for S. Burr and E. Doyle. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. B Martin abstained.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON SCHOOLS

S. Pilcher says based on the Starksboro Community Forum, Monkton could focus on these questions: Why did Lincoln want to withdraw? What does it mean for Monkton? What are the proposals and how are they being dealt with? What is going on with the merger?

J. McNerney asks who will answer these questions? S. Pilcher will invite someone from Lincoln.

S. Burr recommended Herb Olsen. E. Doyle said MAUSD school board members from Monkton

D. Griswold and K. Blanchette should come. SP thinks voters are confused, waters are muddy.

E. Doyle says the town has no local school board therefore having this forum would be an important opportunity to share information. A tentative date for 9/30/21 at 7pm was proposed by S. Pilcher. Monkton, Starksboro, Bristol, and New Haven will be voting in the beginning of November on whether to allow Lincoln to leave MAUSD.

IT SERVICES

No action taken.

NEW TOWN OFFICES AND LIBRARY STATUS

The parking lot lighting was changed to comply with our zooming standards. The patio is in.

OLD BUSINESS

MONKTON FIRST RESPONSE AND ADDISON COUNTY SHERIFF

No action taken.

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

The Selectboard is waiting for a report from the inspector.

TOWN CREDIT CARD AND POLICY

No action taken.

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY

No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

September 27, 2021 at 7pm.

B. Martin made a motion to adjourn. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Demeritt