



MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 9th, 2026
DRAFT

Call to Order & Attendance

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

Members in attendance:

Sarah Bouchard, Sam Peisch, Walter Crandall, Joe Szarejko, John Dunham

Others in attendance:

Stan Wilbur (Town Administrator), Lisa Burns (Lister), Trevor Currier (Road Foreman), Tom Steadman, John McNerney, Michael Miller, Kim Barbour, Stacy Jones (Minutes recorder)

Additions or Deletions from Agenda

S. Peisch proposed adding three items to the agenda: discussion of a NEMRC reappraisal contract, a Vermont Council on Rural Development leadership summit nomination request, and a stream alteration permit related to Piney Woods Road.

By consensus, the Board added the NEMRC contract discussion and Rural Development item before Highway Department, and the stream alteration permit discussion within the Highway Department section following the biweekly update.

Announcements

T. Steadman announced that, following his recent appointment to the transportation committee, he was looking forward to beginning that work.

Public Comment

T. Steadman asked whether the town has a policy concerning dead or hazardous trees in the town right-of-way. Discussion followed regarding landowner responsibility, right-of-way permits, the town's practical response to hazardous trees, and how similar issues have been handled in the past.

T. Currier reported that when trees involve power lines, the town notifies Green Mountain Power, which handles the removal process. The Board agreed that T. Steadman, J. Szarejko, and T. Currier would review the site conditions together before any further decision.

J. McNerney raised a concern about booking recurring facility uses too far into 2027 and noted the potential for long-term recurring reservations to limit availability for one-time events or committee meetings. W. Crandall clarified that the recent request involved a once-per-month series for several months rather than a standing weekly reservation.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

W. Crandall moved to approve the June 25, 2026 Selectboard meeting minutes as written. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried, J. Dunham abstained because he was not present at that meeting.

Review & Approve Overweight Permits

No new overweight permits were presented.



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Review & Approve Facility Use Requests

W. Crandall reported that a Black Belt Academy had requested use of the space for a taekwondo session as a possible paid rental and said that overall facility use remained slow.

Review & Approve Check Warrants

J. Szarejko moved to approve Payroll Check Warrant Report #60701 in the amount of \$18,425.80. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Szarejko moved to approve Accounts Payable Check Warrant Report #60709 in the amount of \$91,300.13. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Larger items in the warrant included the Addison County tax, Burlington Communications highway repairs, and a DuBois & King invoice of approximately \$26,000 related to engineering work for Piney Woods Road.

NEMRC Reappraisal Contract

L. Burns reviewed the proposed NEMRC contract for a future town-wide reappraisal. She explained that recent state legislation is moving Vermont toward a six-year reappraisal cycle, that Monkton's last reappraisal was in 2024, and that NEMRC is already booking work out to 2031.

L. Burns recommended that the Board approve the contract now in order to secure a place on NEMRC's schedule. She explained that the work would begin in 2029, would be paid over a two-year period, and would help demonstrate that Monkton is proactively addressing the state's reappraisal requirements.

L. Burns also reviewed budget considerations, including the current balance in the Act 60 reappraisal fund, the expected annual state reappraisal payments, and the need to plan ahead for contract costs as well as related administrative expenses such as postage, paper, and local staff time.

J. Dunham asked several questions regarding the possible effect of future state changes on an existing contract, whether the state could require a contract to be broken, and whether the 2031 timeline would satisfy state requirements. L. Burns said she believed the town would be demonstrating compliance by being actively under contract, though she would need to confirm whether any termination cost would apply if the state later forced a different process.

S. Bouchard also asked about the expected timing of the state's new system and how Monkton's contract would fit within that transition. Discussion followed.

S. Peisch moved to accept the NEMRC reappraisal contract as presented. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department

Biweekly Update

J. Szarejko and T. Currier reported that Hardscrabble Road work was nearly complete. They said that only a few trees remained to be cut, stumping had been completed, ditching will begin next week, storm cleanup had taken about a day, mowing had resumed now that the



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mower was back in service, the Hardscrabble right-of-way vegetation issue had been addressed, and town trucks are undergoing DOT inspections.

J. Szarejko also reported that the town was still awaiting a decision on the previously submitted grant application for guardrails and related work. He said 93 towns had applied and 89 awards would be made, and that he hoped to hear back before the next meeting.

Stream Alteration Permit

S. Peisch presented a stream alteration permit application related to the Piney Woods Road work and explained that the permit was required for work in a stream or waterway and was consistent with the design plans previously discussed with DuBois & King.

J. Dunham moved to authorize S. Peisch to sign the stream alteration permit application. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Church Road Proposed Work

S. Peisch opened discussion on the single bid received for the proposed Church Road work and noted that the bid exceeded the remaining amount currently available in the annual contract services line item. He said the Board should consider whether to rebid the work with a lower cap or revise the scope.

J. Dunham suggested scaling back the scope to focus first on getting water off the road, rather than attempting the full ditching and culvert work this season. J. Szarejko reported on a conversation about using grader work similar to prior work on Barnum Road, and T. Currier said that approach could make sense and could reduce the need to contract the work out immediately.

Discussion reflected consensus to defer using the current contract-services money for the full Church Road bid and instead consider using available in-house equipment and part-time help to improve drainage and buy time for more complete work later.

Piney Woods Road

S. Peisch briefly reviewed the status of Piney Woods Road and the ongoing extension process.

Potential Sale of Highway Dept. Assets

The Board discussed highway assets briefly. T. Currier noted that the advice he had received was not to sell the culverts.

State Reimbursement for Paving

The Board reviewed the state reimbursement contract related to paving.

S. Peisch moved to approve the state reimbursement contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Parking Spaces by Old Library / "Town Triangle"

The Board continued discussion of the proposed parking configuration near the old library and Town Triangle area.



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Discussion included possible grant support and next steps. Consensus was reached that T. Steadman would work with S. Wilbur and S. Bouchard on the grant effort.

Finalize 2026 Tax Rate

K. Barbour reviewed the financial information related to the proposed 2026 tax rate.

*S. Peisch moved to approve the 2026 municipal tax rate of 0.4318," W. Crandall seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Other Business

J. Dunham asked for an update regarding fire conditions and forest-fire status. S. Peisch responded and discussion followed.

Executive Session – Personnel Review (Town Employee Performance Evaluations)

*S. Peisch moved to find that premature general public knowledge would cause a substantial disadvantage to the public body. S. Bouchard seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.***

*S. Peisch moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel under 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). W. Crandall seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.*** The Board entered executive session at 8:14 pm.

*S. Peisch moved to exit executive session. J. Dunham seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.*** The Board exited executive session at 9:34 pm.

*S. Peisch moved to increase in Cole Putnam's pay rate from \$25 to \$26 hourly. J. Szarejko seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.***

Upon returning to open session, the Board approved an increase in Cole's pay rate.

Action Items

- J. Szarejko, and T. Currier will review the hazardous tree situation with T. Steadman, discussed during public comment.
- S. Bouchard will work on the Town Triangle grant with S. Wilbur and T. Steadman.
- Two Selectboard members will each meet with town employees to share feedback on their performance reviews.
- J. Szarejko will follow up with the Hardscrabble property owners about their bushes.
- S. Peisch will post notice about closing the Town Hall lot for line painting next Wednesday and notify people accordingly.

Adjourn

*S. Bouchard moved to adjourn. J. Szarejko seconded. **Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Jones