

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

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

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

Members absent: Walter Crandall

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Nicola Weaver, Jane Low, Betsy Brown, Debra Sprague

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

S. Pilcher noted that Monkton's former town clerk Carmelita Burritt had passed away.

J. Demeritt announced that Acker will continue to collect trash at the town drop off.

M. Kelley noted that Junior Lewis had been working with the town road crew on grader use, including around driveways. It was stated that Todd Eaton had met with S. Lawrence.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023 as written.

M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31025 in the amount of \$5,998.60. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31024 in the amount of \$237,654. S. Wilbur noted this was the Mountain Road culvert final payment. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve PR 31106 in the amount of \$11,472.29. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 31106 in the amount of \$33,647.85. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

none

FACILITY USE REQUEST

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

AUDITORS DELINQUENT TAX REPORT UPDATE

S. Pilcher said he has been working on understanding the issues and getting assistance with the project from NEMRC and a Hinesburg prior town clerk. He thought the tax sale in 2017 would have cleared anything up to that point. He also pointed out that some of these issues were right around the time that we switched from handling delinquent taxes on an Excel spreadsheet to using NEMRC. He noted that the town may need to spend some money to get these issues resolved, \$500 to start. J. McNerney asked if it was more of a records/procedures issue. S. Pilcher noted that the current system the town uses records every transaction including mistakes.

TOWN OFFICES EXPANSION ROOM - RML/MMHS

S. Pilcher noted he was pleased with a letter J. Low had submitted regarding the efforts to keep the room open with shared use between the library and the historical society. M. Kelley asked about grant availability for finishing the room. J. Low noted that state money is going to flood recovery and was unsure about grants for historical societies. J. Low spoke also mentioned the lower parking lot and how to fund the paving. S. Pilcher noted that the 1859 building sold at a price that may allow for some flexibility on building funds. There was discussion about records storage space for the future.

BORO TRAFFIC CALMING

S. Pilcher noted it was too late in the year to do a traffic study this year. He said the Addison County Sheriff's department likes the digital signs that record speeds, as well as counts cars. N. Weaver noted that she lives near the school and is witnessing a lot of speeding. She would like to see the traffic slowed in that area. S. Pilcher noted the Sheriff's department does patrolling for the town. There was discussion about changing the speed limit and deterring speeding. B. Brown noted that Wallingford deputizes the town constable to write speeding tickets. She feels consistent enforcement would be valuable. S. Pilcher said Monkton does not have a constable. N. Weaver suggested flashing lights near the school to encourage reduced speeds. P. Low noted that radar signs may be the best approach for now. He noted that Monkton sees a lot of commuter traffic. S. Pilcher said it would be great to get that traffic on the state roads, Routes 7 and 116. N. Weaver said speeding enforcement would help encourage commuters to use state roads. S. Pilcher wondered how the radar signs flashing might impact neighboring houses. S. Pilcher said "no thru trucks" signs are not enforceable. He said the town has had success with the sheriff weighing trucks and fining overweight trucks. S. Pilcher noted the bike/ped path study may yield traffic calming results in the future.

TYLER BRIDGE ROAD CULVERT - GRANT APPLICATION

S. Wilbur noted the application is due on 12/8 and would cover 80% of the cost.
S. Pilcher asked D. Sprague, ACRPC representative, to look for additional money to fund the remaining 20%. **J. McNerney moved to apply for a Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Grant for the Tyler Bridge Road culvert. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

START OF BUDGET PROCESS

S. Pilcher noted S. Wilbur has been updating the worksheet. S. Pilcher said that he will send out a request to various committees to have budget info submitted by 12/11/23.

SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST PROCESS

S. Pilcher noted that there have been some additional requests for social services from the town of Monkton. He observed that some towns ask for a petition to be circulated to allow it on the ballot. There was discussion about procedure: one suggestion was to require requests from new social services or those looking for an increase of 20% or more to submit signatures from 1% of the voter list in order to have the Select Board consider the request. There was discussion about social services and funding requests and how to present them to voters. S. Pilcher said he would put together a letter for this year.

DIGITAL SIGN

There was discussion about the existing announcement signboard, and the options of installing an electronic sign. P. Low said he would inquire about wiring the existing location for power.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL REVIEW

S. Pilcher requested each board member to write up a review on the town administrator's performance and forward it to him.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

S. Pilcher noted that the State Official had seen some incremental progress being made. He suggested at some point in the future the zoning administrator could assist.

LOWER TOWN HALL PARKING LOT

no action taken

BEAVERS

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher said there was a request to delay the closing on the 1859 building until 12/7/23. There was discussion about the final cleaning.

S. Pilcher said the land record books are currently being scanned.

J. McNerney noted that there have been complaints about vehicles parked on Old Stage Road, obstructing traffic on this narrow road and causing a hazard with the blind hills in the area. There seems to be a cabin being constructed on a 4 acre parcel. The parcel may be owned by VT Gas. There has been no curb cut application. S. Pilcher said he would check with VT Gas on the status of the property and whether they authorized this construction.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none required

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt