

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
AGENDA
Monday December 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:00pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The town offices will have limited access as of 12/27. In person visits are by appointment only. Masks are mandatory. The clerk will be available to assist with matters online or over the phone.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes as written. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 11216 in the amount of \$3,660,993.81. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 11214 in the amount of \$26,849.00. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 11215 in the amount of \$68,876.97. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 11220 in the amount of \$14,340.46. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve AP 11226 in the amount of \$35,660.14. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS

OPIOID SETTLEMENT PARTICIPATION

S. Pilcher was not sure how the math works out but estimated about \$7,000 a year for Monkton. He doesn't see any reason not to participate. **M. Kelley moved to approve participating in the settlement and authorized S. Pilcher, Chair, to sign the paperwork. Seconded by J. McNerney. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW OF UNIFIED PLANNING DOCUMENT AND SCHEDULE HEARING

S. Pilcher explained that the Monkton Planning Commission had made some changes with the Unified Planning Document. M. Kelley asked about cell towers and ridgeline zoning. S. Pilcher said there are three questions: 1)How would we like to review this document? 2) Are there changes? 3)When should we schedule a hearing? J. McNerney feels we should end the "first cut", since it has been nearly 50 years since zoning was enacted in Monkton. It's unfair for one group of people to follow a different set of rules than others. Owners of affected parcels can just go through the same process as everyone else. B. Martin said most other towns got rid of it years ago. M. Kelley and P. Low are supportive of eliminating it. S. Pilcher would like to put some things into definitions such as the "village planning regions", and "rural planning regions". J. McNerney noted that the prohibition on development in the ridgeline district has been removed, and that it would now basically be a conditional use area. He observed that our ridgeline district largely overlaps Monkton's large forest blocks areas. Since we have not made any progress on Act 171 (protection of large forest blocks), perhaps we should delay removing that prohibition until such time as we have added language dealing with Act 171 requirements. S. Pilcher asked when the Select Board can have its info and hearing meetings on the UPD? It needs to be warned 15 days in advance. S. Pilcher proposes that the Board members bring in changes for the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS - DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Mark Bolz-Robinson asked to be appointed. There is not currently an open position. It's possible that the alternate slot would be an option. J. McNerney will follow up with Mark.

SELECTBOARD MEETING TIME / POSSIBLE CHANGES

B. Martin moved to change the Select Board meetings to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning in January 2022. Seconded by J. McNerney. All voted in favor.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS

S. Pilcher said a few folks have asked for money. He is wondering if anyone would like to disperse funds before the end of the year? S. Pilcher said maybe money could go to the RML and Maple Broadband? B. Martin wondered if they

should wait for all the totals so a budget could be formed. J. McNerney said that some requests may not come up for a year. **J. McNerney moved to approve \$50,000 for Maple Broadband to pre-purchase materials for the upcoming construction season. B. Martin seconded.** P. Low wondered if Maple Broadband were done researching and what the money would go towards. He would like to know if the money will come to Monkton or to Addison County. He cares about Monkton. S. Pilcher said that would be difficult to know. M. Kelley thinks the other towns have made smaller awards to Maple Broadband. She does think internet access is critical and that Maple Broadband is doing a great job making progress. **The vote passed 4-1-0. Paul Low voted against.**

M. Kelley moved to approve \$6,736 ARPA funds for delinquent tax penalties that were waived. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

The Bristol Rescue Squad wants to replace two rigs and S. Pilcher is assuming they are ambulances. That would be a five year replacement period on their newest rig. S. Pilcher would like to talk to Mark Rickner to get more information. There was a discussion about how Bristol Rescue's request was divided up among the member towns. M. Kelley would like to see how many calls Bristol Rescue responds to in Monkton. Both Vergennes and Charlotte respond to calls in Monkton.

The MVFD is looking for some ARPA money for lost fundraising, new radios, personal protective equipment. M. Kelley wondered how they pay for personal protective equipment? Is there grant funding for some of that? J. McNerney noted that these things may show up on a future budget request. P. Low asked whether these requests are for replacement items or items they would like? S. Pilcher wondered if Mike New should be asked to come talk to the Board again? The Board agreed to do that.

The Russell Memorial Library is asking for \$4,000 for lost fundraising. **M. Kelley moved to approve up to \$4,000. B. Martin seconded.** J. McNerney asked if RML can document that the number is accurate and will meet the federal reporting requirements. **The vote passed 4-0-1. P. Low abstained.**

There was a discussion that those requesting funds would need to first verify that the projects for which they are applying are eligible for ARPA funds.

S. Pilcher said he has been looking at loans and grants for accessory dwelling units (ADU) built into existing housing. Brattleboro did 55 ADUs in 10 years. The money would be income level dependent for buildings and renters.

S. Pilcher is still looking into town water and sewer. All projects require a village designation from the state. He asked what do the citizens of Monkton want to see? Launching the development of town water and sewer is often a community

driven interest and effort. It can be shared septic systems instead of wastewater treatment.

J. McNerney Noted that various fire department members have noted the need for major equipment replacement. Are they planning on requesting funding for it? S. Pilcher asked if the ARPA funds may be applied to that? Like Bristol Rescue? J. McNerney is wondering whether the ARPA funds may help reduce a future bond. Clarity is needed from the people asking for the funds.

2022 BUDGET

S. Pilcher said property taxes and the general fund are currently unknown. The Highway department looks like it is going to generate a surplus of maybe \$250,000. There was a budgeting error by the Select Board, and some projects didn't get done and they should be a wash. J. McNerney wondered if there are outstanding bills yet to be paid? That will be determined with time. More details will be filled in at the next meeting in 2022.

OLD BUSINESS:

RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY PROPOSAL REGARDING ROOM
DESIGNATED FOR EXPANSION AT NEW TOWN OFFICES
no action taken

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON
no action taken

CLOUD STORAGE AND POLICY
S. Pilcher has not yet made an instructional video. He finds the system cumbersome.

SIGN
B. Martin said the sketch will be made available this week. The sign will be installed perpendicular to the road.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Paul Low said the water system for the old town hall and the library is in the library. He said he can drain the town hall and shut it down without affecting the library. J. McNerney thanked P. Low for his efforts and experience. P. Low said the heat can be shut off. He said the power can be shut off unless there are security reasons to keep it on. The Board can vote next time.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Tuesday January 11, 2022 at 7pm.

B. Martin moved to adjourn at 8:44pm. All voted in favor.

DRAFT

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.