

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday February 28, 2023

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

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Linda Havey, Drew Mackenzie, Debra Sprague, Randy Charboneau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher said the town is closing on the old Russell Memorial Library building on Friday. That should result in about \$61,000 for the town.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

M. Kelley moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2023 as written. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 30227 in the amount of \$12,649.55. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30222 in the amount of \$26,114.77. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30227 in the amount of \$18,221.55. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were approved:

R. PARKER ENTERPRISES, INC. DBA PARKER EXCAVATION
HILLCREST TRUCKING & STORAGE

K. POPE & SONS, INC

KENNEDY EXCAVATION LLC

DAN'S CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

PHOENIX FEEDS & NUTRITION. INC

CHAMPLAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY / BEAR DOG ENTERPRISES

PUBLIC COMMENT

R. Charboneau, Town Auditor, spoke about the delinquent taxes. He noted discrepancies between the town report and a report he received from the town treasurer. S. Pilcher said the town report should have delinquent taxes to

12/31/22. R. Charboneau wondered why there were more delinquent taxes after 12/31/22.

L. Havey noted that her family lives on 12 acres in Monkton with goats, chickens, ducks, turkeys, and two cows with 3 pastures for rotational grazing. After losing animals to predation, they got a working dog who stopped the predation. There have been complaints about the dog barking excessively, and issues with the goats getting out. She has been issued a citation for excessive barking. She has worked with the neighbors and offered restitution for any damages. She has worked with the dog who is now wearing a bark limiter collar. She feels the dog barking complaints are inaccurate. She is concerned an adversarial situation is being set up by an appointed town employee after overhearing a call not intended for her. She is concerned about a neighbor that has been shooting in the direction of one of the pastures to discourage the goats from coming over. S. Pilcher said she could pay the citation, or contest the citation at the Addison County court. He said the Sheriff could address the shooting situation. S. Pilcher thanked L. Havey for coming in and said the Selectboard would talk to the appointed town official.

NEW BUSINESS:

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN - BRIC GRANT

S. Pilcher explained the BRIC Grant is to help the town update our *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Having an approved, current plan means that the state will pick up a portion of what the town would otherwise owe for FEMA-supported project (large projects in response to an emergency or natural disaster). This substantially reduces the cost to the town for such projects. Monkton's plan expired in January and needs to be completed by October 2023 to reduce costs to the town. The new plan is good for 5 years.

S. Pilcher said he spoke with Addison County Regional Planning: they did our last plan and are available do the work to update it. Due to the time constraints and the need to have this in place before the Mountain Road culvert/bridge FEMA project happens, He would like to waive the bid policy and award it to ACRPC. J. McNerney noted that the town's portion of the total cost is well under the limit at which we normally put projects out for bid. He further pointed out that we are contracting with a government entity, one who has done this work for us in the past and currently has availability to complete it in time. **P. Low moved to waive the normal bid process and award the work of updating the local hazard mitigation plan to Addison County Regional Planning Commission. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.** There was a discussion about the need to update the Select Board policy for awarding bids.

PACE AND HAWLEY ENGAGEMENT LETTER - FINANCIAL REVIEW

Pace and Hawley are CPAs who prepare Monkton's financial review and are very familiar with Monkton's systems. **J. McNerney moved to sign the Pace and**

Hawley engagement letter for financial review for the sum of \$3250. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

PERSONNEL POLICY

S. Wilbur said the retirement plan that is in the audit report should be in the policy. J. McNerney had a question about whether enrollment was mandatory? It was agreed that it was. The Selectboard chose to redraft the policy. M. Kelley said she could help with any proposals.

OVERWEIGHT POLICY

P. Low said the Monkton policy exceeds what the state recommends. 93,000 lbs is being approved but roads are rated for 80,000. The sheriff department is the only one monitoring overweights. It was recommended to change weight limitations to state levels. S. Wilbur said this is a policy, not an ordinance and is therefore unenforceable. S. Pilcher asked if P. Low would chat with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for clarity, and check on local delivery possibilities. S. Pilcher thanked P. Low for all the time and effort he's put into this.

BEAVERS / BORO HILL

S. Pilcher got a call about beavers on Boro Hill Road. The road foreman said there is a problem and has used equipment to break the dam or manually remove material from the culvert multiple times a week. The road foreman may work to use a water flow device to help with the beavers. Also, the culvert is due to be replaced, probably a larger diameter. D. Mackenzie is in favor of a water flow device. He feels positive about the possibility of keeping the beavers in place. He is a property owner nearby. He noted that he encountered a hunter who said he had permission to be there, when he did not. M. Kelley said this incident shows the number of hours the town is putting into managing beavers. P. Low noted that it was 42 hours in one month, plus equipment. J. Demeritt spoke about the difference between beaver baffles and beaver deceivers, and the costs.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

P. Low said there were 2 requests. He said he turns requests around in 24 hours. S. Pilcher said the Selectboard would review facility use policy after town meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

no action taken

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher said Saturday is town meeting. He is looking forward to it being in person. J. McNerney said they should announce that there will be no lunch, and if feeling unwell, please stay home.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.