

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER

J. Demeritt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT SIGN

Selectboard members and community members observed an outdoor presentation by Daktronics, a company that manufactures and installs digital signage.

3. ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (Chair), Walter Crandall (Vice-Chair), Sam Peisch (Secretary), Joe Szarejko (member), John Dunham (member)

Others in attendance: Stan Wilbur (Town Administrator), Lisa Burns, Stephen Pilcher, Tom Steadman, John McNerney, Randy Charboneau, Anthony DelGrecco, Tom Kenyon, Jim Jewel, Carol Lea, Terri Fitzgerald, Ralph Fitzgerald, Stacy Jones (recording secretary)

Guests from Daktronics: Deb Hollwedel, Bob Messier, Patrick Keenan

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None offered.

5. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

No changes were made.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

R. Charboneau requested a correction/clarification be made to the Selectboard regular meeting minutes from Tuesday, August 26th, 2025 to more accurately reflect the question he raised during that meeting. The modification will be made and reflected in the record.

T. Steadman asked for further clarification regarding the Treasurer's position. J. Demeritt explained the treasurer's position, per state statute, must be appointed annually; she also noted that the Selectboard made an oversight during the most recent appointment regarding advertising the position and shared that the appointment policy is in the midst of being updated. J. Demeritt additionally noted that the Treasurer's position is not full-time.

7. APPROVE MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

J. Dunham moved to approve the special meeting minutes of August 26, 2025 as written. S. Peisch seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. W. Crandall abstained due to absence on August 26th.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

J. Demeritt moved to approve the minutes of August 26th, 2025 as amended. J. Dunham seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1. W. Crandall abstained due to absence on August 26th.

8. REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. Dunham moved to approve Accounts Payable Check Warrant #50829 in the amount of \$28,111.23. W. Crandall seconded. This is primarily for highway capital equipment expenses. The vote passed 5-0-0.

W. Crandall moved to approve Accounts Payable Payroll Warrant #50908 in the amount of \$13,636.41. S. Peisch seconded. This is payroll for town employees. The vote passed 5-0-0.

9. REVIEW OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

One overweight permit has been reviewed and approved

- Ethan Gevry

10. FACILITY USE REQUESTS

No new requests

11. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND FEMA UPDATE

FEMA: J. Szarejko reports no new updates

Highway: J. Szarejko reports that the recently hired employee has acquired his CDL. The department plans to begin paving Monkton Ridge in the next couple of weeks. They have completed some maintenance on the town garage/shop fixing floor drains, are hauling in winter sand and gravel for the coming season, have continued with pothole mitigation and roadside mowing, and completed a small amount of road grading. Moving forward there are some grant funded culvert repairs that should be completed by the end of the month.

S. Peisch/J. Szarejko met with Shane Lawrence (Road Foreman) regarding multiple complaints about the condition of the north end of Boro Hill Rd and to discuss potential solutions. Crushed asphalt spanning approximately the first half mile of the road seems to be the best option. S. Lawrence is looking into prices for this option. J. Szarejko explained using the crushed asphalt solution would involve preparation, including securing special equipment (Vibrating roller), turf preparation, possibly contracting Junior Lewis to lend equipment and expertise, and planning for a short-term road closure.

J. Demeritt noted there have been residents on the Rd in favor of the proposed topcoat of crushed asphalt

A. Delgreco queried about the volume chloride being used on our roadways in all seasons and questioned whether it makes sense to be using chloride to keep the dust down for grading in the warm months rather than timing grading around wetter weather. J. McNerney explained the importance of using chloride during particularly dry spells, not just for grading, but to maintain the integrity and strength of existing road surfaces. A. Delgreco additionally asked if there was any obligation for the highway department to notify residents on chloride use. J. Szarejko volunteered to look into that.

J. Szarejko reports that additional speed limit signs have been ordered for Mountain Rd following some complaints, and will be installed when they arrive. He also shared that S. Lawrence has identified 8 driveways as problem areas with potential to negatively impact roadway conditions. Remediation estimates have not been provided.

12. HIGHWAY PAVING RESERVE FUND

The paving grant that was previously thought to expire in the summer of 2026 is in fact valid until early 2027, so there is much more leeway than previously thought.

13. COYLE CURB CUT/CULVERT

J. Szarejko reports that there is no curb cut application on file for this driveway. S. Peisch- reviewed the options available in the policy for curb cut violations. S. Peisch suggested that the owners be contacted and advised that they are in violation and must apply for a curb cut. J. Szarejko volunteered to follow-up with the Coyle's.

14. OVERWEIGHT ORDINANCE

J. Demeritt reminded the selectboard and public about the most current standing of the continuing conversation regarding the overweight ordinance. J. Szarejko offered that he sent S. Wilbur an update to just one section of the ordinance regarding thru trucks, noting that it was the same suggestion S. Lawrence offered as well. J. Demeritt asked if the ordinance language should match the language on the permit indicating that the permit is valid for local pick ups and deliveries only and does not permit thru travel for any vehicle exceeding 24,000lbs. S. Wilbur will send the change to Jim Carroll, town attorney.

J. Demeritt asked how many additional signs would need to be installed moving forward for adequate posting notice. S. Peisch suggested that many locations have existing signs and the new signage could be colocated on existing poles. J. Szarejko noted a sign explicitly stating "permit required" may be helpful.

15. PARK AND RIDE POLICY

J. Demeritt noted that regarding the Park & Ride there is a parking ordinance that was never adopted and some information from previous discussions. J. Dunham shared that he has done some research. He learned that the state owns most of

Park & Rides in VT. Their laws are very loose: they are generally open 24-hours a day/7 days a week; they restrict camping, but do not prohibit sleeping in one's vehicle; no food trucks or commercial enterprises are permitted. Otherwise, there is little in the way of restrictions. There are also a minority of Park & Rides owned municipally. The regulations for those are more narrow, such as no overnight parking or specific hours/days of use. J. Dunham stated the largest common use of the Park & Ride in Monkton are school events, sporting events, and Town Meeting Day. J. Dunham suggested if the Selectboard wanted to impose some limitations, it might consider restricting overnight parking during school months and/or restricting unpowered vehicles, such as truck trailers, or inoperable vehicles etc.. J. McNerney recommended there be an allowance in any potential policy/ordinance considered for adoption for the SB to make exceptions in special use cases. J. Demeritt asked, if the Selectboard does entertain a policy much clarity is necessary. S. Peisch indicated that the primary issue as he understands it is "long-term" parking and recommends language that restricts parking to a specified number of days, unless Selectboard approval is sought and granted for longer term use. Further discussion about the intent of the Park & Ride occurred. It was recommended that signage be posted stating that the Town will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property. J. Dunham will draft a policy for Selectboard to review.

16. APPOINTMENT POLICY

Following a short discussion, it was decided this topic will be revisited next meeting when S. Wilbur has a working draft policy.

17. BUDGET REPORT

J. Demeritt noted we are now approximately 66% of the way through the budget year. J. Demeritt was curious about the road maintenance total, but discussion clarified that the low percentage of the budget is likely due to delays in paving. S. Wilbur noted that tax revenue has begun to trickle in.

T. Kenyon Asked for clarification on the delay in paving. J Szarejko referenced the previous discussion about creating a special reserve fund to carry the dedicated grant monies forward, which would need to go before the voters on town meeting day. This would allow for road surface preparation and paving to take place next spring and avoid paving too late in the season this year. Unpredictable weather can cause costly damage to fresh pavement when it is installed late in the Vermont autumn season.

S. Pilcher asked for clarification on the "contract services" expense budget line item, S. Peisch noted the Tyler bridge rd. culvert project required contract services.

R. Charboneau queried whether the paving could be partially completed. J. Szarejko explained why that has been discouraged.

A. Delgreco inquired why paving has been delayed. He noted that he felt communication from the town was not satisfactory.

J. Demeritt shared that in October the Selectboard will begin laying out the calendar for next year's budget.

18. VGS CASE

J. Dunham said VGS has responded to all inquiries. Responses from attorneys are due on Sept 26. J. Dunham will read through all inquiries to see what, if anything, needs further response.

19. OTHER BUSINESS

S. Pilcher is worried about the boat on Old Stage Rd.

J. McNerney offered that although it was originally in the middle of the field, it is now in or very near to the town right-of-way and posing a hazard.

J. Dunham contacted the sheriff some while back. They said they could not be of help tracking down individuals who illegally disposed of the boat. J. Dunham offered to follow up with the Sheriff again; S. Wilbur noted the Sheriff will attend the next Selectboard meeting.

20. HARDCOURT UPDATE

Terri and Ralph Fitzgerald joined the Selectboard to discuss the hardcourt.

R. Fitzgerald reviewed the hardcourt installation project phases. ARPA funds covered phase 1 costs, the excavation. Then, approximately \$20,000 was raised through private fundraising efforts in the community, and in combination with the remaining ARPA funds covered phase 2, the paving of the hardcourt. The project is now in its third phase, sealing and marking the court so that it will be long-lasting and ready to use. R. Fitzgerald remarked that he and his wife are before the Selectboard to inquire about resources to complete phase three of the hardcourt installation project. R. Fitzgerald and T. Fitzgerald laid out the three options under consideration to complete phase three:

- Option 1 is \$11,000. It is a Do-it-Yourself option
- Option 2 is Vermont Tennis. They are offering full professional finishing of the court for \$20,000. R. Fitzgerald noted this is a 20% discount from their normal price.
- Option 3 is a company out of NH, Pine State, for \$37,000. They are well out of our price range, but the Hardcourt subcommittee of the Recreation Monkton Department wanted at least 3 price points for comparison.

Vermont Tennis, the Vermont company can complete the project this year, if money becomes available in time. Otherwise the project will have to wait until next spring. The discounted price is not guaranteed moving forward. T. Fitzgerald mentioned that Vermont Tennis did offer that the payment could be split if that would make their service more achievable. T. Fitzgerald further noted that there are approximately \$2,500 remaining in funds previously raised, and that there are additional fundraising ideas in the works. However, she is concerned that the full

amount will not be able to be raised to bring the project to a timely completion. T. Fitzgerald and R. Fitzgerald shared that the courts are already being routinely used. T. Fitzgerald asked if there is room in the town budget or any ideas about alternative funding sources. J. Demeritt indicated that a closer look at the budget would be necessary before offering any response one way or another. S. Peisch inquired if the Hardcourt sub-committee felt they had the skill to execute the first option, and clarified what the total dollar ask would be. W. Crandall wondered if this project could be included in next year's budget as a line item. S. Pilcher offered that alternatively it could be presented as an article to be voted at Town Meeting. J. McNerney asked what the preferred option would be. T. Fitzgerald replied Vermont Tennis would be the ideal option. They could provide the multi-colored professional finish that the Recreation Department would like to see. W. Crandall asked if Vermont Tennis might be willing to accept the currently available amount of \$2,000 or \$2,500 as a deposit to hold the \$20,000 price for next spring. T. Fitzgerald said she would look into that. J. McNerney asked if there was risk to the court if finishing is not completed before the winter. R. Fitzgerald responded that he has been assured the court can safely overwinter for one season without damage. J. Demeritt asked if the recreation department has funds available. T. Fitzgerald shared that the recreational department does have some reserve funds they are looking into. They need to look more closely at their budget before they can make any commitment. S. Peisch noted that the recreational budget is already slightly over budget and expressed concern that close attention be paid to what is going to be most prudent. T. Fitzgerald will contact Vermont Tennis again to learn what options are available to lock in prices. The Fitzgeralds will return to report findings at the next Selectboard meeting.

21. ACTION ITEM ROUNDUP

- J. Szarejko will follow up with the Coyle's regarding their Curb Cut
- J. Demeritt will follow up with Jim Carroll re: overweight ordinance
- S. Wilbur will continue work on Appointment Policy
- J. Dunham will follow up on abandoned boat
- S. Peisch will make a closer review of budgets to explore options for the hardcourt
- J. Dunham Park & Ride
- J. Dunham will move all VSG files to Google Drive

22. DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm.

23. ADJOURNMENT

J. Dunham moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. J. Szarejko seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted, Stacy Jones