

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by S. Peisch at 7:00 pm.

Members in attendance:

Sam Peisch (Chair, Clerk), John Dunham (Vice Chair), Joe Szarejko (Highway Liaison), Sarah Bouchard

Members absent:

Walter Crandall

Others in attendance:

Stan Wilbur (Town Administrator), Michael Casey, John McNerney, Tom Steadman, Eric Bessette, Jamie Schulte, Kirk Lea, Stacy Jones (minutes recorder)

2. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Additions: S. Peisch proposed moving Monkton Boro Veteran Memorial and Flag / Vermont Veterans Fund to immediately after check warrants so interested attendees would not need to wait through the full meeting. He also added discussion of a FEMA extension request related to Piney Woods Road.

Deletions: None

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Peisch announced that the Mount Abe Eagles would play in the state baseball championship on June 13 at Centennial Field in Burlington.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Casey spoke at length regarding concerns about recent highway department work on Silver Street, stormwater and drainage issues involving neighboring property, the presence of law enforcement at a work site, culvert conditions, and related zoning and enforcement concerns. S. Peisch thanked him for his comments and said the Board would take time to gather more information.

J. McNerney raised a question about the wording of the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad contract, noting that it appeared to state that Vergennes would be the primary ambulance service for all of Monkton. S. Peisch responded that the issue would be addressed later in the meeting.

S. Peisch relayed a resident's suggestion to the Board to improve agenda formatting by placing times in a left-hand column and clarifying that agenda times are approximate. Board members indicated general support for making the agenda easier to follow.

5. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

S. Peisch moved to amend the May 28, 2026 Selectboard meeting minutes to correct the date from March to May, and to approve the minutes as amended. J. Dunham seconded. Approved unanimously.

6. REVIEW & APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
DRAFT

J. Szarejko reported that only a few overweight permits had been received since the last Selectboard meeting and that all were in compliance with weight and insurance requirements.

Discussion followed regarding weight limits, truck traffic, permit standards, and enforcement.

Overweight permits approved since the last Selectboard meeting include: Bradford's Trucking, Green Mountain Siteworks, Structural Wood Corp, and Timothy Paquette.

7. REVIEW & APPROVE FACILITY USE REQUESTS

Skipped, W. Crandall was not present.

8. REVIEW & APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

*S. Peisch moved to approve Check Warrant #60611 in the amount of \$137,844.42. J. Dunham seconded. **Approved unanimously.*** Larger items in the warrant included parts related to the Ford F-550 previously approved by the Board, Piney Woods engineering contracts, a large sign order for the highway department, email account costs, fuel, and gravel.

*S. Peisch moved to approve payroll Check Warrant #60603 in the amount of \$15,242.18. J. Dunham seconded. **Approved unanimously.***

9. MONKTON BORO VETERAN MEMORIAL AND FLAG / VERMONT VETERANS FUND

S. Peisch reported that he had met with the person who maintains the pollinator garden and a local veteran regarding siting of the memorials and stated that there appeared to be consensus in favor of locating the monuments at the front of Town Hall, but not within the pollinator garden.

Eric Bessette read a prepared statement in support of relocating the memorials to the Town Hall grounds. He explained that he and his wife own the Grange property where the memorials are presently located, that very few people visit them there, and that Town Hall would provide a more visible and respectful civic location. He also described his professional experience in exhibit design and work on veteran memorial displays.

Board members discussed the potential grant application to the Vermont Veterans Fund, general support for moving the memorials to the Town Hall grounds, the value of a rough site plan, and the importance of using professionals to move the stones safely.

10. VERGENNES AREA RESCUE SQUAD & ADDISON SHERIFF CONTRACTS

The Board discussed the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad contract, with J. McNerney reiterating concern that the agreement language appeared to imply service to all of Monkton rather than only the applicable service area. The Board agreed that clarification should be obtained regarding service territory and related mapping before approving the contract. No final action was taken on the Vergennes contract.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
DRAFT

The Board then reviewed the Addison County Sheriff's Department police services contract and noted that the date at the top of the agreement should be corrected. J. Dunham moved to authorize S. Peisch, as Chair, to sign the Addison County Sheriff's Department police services contract. S. Bouchard seconded. Approved unanimously.

**11. ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

The Board announced that there would be a vacancy on the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Addison County Regional Planning Commission due to Debra Sprague stepping down, and that the position would be posted pursuant to the Town's appointment policy. The Board also noted an expected vacancy on the Library Trustees and stated that both openings would be posted.

**12. ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EMERGENCY
MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

The Board reviewed the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement for public works departments. *S. Bouchard moved to approve the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement. S. Peisch seconded. Approved unanimously.*

13. ALTERNATIVE MEETING SPACES @ TOWN HALL

J. Dunham reported that he had visited possible alternate meeting spaces in the building, including the library area, the South Wing, and office space. He said none was presently ideal, but further discussion with library and building staff would be useful. Discussion also addressed access, locked doors, and the possible future use of keypad entry.

14. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

A. Biweekly Update

J. Szarejko reported that shouldering for recent paving work was complete, roadside mowing and grading has begun, and tree cutting on Hardscrabble Road has occupied much of the crew's recent time. He also reported that the sheriff's presence on Silver Street had been related to traffic and safety concerns involving speeding motorists near flaggers.

Discussion followed concerning availability of wood chips from current work, coordination for deliveries, and a reminder that logs stacked along the roadway were intended for the Monkton Wood Bank and should not be removed without prior permission.

B. Church road & Mountain Road Proposed Work

J. Szarejko reported that, following Hardscrabble Road work, the highway department hopes to address Church Road and the southern portion of Mountain Road. He said there was discussion of using contracted services to rebuild Church Road, including ditching and culvert work, with assistance in developing a scope of work so that Trevor

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
DRAFT

Currier could stay focused on Hardscrabble Road. Board members indicated support so long as the work remained within budget.

Discussion about the deteriorating condition of Old Stage Road followed.

T. Steadman inquired about the status of the guardrails for Silver Street. J. Szarjko noted that the town is still waiting to hear back regarding several grants, including the one submitted for the guardrails in question.

C. Monkton Town Forest Parking Area Proposal

S. Peisch reported on a site visit with Joe Szarejko, Trevor Currier, John McNerney, and Jamie Schulte concerning three possible parking areas to improve access to the Monkton Town Forest from Hardscrabble Road. The proposal discussed was for the Town Forest budget to cover materials, with highway department labor provided as available. Discussion also addressed brush clearing, drainage, and how the proposal would be reviewed by the Town Forest Committee.

The two representatives of the Town Forest Committee, J. Schulte and J. McNerney, agreed they would discuss the proposal at their upcoming meeting.

D. Piney Woods Road

S. Peisch reported that the engineering firm continued working on permits and measurements for the Piney Woods Road project and expected to submit an initial permit application to the Agency of Natural Resources within the next several weeks. He also discussed the need for an administrative FEMA extension request because project deadlines were approaching, and said he hoped to meet with project partners to review whether the timeline could be accelerated.

E. Potential Sale of Highway Department Assets

No new action was taken. The Board noted that pricing information was still being gathered for culverts and 550 truck.

F. Old Stage Road Right-of-Way Violation

The Board noted that the material that had prompted the Old Stage Road right-of-way violation matter had been removed, and the issue was therefore resolved. Discussion also returned briefly to concerns about conditions on Old Stage Road and the need for follow-up work there.

G. Highway Access Policy

S. Peisch reported that he had sought guidance from the Town's insurer regarding possible changes to the Highway Access Policy, including emergency work on private property and whether the Town should maintain a list of private contractors. He said the guidance indicated legal risk and that he did not feel comfortable recommending policy changes at that time. Board members agreed the topic had been useful to discuss even if no immediate action would be taken.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
DRAFT

15. MONKTON BORO VILLAGE CENTER DESIGNATION/ACT 181 TIER 1B RESOLUTION

The Board continued its discussion of whether to opt in to the Act 181 Tier 1B designation, including possible benefits, development implications, and infrastructure capacity. L. Burns noted that the workload that additional development review could place on the DRB (Development Review Board) and zoning administration are also important considerations. The Board requested that the DRB add a discussion regarding potential additional burden to their agenda at their upcoming meeting. J. Schulte advised that the DRB agenda is pretty full, but that they would add the topic. The Board agreed to defer action until a later meeting so additional feedback could be obtained.

16. GRANTS

A. Local Roads (VTrans)

S. Peisch introduced possible equipment grant applications through the Local Roads program. J. Szarejko described the value of obtaining equipment such as a jumping jack compactor and turbine blower for highway work. The Board supported continuing work on the application with the same collaborative structure/team used for earlier highway grants, T. Currier, J. Szarejko, and S. Peisch.

B. Bike/Pedestrian Walkway Grant for Monkton Ridge (VTrans)

S. Bouchard opened discussion on the pending bike and pedestrian walkway grant application for Monkton Ridge, including project scale, likely engineering costs, impacts on adjoining properties, and whether to pursue a larger or smaller funding request. The Board generally supported moving forward with the application for the smaller grant so the Town would have the option to pursue the project further. The Board reviewed the draft letter of support and worked through some edits.

*S. Bouchard moved to authorize S. Peisch to sign the Selectboard letter of support for the VTrans bike and pedestrian walkway grant application as amended. S. Peisch seconded. **Approved unanimously.***

C. Monkton Boro School House (Preservation Trust)

S. Peisch noted that a related grant application deadline was approaching and that additional review would occur at the next meeting.

17. ACTION ITEMS

S. Peisch:

- Seek clarification from Vergennes Area Rescue Squad regarding service area language and related mapping.
- Post openings for the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee and Library Trustees.
- Modify meeting agenda format.
- Follow-up about traffic monitoring

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 11th, 2026
DRAFT

- Post on town website regarding wood chips and logs.
- Continue work related to the Vermont Veterans Fund memorial grant and conceptual siting.

J. Dunham:

- Continue discussions about alternate meeting spaces at Town Hall.

J. Szarejko:

- Work on a scope of work / RFP related to proposed Church Road and Mountain Road work.
- Communicate with Dubois & King regarding expediting the Piney Woods timeline

S. Bouchard:

- Monkton Ridge bike/pedestrian grant application

S. Wilbur

- FEMA extension request.

S. Peisch, J. Szarejko, and T. Currier

- Local Roads Grant application for highway department equipment.

18. DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 25th, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Monkton Town Hall.

19. ADJOURNMENT

*S. Bouchard moved to adjourn. J. Szarejko seconded. **Approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Jones