



MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 27th, 2026
DRAFT

Call to Order & Attendance

S. Peisch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Selectboard members present: Sam Peisch, Sarah Bouchard, John Dunham, Walt Crandall, and Joe Szarejko.

Also present: Stan Wilbur, Trevor Currier, Tom Steadman, Gail VanSteamburg, Bill VanSteamburg, Brandon Hanley, Abigail Hanley, Don Mannigan, Sharon Gomez, Jamie Schulte, Lisa Burns, Lynn Caulfield, Stacy Jones

Additions or Deletions from Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

Announcements

S. Peisch asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the Connor family following the tragic loss of their son. The Board and attendees observed a moment of silence.

Public Comment

T. Steadman raised concern about a tractor-trailer he believed was exceeding the Town's overweight-ordinance. He reported observing the vehicle and expressed concern about road and culvert damage from repeated heavy loads.

S. Peisch stated that the Addison County Sheriff is responsible for enforcement of the overweight ordinance. He will provide the reported details to the Sheriff and follow up with T. Steadman.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

S. Bouchard moved to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from Thursday, August 13, 2026. J. Dunham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review & Approve Overweight Permits

J. Szarejko reported that there were no overweight permits to review.

Review & Approve Facility Use Requests

W. Crandall reported that there were no facility-use requests during the period.

S. Peisch noted that the children's taekwondo program had begun using the Community Room and appeared to be going well.

Review & Approve Check Warrants

S. Bouchard moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant Report 60827 in the amount of \$35,978.08. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Bouchard identified notable accounts-payable expenses, including a quarterly payment to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns of \$14,793.89; Blue Cross Blue Shield



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health-insurance premiums of \$7,105.27; a \$2,255 payment to Sullivan Powers & Company for the outside independent audit; \$1,350 to Parker Excavation for contract services; and approximately \$1,036 to Aker Sand & Gravel.

J. Dunham moved to approve Monkton Payroll Warrant Report 60826 in the amount of \$14,176.26. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Validate Citizen Petition to Shift Voting at Town Meeting to Australian Ballot

S. Peisch explained that the Board's role at this meeting was to validate the citizen petition for compliance with statutory requirements and confirm that it contained sufficient signatures from Monkton voters; the Board was not considering the merits of the proposal at this time. He reported that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns found the petition valid and that Town Clerk S. Gomez verified that the petition contained more than the required number of valid signatures.

S. Peisch moved to validate the citizen petition to shift voting at Town Meeting to Australian ballot. J. Dunham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting Date and Logistics

The Board discussed scheduling the special meeting. S. Peisch reported that the meeting must be warned within 60 days after receipt of the petition and that the warning must provide at least 30 days but no more than 40 days of notice. He reported contacting justices of the peace, the Board of Civil Authority, the Town Moderator, Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School, Monkton Central School, and a videographer regarding availability.

The Board discussed holding the meeting on a Tuesday evening rather than a Saturday morning to maximize attendance. Monkton Central School was identified as the preferred venue because it is available in October and can provide overflow rooms. The Board discussed recording the meeting, providing minutes, preparing paper ballots in the event they are needed, and ensuring adequate Board of Civil Authority participation for ballot counting and voter verification.

The Board discussed notice and outreach, including posting the warning at Town Hall, the fire station, the post office, and the Town Triangle sign; publishing in the Addison Independent; and posting on the Town website, Town calendar, Front Porch Forum, and Facebook. The Board also discussed providing public information about the process and resources regarding Australian-ballot voting.

S. Peisch moved that the Town of Monkton special meeting be scheduled for October 13 at 7:00 PM at Monkton Central School. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Peisch will prepare and distribute the special-meeting warning by September 3, 2026, to provide the maximum notice permitted. He will also repost informational materials and resource links concerning Australian-ballot voting on the Town website.



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Consider Replacement of Community Room Computer

The Board discussed replacement of the aging Community Room computer, which operates on Windows 10 Pro and cannot be upgraded. S. Peisch stated that budget funds are available for a refurbished Windows 11 Pro computer and that the quoted cost was less than \$1,000.

*S. Peisch moved that the Board accept the quote offered by Chris Morse to replace the Community Room computer. J. Dunham seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.***

S. Peisch will coordinate the replacement and provide notice of the installation schedule. Town data and settings will be copied to the replacement computer.

Appoint HR Contact for Town Employees

S. Peisch explained the need for an independent and secure repository for employee performance-review records and a clear point of contact for employee concerns or complaints involving the Selectboard. He reported that Town Clerk S. Gomez and Assistant Town Clerk B. Stearns were willing to serve in this capacity.

*S. Peisch moved to appoint S. Gomez as the HR contact for Town employees. J. Dunham seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.***

The motion was subsequently amended to appoint the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk by position rather than appointing an individual by name.

*J. Dunham moved to amend the previous motion to state "Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk" instead of "Sharon Gomez." S. Peisch seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.***

The Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk will serve as the HR contact for Town employees and as the repository for personnel records.

Street Name Requests and Street Naming Ordinance

The Board reviewed the Town's 1996 Street Naming Ordinance and discussed requests to name two roads in the River Flow development Lilac Lane and Rock Ledge Lane. The E-911 coordinator had determined that the proposed names were acceptable.

The Board discussed the ordinance's requirement for a task force including representatives from fire and rescue, postal services, zoning, listers, Selectboard members, volunteers, and, when applicable, neighboring towns. Board members agreed that the ordinance is unclear and overly burdensome, particularly its use of parenthetical language and undefined public-input process.

By consensus, the Board agreed to follow the current ordinance for the pending River Flow street-name requests by seeking documented input from the required representatives, including fire and rescue and postal services. The Board will defer action on the requested names until that input is received.



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By consensus, the Board also agreed to consider an amendment to simplify and clarify the Street Naming Ordinance at a future meeting.

Highway Department

Biweekly Update

T. Currier reported that the Church Road project had been completed except for seeding and mulching. The project required approximately six and one-half days of work. The crew will meet with one remaining homeowner, complete seeding and mulching, and then return to Hardscrabble Road.

T. Currier reported that the Western Star and 2009 truck remained at Griffin Transport Services, with the Western Star expected back the following day after brake work. The 2024 Mack was at T.D. Mack for a radiator repair and was ready for pickup. He expected the Town to have its trucks back by the middle of the following week.

T. Currier reported that he arranged for Viking Cives to begin ordering the body, plow, and related equipment for the truck scheduled for replacement in 2028. He stated that the arrangement creates no cost or legal obligation for the Town; it places the Town in the production queue so that equipment will be available if voters approve the replacement truck under the equipment schedule.

T. Currier also reported that the Town is set up for municipal pricing for winter blades, plow cutting edges, grader bits, and grader blades.

J. Szarejko reported continued roadside mowing, grading, and routine maintenance.

T. Currier reported that the crew planned to resume work on Hardscrabble Road, potentially Monday afternoon and otherwise Tuesday. Remaining work includes shoulder building from Queen Bee's to the Town line and installation of four culverts, including one cross culvert. The cross-culvert installation will require closing the road for one morning. The Highway Department will post advance warning signs and provide the date once determined.

Piney Woods Road Update

S. Peisch reported that the Town submitted two stream-alteration permit applications for Piney Woods Road. One was approved and one was denied. The denied application involved the proposal to retain and build around an existing culvert that FEMA had determined could remain. The State concluded that the proposal did not meet stream-equilibrium requirements because of concerns about constricting bankfull width, the culvert's size, absence of sediment baffles, and potential downstream deposition and velocity barriers.

The Board discussed the need to consult with DuBois & King, the Town's engineering firm, as well as state and federal FEMA representatives to determine whether an alternative design or other recourse is available. J. Szarejko reported that the Town



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recently met with DuBois & King and is exploring a design that may be accepted by the State.

S. Peisch and J. Szarejko will meet with state and federal FEMA representatives early the following week. S. Peisch will report back after that meeting or sooner if a timely action is needed.

The Board and public discussed the uncertain project timeline, potential need for a second box culvert, funding limitations, public-safety and emergency-access concerns, and the possible cost of alternative designs. No formal action was taken.

B. VanSteamburg stated that the road historically was known as Pine Woods Road rather than Piney Woods Road. S. Peisch will research the naming history and record of the change.

Temporary Weight Limit on Tyler Bridge Road

The Board considered a temporary reduction of the weight limit on the Tyler Bridge Road culvert to extend its useful life while the Town pursues grant funding and replacement options. T. Steadman and T. Currier supported reducing weight on the structure, citing the condition of the culvert and truck traffic. The Board discussed enforcement by the Sheriff, statutory exemptions, practical weight limits, and the need for a clear and legally supportable resolution.

S. Peisch moved that the Board pursue temporarily lowering the weight limit on the Tyler Bridge Road culvert to 12,000 pounds, contingent on the Town Attorney approving the resolution. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Peisch will send the draft resolution to the Town Attorney and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for review. The Board will consider formal adoption after receiving legal feedback.

Fall Grant Discussion

State Highway Structures Grant

The Board discussed potential State Highway Structures Grant applications for Piney Woods Road, Tyler Bridge Road, and Church Road. S. Peisch reported that the grant can provide up to \$200,000 and that the Town may have a strong chance of receiving an award. The Board discussed project costs, permitting and engineering requirements, grant timing, and the possibility of combining funding sources.

The Board discussed prioritizing Tyler Bridge Road for the Structures Grant while continuing to gather information on Piney Woods Road and Church Road. No formal application decision was made; the Board will revisit priorities at the next regular meeting after receiving additional information.

Salt Shed Grant

T. Currier explained the operational need for a larger salt shed. J. Szarejko reported that grant representatives indicated that salt-shed applications are likely to score favorably.



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By consensus, the Board agreed to pursue grant funding for a salt shed. J. Szarejko and J. Dunham will work on the application with support from S. Wilbur and T. Currier.

State Paving Grant for 2028

The Board discussed applying for a 2028 paving grant. Potential project areas included Bristol Road, Hollow Road, and the north and south ends of Boro Hill Road. The Board discussed the condition of Hollow Road and whether paving could affect future deterioration.

By consensus, the Board agreed to apply for paving-grant funding for Hollow Road.

Vermont Veterans Fund: Monkton Veteran Monuments

S. Peisch reported that the draft Vermont Veterans Fund application requests approximately \$15,300 to move the veteran monuments.

S. Bouchard moved to submit the Vermont Veterans Fund grant application for Monkton veteran monuments. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

T. Steadman reported on a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. He stated that the timing for a decision on Transportation Advisory Committee funding remained unclear and discussed concerns about truck traffic and the need for regional transportation input.

T. Currier requested Board guidance regarding manufacturers to contact for a future excavator purchase. The Board discussed possible manufacturers, machine size, and attachments. T. Currier will contact the identified manufacturers, including an additional manufacturer suggested during discussion, and continue gathering information.

S. Peisch reported that the State site visit for pending tree-cutting grant work had not yet occurred. He will continue to await the site visit and follow up as appropriate.

Action Items

Sam

- S. Peisch will send information about the reported overweight liquid-manure truck to the Addison County Sheriff and follow up with T. Steadman.
- S. Peisch will prepare and distribute the special-meeting warning for the October 13, 2026 special meeting by September 3, 2026.
- S. Peisch will post or repost informational materials and resource links concerning Australian-ballot voting on the Town website.
- S. Peisch will coordinate replacement of the Community Room computer and notify users of the installation schedule.
- S. Peisch will obtain documented input from required parties under the current Street Naming Ordinance concerning Lilac Lane and Rock Ledge Lane.
- S. Peisch will seek legal review from the Town Attorney and Vermont League of Cities and Towns of the proposed temporary 12,000-pound Tyler Bridge Road weight-limit resolution.



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- S. Peisch will submit the Vermont Veterans Fund application for Monkton veteran monuments.
- S. Peisch will follow up regarding the pending State site visit for state safety grant award work.

Joe

- J. Szarejko will meet with state and federal FEMA representatives regarding Piney Woods Road and report back to the Board and public.

John

- J. Dunham and J. Szarejko will work on a salt-shed grant application with support from S. Wilbur and T. Currier.

Sarah

- S. Bouchard will research the history and record of the Pine Woods/Piney Woods Road name.

Walt

- W. Crandall will support S. Peisch in preparing and distributing the special-meeting warning for the October 13, 2026 special meeting by September 3, 2026

Adjourn

*S. Peisch moved to adjourn. W. Crandall seconded. **Motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Jones