

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, June 27, 2023

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

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), John McNerney, Paul Low (left at 7:57), Walter Crandall, Marikate Kelley

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Alan Gebo, Kim Frigault, Jamie Schulte, Rob Mullin, Debra Sprague, Jane and Nate Palmer, Chelsey Gipner

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023 as amended.

W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

P. Low moved to approve AP 30622 in the amount of \$47,557.19. J.

McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

P. Low moved to approve AP 30616 in the amount of \$12,535.38. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

P. Low moved to approve PR 30619 in the amount of \$11,657.79. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

FACILITY USE REQUEST

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Gebo asked what the town's position was on new paving. P. Low explained that it is over \$900,000 to pave a dirt road and there is nothing planned at this time; maintaining the existing paving is taking priority. S. Pilcher noted It would take a bond vote to fund new paving. A Gebo commented that Rotax Road appeared to have its base worked on. A. Gebo noted that the road sediments end up in the lake. S. Pilcher and P. Low explained that roads that are likely to erode get rip-rap to help collect sediments.

K. Frigault spoke of concerns about high levels of noise that she is experiencing on her property on Rotax Road. Nearby dirt bike track use has been generating sound at over 80 decibels, making it impossible to enjoy the outside. The bikes are operated for 3-5 hours at times, and conversations with the riders have not resulted in any change. S. Pilcher noted that a change in the UPD will allow a citation by the zoning administrator. He said a new zoning administrator will be starting in July. J. McNerney noted that only the zoning administrator can write a citation. M. Kelley said there was no state law that could be applied and acknowledged K. Frigault's frustration. J. McNerney noted that when the new zoning administrator starts, this issue could be moved to the top.

Rob Mullin noted that Charlotte Rescue Service will be closing down. Folks over on Dart Hill, Roscoe Road, etc will be waiting for 25 minutes for Bristol Rescue. He wanted the Selectboard to be made aware. S. Pilcher noted the town does not contract with anyone for services, and does not have a say in what Charlotte does. S. Pilcher said he could go to Charlotte and say the town has really appreciated their service and please continue it. P. Low said he could write a letter to Charlotte to say how important their service has been in Monkton. S. Pilcher said he would do some research on it and put it on the next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

VERMONT GAS SAFETY REVIEW

J. Palmer handed the Selectboard a sample letter for them to send to the Public Utility Commission. J. Palmer said she was promised that when the pipeline was installed, safety was the priority. Once the pipeline was built, many safety concerns were uncovered: failure to use a sand bed, to compact under road and driveways. J. Palmer said in light of the safety concerns, an amended Certificate of Public Good seems wrong. N. Palmer said the bar is being lowered instead of requiring the safety guidelines be followed. There was discussion about specific concerns and MOUs with towns. S. Pilcher proposed a draft change. [See language in attached letter.] **M. Kelley moved to authorize the Selectboard chair to submit a letter to the PUC consistent with the drafted language. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT CONTRACT

M. Kelley moved to approve the sheriff department contract. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor. It was noted that there have been complaints about four wheelers on the road. J. Schulte said he has noticed the sheriff in town on State Prison Hollow Road; he has had issues with a white truck being unsafe.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

S. Pilcher said there have been no responses to the ad. J. McNerney noted there is a local resident who would serve as an interim zoning administrator. J. Schulte said it may be useful to have an assistant zoning administrator to keep the process resilient.

BIKE/PED GRANT - REVIEW COMMITTEE

S. Wilbur said proposals are due 7/6/23. He explained that the review is two part; the first part is qualifications based, the second part is price based. S. Pilcher discussed who would serve on the committee. There was discussion about what the committee would do.

MOUNTAIN ROAD CULVERT UPDATE

S. Wilbur said next Thursday Mountain Road would be closed in order to replace the culvert with a bridge. He noted that the dates of closure would be 7/5-9/1, and there will be detour signs.

AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES BY OTTER CREEK ENGINEERING

S. Pilcher said he doesn't think the town will be responsible for the additional services. He said the town is being asked to increase the budget by \$34,980. M. Kelley asked if S. Pilcher thought the town's share would be zero to 2.5%. S. Pilcher said he believed that to be correct. **J. McNerney moved to approve Otter Creek Engineering's addendum for Civil Engineering Services. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.**

LOWER TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

P..Low said rocks will be delivered to help with erosion.

BEAVERS

P. Low said Skip Lisle has been hired to put a water flow device on the Hollow Road/Rotax Road/Higbee Road culvert area.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted that Monkton's Addison County Solid Waste District Representative said that she could help with enforcement of salvage yards.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

S. Pilcher said on July 11, 2023 he would like to talk about the town forest, the volunteer fire department and other possible uses for the ARPA funds. W. Crandall said at the next Town Forest Committee meeting on July 6, there will be an executive session for property owner's on Airport Road to discuss road maintenance.

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher brought up the curb cut for Trevor Denton, Bennett Road, lot #4. W. Crandall said he and S. Lawrence will check the location for 300' sitelines. S. Pilcher said the driveway has to be flat for 15' where it enters the road. The lot owner needs to mark the cut.

S. Pilcher said he was informed that Dominion Tech is raising rates by 20%. He asked The Tech Group out of Burlington to come give a free consultation. Some issues are email hosting, virus protection, tech support, backups. Email hosting options were discussed. J. McNerney asked about deleting emails. S. Pilcher replied that he can delete anything non-substantive.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none required

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt.

DRAFT

June 27, 2023
Chairman Anthony Roisman
Member Margaret Cheney
c/o Holly R. Anderson
Clerk of the Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

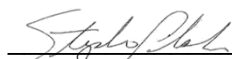
Re: Amendment or Alteration to Vermont Gas Certificate of Public Good

Dear Chairman Roisman and Member Cheney:

The Town of Monkton is writing to urge the Commission to require Vermont Gas Systems to file an application for an amended Certificate of Public Good (CPG) for the Addison Natural Gas Project (ANGP).

The ANGP runs through Monkton from North to South. Many of our residents live adjacent to the pipeline. Many more walk, bike or drive along or over the pipeline daily. Its safety is a paramount concern. As you know, the Town of Monkton actively participated in the Docket 7970 proceeding. Monkton entered into a Memo of Understanding based on evidence and testimony regarding pipeline construction and safety given at that time. If any amendment or alteration to the Vermont Gas CPG is made we ask that the Town of Monkton, and any affected Monkton residents, be given the chance to learn exactly what amendment or alteration is being proposed, and to be granted the opportunity to participate in discovery and to submit testimony before an amended permit is granted.

Sincerely,



Stephen Pilcher
Chair, Monkton Selectboard