

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

DRAFT

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

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Joe Szarejko, Marikate Kelley(arrived at 7:08), Walter Crandall, John McNerney

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur (town administrator), Karen Duguay (ACEDC), Fred Kenney (ACEDC), Marilyn Cargill, Brian Cargill, Wayne Zeno, Teri Fitz-Gerald, Ralph Fitz-Gerald, Nod Ganman, Debra Sprague, Robin Hopps, Taylor Robare, Sarah Bouchard, Kevin Lambert

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

W. Crandall moved to approve the minutes of March 26, 2024 as written. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve PR 40408 in the amount of \$13,501.33. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40329 in the amount of \$21,085.58. W. Crandall seconded. The big ticket item was bike path scoping study, said J. McNerney. S. Pilcher said that was mostly covered by a grant. **All voted in favor.**

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 40313 in the amount of \$51,413.72. J. Szarejko seconded. It was noted that gravel and the town report were the big items. **All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

JOSH MASTERSON, MASTERSON & SON EXCAVATION LLC

SCOTT MANNING

SCOTT PIDGEON

ALL STAR FUEL

SCOTT OBERLE dba OBERLE'S BULLDOG TRUCKING

RANDALL FISHER / R&J TRUCKING

BIRDSEYE BUILDING COMPANY INC

ROSS M ORVIS

DENNIS W. CASEY

BACON TRUCKING

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DEBISSCHOP EXCAVATING, LLC
FREEGARD EXCAVATION LLC
SWEET CAROLINES TRUCKING LLC
DELPHIA EXCAVATING
HARRISON CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION INC.
HARRISON REDI-MIX CORP.
CLARENDOND AND PITTSFORD RAILROAD COMPANY
STRUCTURAL WOOD CORPORATION
VERMONT WELL & PUMP

FACILITY USE REQUEST

W. Crandall is working on making facilities use requests more user friendly: creating an online pdf, and creating an email for facilities use requests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

ADDISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PRESENTATION

F. Kenney, executive director of ACEDC, and K. Duguay explained how they work with Addison County. Their strategy is to promote the economic health of Addison County, and it's a long term process. Three areas of focus are: 1) Business and industry recruitment, 2) retention and expansion, 3) developing entrepreneurs - working with people who are here. K. Duguay said they are one of twelve such corporations around Vermont. They are a non-profit. Their budget is about \$300,000 which largely comes from a state grant, and 10 towns also contribute funds. They worked with Treeline Terrains and Wooden Hammer in Monkton. They advocate for the business community, provide training and education and networking opportunities for businesses monthly. They advise on growing businesses and provide leadership by convening groups. They provide technical assistance and work with any business in Addison County. They work as a resource and referral center. They research the application and administration of grants. They offer a revolving loan fund as a gap funder, not a primary loan supplier. They can help municipalities with grants, initiatives, and recruit new businesses. They are currently working on technical assistance grants, GROW grants to bring people to the community, and helped with a feasibility study for ACORN. K. Lambert spoke positively of ACEDC.

CREATION OF UNFINISHED ROOM STUDY GROUP

S. Pilcher noted that there were questions from the historical society and the library about how the unfinished room should be finished and the associated costs. S. Pilcher proposed six people try to work it out: two from the library, two

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from the Historical Society, and two Selectboard members. M. Kelley and S. Pilcher offered to serve for the Selectboard.

ARPA REQUESTS

S. Pilcher said the town had worked through most of the ARPA money. He estimated there was about \$64,000 left. He noted there were requests outstanding for a hardcourt and a digital sign. The digital sign proposal from a while ago was for \$8,000. K. Lambert said he was part of a subcommittee formed under the recreation department. The conservationists gave approval for a hardcourt at the recreation field. It was determined that Act 250 was not a concern. K. Lambert noted that he was waiting on an archaeological survey response which should be back in a month. Contractors had recommended a level grade with an asphalt surface because a concrete slab was too expensive. There was an estimate for \$120,000 from Will Bown of Turnkey Builders. K. Lambert said community support seemed clear because of open gym involvement of about 40 families. T. Fitz-Gerald spoke about pickleball and the challenges of nets. She had an estimate for asphalt for \$30-40000. She said Bob Wahl may help with excavation. She described the challenges of playing in the school gym. T. Fitz-Gerald said pickleball would offer something for adults in the community and it was a great community builder. S. Pilcher asked if the plan was to share a court between basketball and pickleball? K. Lambert explained the two would be adjacent. S. Pilcher asked if this would be fenced? K. Lambert said a fence was proposed between the two, and there would be a fence to keep the balls from the road. J. McNerney asked how much are you asking for? K. Lambert replied \$60,000. J. McNerney asked if the request was for funds, or also for project management? K. Lambert replied just funds. There was discussion about the process. K. Lambert said the project would probably go forward in 2025. There was discussion about whether the funds would definitely be used, because they would be lost otherwise. K. Lambert explained about grants that were available. Based on his research, K. Lambert has been encouraged to apply. S. Pilcher expressed some concern about committing the funds, without any other funding in place, concrete plans in place. M. Kelley asked about grant timing and fundraising. K. Lambert noted that if ARPA funds were committed, there are matching grants for which they would apply. He also proposed a legacy offer for fundraising. T. Fitz-Gerald suggested developing outdoor play space would make Monkton more appealing. S. Pilcher asked if the project could be scaled back if grant money was less than what is hoped for. Sarah Bouchard asked about how other projects had been funded? S. Pilcher explained how the funding approval went for the East Monkton Church. S. Bouchard asked what was needed for the project to look more ready to the Selectboard. M. Kelley noted that it sounded like a great project. She said she would like to see more support of a shovel ready proposal. M. Kelley suggested preserving the ARPA funds. S. Pilcher said he could give a letter of support to help. J. McNerney asked if they needed a funding commitment from the town at this point to get the ball rolling on grants. M. Kelley asked when grant writing needed to go forward.

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K. Lambert said some of the grants require a match and that the grants would be applied for late in the year. M. Kelley suggested including a scaled down version if less money is available. There was discussion about the difficulty of sharing courts. S. Pilcher clarified they would save the ARPA funds, awaiting a more detailed proposal. K. Lambert said he would share some of the grant requirements.

VANDALISM OF TOWN PROPERTY

J. Demeritt described the frequent vandalism at the recycling center this year. W. Zeno asked about the sand inside the closed off area. It was clarified that sand is available outside the rope. S. Pilcher did put a camera up. He's not sure it's a great solution. There was discussion about sturdier gates. S. Pilcher said there may be money from ACSWMD for a solution. R. Hopps wondered if a gate may lead to people dumping at the gate. J. Szarejko made a suggestion to put a gate at the entrance by State Prison Hollow Road. It was proposed to speak with the road foreman, ACSWMD, and investigate a gate. It was noted that parking lots are attractive nuisances. J. McNerney said the "no parking" signs had been pulled out of the ground by Raven Ridge. S. Lawrence found three of them. J. McNerney said a person is consistently doing donuts in the park and ride. J. Szarejko asked where the digital speed limit signs should go? The locations agreed to when the signs were proposed were described: one north of the school, southbound, and one coming into the Boro, northbound.

APPOINTMENTS

J. McNerney read off the following list of appointments for people who had expressed interest in town positions:

DRB: Scott Gordon & Curtis Layn 4 yr terms expiring March 2028

Rec Committee: Rick Imes & John Zaikowski 3 year terms expiring March 2027

Fire Warden: Curtis Layn 5 year term expiring March 2029

Conservation Commission: Ann Miller 4 year term expiring March 2028

Recycling Coordinator: Ronin Hopps & Avery Williams 1 yr term exp March 2025

Tree Warden : Mark Boltz-Robinson 1 year term expiring March 2025

Animal Control Officer: Jane Palmer 1 year term expiring March 2025

ACO deputy (volunteer): Dawn Vukas 1 year term expiring March 2025

Green Up Coordinator: Deb Gaynor 1 year term expiring Jan 2025

Web Master: Ian Schulze 1 year term expiring March 2025

Maple Broadband: Mark Boltz-Robinson 1 year term expiring March 2025

J. McNerney moved the slate of appointments. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

There was discussion about the Development Review Board. R. Hopps noted that when J. Philipps was chair of Selectboard, he invited people to the appointments if there was no one stepping up. There was discussion about ANAC and which members would be alternates. The board deferred making these appointments until we hear from ANAC.

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MUNICIPAL ROAD GRANT PROGRAM

S. Pilcher explained that the Municipal Road Grant program is how the town does a lot of erosion control. Monkton's share is 20% and the state puts in \$12,200. **M. Kelley moved to apply for the Municipal Roads Grant. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION SMALL GRANT AWARD

S. Pilcher said ACRPC had small grants for \$10,000, and there was a quote for surveying Old Airport Road for \$12,000. S. Pilcher applied for and received the grant.

SIGNS IN MONKTON RIDGE / DAVIS ROAD TRIANGLE

S. Pilcher said he has heard from multiple people; there is concern about the signage placed in the triangle. There was discussion about signage rules. J. McNerney suggested that given the longstanding [problems we ban signs unless those wishing to post them came up with an acceptable proposal for maintaining sight lines. S. Pilcher said he wanted no signs at all. There was discussion about line of sight, and about asking neighbors to allow signage on their property. M. Kelley asked whether there was Selectboard approval for a sign now. J. McNerney recalled an discussion in previous years about moving the sign back from the ridge to improve line of sight, but did not recall the Select Board ever receiving an application for signs. There was a suggestion to speak with the farms.

BRIANS LAWN CARE QUOTE

There was discussion about the purchasing policy. **M. Kelley moved to approve the quotes of Brian's Lawn Care for \$5,600 for mowing and trimming and the quote for \$2,600 for mulch and work around town hall. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

There was discussion about the quarterly budget. It was noted that the town had spent more on advertising in the paper. It was noted that the town report cost \$8365. It was noted that election costs were going to surpass the budgeted amount. In general, total expenditures were looking good. There was discussion about the proposed town forest legal fees and the Conservation Commission mapping costs. There was discussion about gravel. J. Szarejko spoke about the grading work and Junior Lewis coming for training. J. McNerney noted that when the frost wasn't out of the road, it was difficult to grade.

NEW PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW

no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS

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J. Szarejko said he has been in touch with B. Soychak and Skip Lisle regarding beavers on Hollow Road, and on Rotax Road. There was discussion about beaver dams in town and about the budget for beaver deceivers.

J. Szarejko said S. Lawrence had asked about vacation and sick leave and rolling over time. There was discussion about total paid time off , and about retention. W. Crandall suggested working on a career development plan with road crew employees. S. Wilbur said the Vermont League of Cities and Towns suggested speaking with employees before finalizing the personnel policy. There was discussion about Bristol's equipment fund. S. Pilcher asked if the board was interested in having Bristol come talk about their capital equipment fund. It was agreed that it would be a good idea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none needed

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7 p.m.

W. Crandall moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt