

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday September 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Bill Martin at 7:09 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Marikate Kelley, Paul Low (joined at 7:20), Bill Martin, John McNerney

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher said Stan Wilbur accepted the Town Administrative position offer starting 9/19/22.

S. Pilcher said the administrator for the Rural Economic Development Initiative is coming to Monkton on 9/22/22.

He said FEMA is coming at 9am on 9/19/22 to transfer the control of the culvert on Mountain Road to the State.

There is a town-wide reassessment being conducted by NEMRC.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

S. Pilcher moved to approve the minutes of August 30, 2022 as written. J. McNerney seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. M. Kelley abstained.

B. Martin moved to approve the minutes of September 6, 2022 as written. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 20831 in the amount of \$14,853.92.

Seconded by J. McNerney. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 20912 in the amount of \$10,149.69. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

B. Martin received a call complaining about a Monkton road at 5:10am. He toured the road and was thanked by the caller. M. Kelley said she thinks the road crew is on the right track; The road crew did some extensive work on Rotax Road. It

looks great after a very heavy rain, the first time in her memory it has survived such a storm without significant damage.

B. Martin said today we broke records for volume of rain in a short period of time.

NEW BUSINESS:

VILLAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

S. Pilcher has spoken with the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Village District Designation allows homeowners and businesses in that district to apply for grants. Richard Amore of ACCD would need to ok a draft. The Selectboard examined a draft map for Village District Designation.

LISTERS / ASSESSOR - POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSOR

S. Pilcher said we have one appointed Lister who has not been in the office for a couple of months and an untrained candidate. Lisa Truchon of NEMRC is expensive but does a lot of this type of work. M. Kelley asked if the listers had any input. S. Burr – who acts as a consultant to the listers - thought it was a good idea. M. Kelley asked about an estimated cost? S. Pilcher said L. Truchon charges about \$2200 per month or \$26,000 per year to do the lister's job.

UNIFIED PLANNING DOCUMENT DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

S. Pilcher wanted to know how the Board would like to proceed from here. How do they feel about the state of the UPD? J. McNerney wanted to address suggestions and concerns discussed on August 30, 2022. M. Kelley thought determining compliance was difficult for the DRB when the state has to review certain issues. The 10,000 sq ft impermeable surfaces issue needs discussion. The topic will be taken up again at the next meeting.

BEAVER PROGRESS AND PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE MOU

J. Demeritt asked if the Board would approve the MOU. The Board preferred not to put the town in the middle of the controversy. S. Pilcher commented that he was risk averse and felt that a \$3000 grant with an MOU was not worth the risk of the possibility of litigation. S. Pilcher thought the grant would better serve a private landowner. J. Demeritt asked if anyone had looked at the town budget to find money for proactive beaver control and road maintenance instead of reactive work. S. Pilcher said he thinks there is money in the highway budget that can be justified by saving the road crew hours of work responding to beaver issues. S. Lawrence is being asked to determine how many hours the road crew spent on beaver issues this spring. The Church Road culvert needs to be fully cleared of beaver dam materials prior to installing a Beaver Deceiver. S. Lawrence will be asked to contact a contractor about clearing the culvert. Church Road is a priority location for a beaver deceiver due to the hours the road crew has spent reacting to water issues. Old Stage Road is a possibility as well. Skip Lisle will have to determine the best next steps based on funds available and site preparation.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

S. Pilcher said the REDI grant process is in progress. He said in a worse case scenario the community could decide about the old town hall at town meeting. B. Martin said a quit claim deed had been made on the old Russell Memorial Library. M. Kelley asked if the village district designation would be helpful for the old town hall. S. Pilcher said yes, there are more grants. The town could have a village district designation by the first week in November.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

P. Low said K. Cyr wants to use the community room once a month for 5 months on Saturdays for Twist of Wool Guild. Is it too many dates for one organization? S. Pilcher said the Community Room might be needed on March 4 due to Town Meeting. **P. Low moved to approve use of the community room by Twist of Wool Guild on Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4 from 9:45am to 1:15pm. J. McNerney seconded.** There was discussion about booking so many dates in advance, blocking other community members and organizations from using the facility. Potentially changing the end time could make it available for an afternoon event if there was a conflict. **All voted in favor.**

S. Pilcher would like to discuss ARPA projects next time.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 7pm.

S. Pilcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.