

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
AGENDA
Tuesday March 22, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:03pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Lynn McNamara, Susan Mahony, Jack Markoski, Bernie Wisniowski, Sam Burr, John Howard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

B. Martin moved to approve minutes of 3/8/22 as written. P. Low seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. M. Kelley abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 20314 in the amount of \$12,514.69, P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve AP 20314 in the amount of \$26,506.17. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor. The \$900 electric bill for the new town hall is a concern. The heat pump may not be the best way to heat the building said P. Low. He recommended closing the doors to the community room when the room is not in use. S. Pilcher suggested talking to the energy committee for ideas. Could the town use ARPA funds for solar on the new town hall, asked M. Kelley? There was a question about how much the electricity the library was using. There is no separate meter to measure it. M. Kelley asked what the electric costs were for the old library and old town hall for comparison. S Pilcher noted that the higher electric bills are offset by the fact there there are no heating oil bills for this building.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following 42 overweight permits were signed and approved:

MOE DUBOIS EXCAVATING INC
RANDALL FISHER / R & J TRUCKING
R.K. MILES, INC
PIKE INDUSTRIES INC
SID SUMNER
A.DUIE PYLE, INC
CLARENDON AND PITTSFORD RAILROAD

K.A. BAGLEY
GREEN MOUNTAIN FEEDS, INC.
T&C TRUCKING, LLC
LAPETE CONSTRUCTION & TRUCKING
BIRDSEYE BUILDING COMPANY
ORMOND BUSHEY & SONS
ABC SUPPLY
S.B. COLLINS
HEFFERNAN BROS. AGGREGATE, LLC
ALL-STAR FUEL LLC
WATERMAN SITEWORKS
BLAIRS FORESTRY HAULING / ARNOLD BLAIR
CURTIS LUMBER
COTA TRUCKING CO.
TIM THOMPSON TRUCKING LLC
HARRISON CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION INC
HARRISON REDI-MIX CORP.
FEDEX FREIGHT
MR. BULT'S INC.
S.D. IRELAND
RICHMOND HOME SUPPLY INC
SHEEHAN EXCAVATION
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY PLUMBING & HEATING
ROSS EXPRESS, LLC
PARKER EXCAVATION / R.PARKER ENTERPRISES INC
CAMP PRECAST CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC
BEACON SALES ACQUISITION
BRONSON TRANSPORT
GAUTHIER TRUCKING CO. INC
ROGER FISHER
QUINN MCELWAIN
LIVINGSTON FARM LANDSCAPE PRODUCTS LLC
HLG EXCAVATION LLC
PARENT CONSTRUCTION
CANOPY TIMBER ALTERNATIVES

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

RAVEN RIDGE PARKING/ACCESS

Lynn McNamara said this current conversation and proposed parking signs came about because of questions from neighbors concerned about safety and cars on the road. The Select Board asked if the parking lot can be expanded? Lynn responded that there is a larger gravel area surrounding the current parking lot which could be used to expand this lot. She indicated that that gravel was there before the Nature Conservancy bought the land. But the parking nearer to the turn in the road appeared unsafe. An area near the Todo Institute was used initially, but caused problems with blocking their driveway and caused a safety issue. The lot was created in its current position to address those

concerns. P. Low said the area has seen a lot of use and feels that the use will grow. J. McNerney said he was on ANAC when the land was conserved. He is concerned that expanding the parking interferes with why it was conserved. The primary purpose was to protect wildlife habitat and native plant communities. He has seen a negative impact on the land. Lynn McNamara said that public use was included in the conservation of the land. J. McNerney said that the intent as described during the conservation effort was primarily to protect wildlife habitat and sensitive natural communities. Recreational use was permitted to the extent that it did not interfere with these goals. Parking was intentionally limited to prevent overuse by the public to the detriment of wildlife and those natural communities. The easement specifically permits the creation of a 3 or 4 space parking lot. When the new lot was created, the conversation at that time was to keep it small, per the easement to limit the number of visitors. P. Low wondered how to police limiting land use.

J. McNerney read an email to the Select Board on the subject sent by ANAC on 3/15/22:

Dear Selectboard,

A concern was raised over road parking at the Raven Ridge Natural Area, and we understand this item is on the agenda at your next meeting on March 22nd. ANAC discussed this, and the following statement was written at tonight's meeting (March 15, 2022), and unanimously approved to be entered into the record at your meeting:

“ANAC would like to express our concern that expanding parking at Raven Ridge beyond the current parking area (which is defined in the easement) would support an elevated degree of foot traffic at Raven Ridge that will adversely impact its ecological integrity. We are also concerned about the safety of current and future on-road parking.”

If you have any questions, please be in touch.

Sincerely,
Laura Farrell
ANAC Chair

S. Pilcher said that the Nature Conservancy offered to pay for no parking signs. He did not want the meeting to be contentious. M. Kelley asked if there were studies done to measure what would create an adverse impact on the land? J. McNerney did not know of a specific recent study, but noted that Laura Farrell (Wildlife Biologist chair of ANAC) did her masters or doctoral work on Bobcats which included study areas in this area. HE has a lot of respect for the concerns she has expressed about the adverse effect the large amount of human traffic has had on Bobcat in the area. L. McNamara replied that there were no studies done because of all the variables. She said the Nature Conservancy monitors the trail being widened by heavy use and the bobcat population. They have a trail counter and have seen numbers go down since 2020. She said it has been observed that people use the parking area and walk on the dirt road instead of walking on the Raven Ridge Trail. B. Martin said he will follow up on getting signs, including one that says the parking area is only to be used by trail users, and one about

pedestrian crossing. S. Mahony spoke about signage placement and follow through to change awareness about appropriate parking and use. S. Pilcher reminded that the proposed plan would be 8 signs, and suggested possible flyers placed on parking offenders about future towing.

NEMRC MAINTENANCE TOWN AGREEMENT CHECKLIST

There was discussion with J. Howard, S. Burr, B. Wisniowski, and the Select Board about responsibilities and training to be split between NEMRC and the town of Monkton. S. Pilcher expressed appreciation for the three men currently doing the Lister's work. One challenge is that the Current Use calendar is different from the property tax calendar. There are a number of intricacies in the work.

PAYMENT DETAILS FOR NEW TRUCK

The question asked was to pay for the truck now or take out a five year loan? With the current interest rates, it makes sense to borrow. J. McNerney also noted that we should be building up our capital equipment reserve in anticipation of the future grader replacement, which will be very expensive. B. Martin was asked to get loan numbers.

2022 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

M. Kelley moved to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor. S Pilcher noted that he would like to find another community member to take on the position of Emergency Management Coordinator.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOB DESCRIPTION / PAY RATE

Bristol's town administrator works full time and makes \$69,000, however, they are a significantly larger town. There was talk about Monkton's town administrator also being the zoning administrator. The town administrator would serve at the Select Board's pleasure. The voters approved \$35,000, so maybe the candidate will work 20-25 hours/week on these duties. The work involves grant writing and general administrative work. Will benefits be offered?

APPOINTMENTS

Town Treasurer: Bill Joos term expires March 2023

Delinquent Tax Collector: Bill Joos term expires March 2023

Lister: Kirsten Malzac term expires March 2024

Lister: Levi Cousino term expires March 2025

Development Review Board: Stephen Pilcher term expires March 2026

Recreation Committee:

Adam Crary term expires March 2025

Ed Cook term expires March 2025

911 Coordinator: Kris Perlee term expires March 2023

Emergency Management Director: Stephen Pilcher term expires March 2023

Delegates to Addison County Solid Waste Management District:

Deborah Gaynor term expires March 2023

Jessica Demeritt (alternate) term expires March 2023

Energy Committee:

Dave Bristol term expires March 2025

Harry Atkinson term expires March 2024

Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee:

Susan Mahony term expires March 2025

John Mejia term expires March 2025

Recycling Coordinator: Jessica Demeritt term expires March 2023

Tree Warden: Mark Boltz-Robinson. term expires March 2023

Animal Control Officer:

Dawn Vukas term expires March 2023

Jane Palmer - Deputy term expires March 2023

Web Master: Ian Schulze term expires March 2023

B. Martin moved to approve the slate of candidates. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

S. Pilcher is still waiting on a list of funders. They would advise what grants would be appropriate to apply for. There is a Town Hall visioning meeting on 3/26 with Kristin Farrell. Someone is coming to clean out the old town hall this week.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

P. Low said he liked S. Pilcher's score sheet. He wanted to add scoring columns for 1)clear budget, 2)documentation to prove goals, 3)proof of community support. There was discussion about subsidizing future private businesses versus cooperative businesses. S. Pilcher asked if there was a timeline? P. Low requested getting consensus on a score card very soon. M. Kelley suggested working backwards from the ARPA fund's deadlines for more clarity.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

One property agreed to clean up when the ground firms up. J. McNerney noted that scrap metal is getting all-time-high prices.

SIGN

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

B. Martin moved to approve that all Select Board members sign the certification of compliance for town road and bridge standards and network inventory. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin had a meeting with the sheriff and deputy and asked for more money based on the number of tickets being issued. He learned that the signage for regulating the issuing of tickets needs to be updated. The work is underway.

The online part of the selectboard meeting was conducted using a new camera and audio device known as the "OWL". All agreed it worked far better than our previous set up. **J. McNerney moved to approve the purchase of the OWL. Seconded by B. Martin. All voted in favor.**

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7pm.

M. Kelley moved to adjourn. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.