



MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 24th, 2026
DRAFT

Call to Order & Attendance

S. Peisch called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m..

Selectboard members present: Sam Peisch, Walter Crandall, Sarah Bouchard, and Joe Szarejko.

Selectboard members absent: John Dunham

Present: Stan Wilbur, Trevor Currier, Tom Steadman, Mike Casey, Jaime Schulte, Stacy Jones

Additions or Deletions from Agenda

S. Peisch proposed adding discussion of the Hollow Road culvert/bridge. The Board agreed.

W. Crandall suggested deleting facility use requests. The Board agreed.

Announcements

S. Peisch announced that the Town was not awarded the competitive excavator grant. This was not surprising, as only one town was selected in the entire state for this grant. He also announced that the Town received a \$375 Robert Sincerbeaux Fund grant from the Preservation Trust for an assessment of the Borough Schoolhouse; the Vermont Museum of Historic Sites will cover the remaining cost of the \$750 assessment.

S. Peisch announced that a frequently asked questions document concerning the October 15 special town meeting had been posted on the Town website. The document addresses meeting logistics and the question being voted on without advocating for a particular outcome.

Public Comment

T. Steadman reported on the September 16 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. He stated that Monkton and Bristol would receive transportation-planning funding under one request, with the allocation between towns to be determined by the entity completing the work. He also reported on potential grant opportunities, including Better Roads, Better Connections, and AARP placemaking funding, and discussed traffic-calming and possible regional policing options. He will continue to report on the Committee's work and related opportunities.

M. Casey requested follow-up concerning a prior Silver Street road-crew and Sheriff's Department incident, his driveway culvert, and drainage concerns. He also raised concerns about private drainage work, and equipment in the right-of-way.

S. Peisch explained that the Selectboard does not arbitrate private disputes between neighbors. T. Currier stated that, under Town policy, driveway culverts are the responsibility of the property owner unless Town work directly requires an alteration. He stated that the Highway Department did not mow around or alter the pipe in question and that the Sheriff's Department had been present during Silver Street work because of road-crew safety concerns.



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S. Peisch stated that the Town will continue to monitor the right-of-way and will respond if conditions cause damage to the roadway or other public infrastructure. He will provide M. Casey a written response after obtaining legal guidance regarding the applicable policies and statutes.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

W. Crandall moved to approve the meeting minutes for September 10, 2026 as written. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review & Approve Overweight Permits

J. Szarejko reported one overweight permit had been reviewed. He stated that the applicant had signed the permit and had the required insurance in order. The permit was approved.

Permits approved since last selectboard meeting include: VT Outdoor Services

Review & Approve Facility Use Requests

This item was skipped due to lack of requests.

Review & Approve Check & Payroll Warrants

S. Bouchard moved to approve Payroll Warrant Report #60923 in the amount of \$13,796.00. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

W. Crandall moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant Report #60924 in the amount of \$117,081.57. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The largest accounts-payable expense was the Town's Bond Bank payment for Town Hall. Other expenses were reviewed by the Board.

Review & Approve Proposed Updated Facility Use Policy

S. Bouchard presented the proposed updated Facility Use Policy. She and W. Crandall had incorporated the Board's prior feedback, updated outdated language, clarified insurance and facility rules, corrected the Town address, and added provisions for the pavilions and recreation fields, including rules concerning open fires, trash, decorations, vehicles, field use, and overnight parking at Morse Park.

T. Steadman asked whether the overnight-parking provision would affect overnight parking at the Park and Ride. S. Peisch clarified that the Facility Use Policy applies to Morse Park and Town facilities, not the Park and Ride. The existing Park and Ride policy permits parking for up to seven continuous days, subject to listed exceptions.

S. Peisch moved to approve the updated Facility Use Policy dated September 24, 2026, contingent upon approval by the Town Attorney. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Peisch will send the policy to the Town Attorney for review. The Board also discussed making a minor revision to the adoption language to avoid confusion with the prior policy.



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Review & Approve Street Naming Ordinance Policy

S. Peisch presented the proposed updated Street Naming and Street Numbering Ordinance. The draft incorporated the Board's prior feedback by clarifying that private-road applicants may submit a proposed road name to the Zoning Administrator; the name will be vetted by the State E-911 Coordinator before Selectboard review.

S. Peisch moved to approve the Street Naming and Street Numbering Ordinance, contingent upon approval by the Town Attorney. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Peisch will send the ordinance to the Town Attorney for review.

Discuss Amendments to Traffic Ordinance to Establish School Zone Speed Limit

S. Peisch introduced discussion of a possible establishment of a 25-mph school zone near Monkton Central School. He reported that the Town's 2024 traffic study covers the area and that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns believes it qualifies as the required traffic study. He also reported that the school principal supports steps that would improve student safety.

The Board discussed making the limit effective at all times rather than only during school hours, noting that children use the playground and surrounding areas beyond the school day. J. Szarejko and T. Currier supported a full-time 25-mph limit. J. Szarejko reported frequent speeding near Fern Glade Road, including vehicles traveling 60 to 70 mph, particularly toward the school from Monkton Ridge.

The Board and public discussed possible school-zone boundaries. Possibilities included Pond Road on the west and a point near Fern Glade Road, Cedar Lane, or the bottom of the hill approaching from Monkton Ridge on the east. The discussion also addressed the need for adequate signage for vehicles entering from Pond Road, the walking connection near the Park and Ride, existing radar-sign equipment, and costs for new posts and signs.

T. Currier will measure possible boundary locations, identify sign and post requirements, and obtain cost estimates. The Board will revisit the exact boundaries and signage plan at a future meeting.

S. Peisch moved to send the draft Traffic Ordinance amendment creating a school zone to the Town Attorney for review. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department

Tyler Bridge Road Weight Resolution

S. Peisch reported that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns advised that if the Town determines Tyler Bridge Road is unsafe for travel, the appropriate action would be closure rather than a temporary weight restriction, because agricultural vehicles are



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exempt from such restrictions under state law. VLCT recommended obtaining an independent engineering assessment if the Town considers a temporary restriction.

The Board discussed obtaining both the assessment of Tim Parent, who performed prior emergency repair work, and an independent opinion from an outside qualified professional or State resource. The Board discussed monitoring the culvert for settlement, its age and visible condition, potential effects on local businesses and residents, anticipated replacement costs, and potential use of State Highway Structures Grant funding.

T. Currier stated that the existing concrete, steel plate, and asphalt repair appeared likely to hold for the time being, but he could not estimate how long that period would be. He supported an outside evaluation and use of State contacts where possible. J. Szarejko and W. Crandall also supported obtaining an independent opinion before deciding whether to impose a restriction or close the road.

No formal action was taken on a temporary weight restriction. The Board will seek further expert evaluation and consider replacement planning and funding as part of the upcoming budget process.

Biweekly Update

T. Currier reported that ditching work on Hardscrabble Road is expected to be completed next week. The crew installed nearly 160 feet of culvert during the week and will complete final ditching; after T. Currier's vacation, the crew will return to finish mulching and seeding.

T. Currier reported that brush blades had been installed on the roadside mower and that the Highway Department would continue opening roadside areas in preparation for winter. He reported that the Town did not receive the excavator grant, but the Town obtained equipment quotes during the process. The Highway Department will inspect the existing excavator this winter and discuss options at a future meeting.

T. Currier reported a substantial increase in carbide-blade costs. A one-foot carbide blade section that cost approximately \$220 last year now costs approximately \$547; an 11-foot plow blade would cost approximately \$6,000. He will obtain pricing for standard steel blades and compare cost and wear performance before making a recommendation. The Town currently has spare carbide blades sufficient for two full plow-blade sets.

The Board discussed the Town's approximately even split between paved and gravel roads and the relative wear on blades. Carbide blades last longer, particularly on paved roads, while steel blades cost about half as much but wear faster.

T. Currier reported that advance notification letters to homeowners before major road projects have worked well on Hardscrabble Road and Church Road. He recommended continuing the practice, including marked locations and sufficient notice for residents to ask questions or provide feedback. The Board supported continuing this approach.



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After Hardscrabble Road, the Highway Department plans to complete a one-day project enlarging the turnaround near the cemetery, address washout concerns on Silver Street, and then complete work on the upper section of Piney Woods Road. T. Currier estimated that Piney Woods Road work could begin in approximately three weeks, subject to project timing and weather. The Town will provide advance notification to affected residents.

Piney Woods Road

S. Peisch and J. Szarejko reported on meetings with Vermont Emergency Management and DuBois & King regarding the denied stream-alteration permit for Piney Woods Road. Vermont Emergency Management and DuBois & King recommended pursuing a FEMA scope-of-work change to add a second box culvert, rather than continuing to seek approval for the original design.

The Board discussed two options: continuing to seek State approval for the original FEMA-funded design, or requesting that FEMA fund a revised scope of work that includes a second box culvert necessary to meet State standards. Vermont Emergency Management, DuBois & King, and counsel involved in the discussions recommended the second option.

J. Szarejko stated that pursuing the scope-of-work change would avoid delays caused by continued disagreement with the State and could keep the project on schedule for design and bidding over the winter, award in March, and construction beginning in spring or summer. Vermont Emergency Management committed to assist with the required forms and process. The Town would remain responsible for its local cost share, estimated at 12.5 percent, for any added project cost.

By consensus, the Board agreed to DuBois & King pursuing the FEMA scope-of-work change with the support of Vermont Emergency Management for the second box culvert. S. Peisch and J. Szarejko will continue coordination with Vermont Emergency Management, DuBois & King, and FEMA.

Hollow Road Update

J. Szarejko reported that he and T. Currier met with State river and wetlands staff regarding the Hollow Road culvert/bridge and surrounding wetlands complex. The State representative recommended that the Town retain an engineering firm to prepare a hydraulic assessment and determine an appropriate long-term solution.

The Board discussed the complexity of the site, including wetlands and beaver activity, the need for a solution that will work over the long term, and the absence of funds in the current budget for consulting work. J. Szarejko noted that an outside professional evaluating Tyler Bridge Road might also provide preliminary guidance on Hollow Road.



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Grants

PACIF Safety Grant

The Board discussed applying for the 2026 VLCT PACIF Safety Grant, which provides a 50-percent reimbursement for eligible safety equipment. Eligible items may include traffic cones, road signs, plow blades, safety equipment, and related items. The application deadline is October 31.

The Board supported applying. T. Currier will develop a list of proposed eligible items, including possible school-zone signs, traffic-control equipment, replacement barrel cones, safety equipment, and plow-blade-related items. The Town will complete and submit the application.

Better Road Program

J. Szarejko recommended that the Town pursue a Better Roads grant for Boro Hill Road. He stated that he had spoken with Lathrop about potential work that could reduce the project's cost and duration. T. Currier agreed that working with Lathrop would be advantageous for the Town.

By consensus, the Board agreed to focus a Better Roads application on Boro Hill Road. The Board will further develop the project scope and application as the program opens.

Other Business

T. Currier asked for public and Board feedback on the new grader and whether additional operator training would be useful. Board members and attendees expressed positive feedback about the work completed with the grader. S. Peisch noted that some residents would like to see the grader in more locations; S. Bouchard, W. Crandall, and J. Szarejko expressed support for the crew's work and for additional training if requested.

T. Currier revisited an idea for a community "Touch-a-Truck" event and a contest to name Town Highway Department trucks. He proposed holding the event on a Friday and announcing selected names. The Board expressed support for further planning.

Action Items

Sam

- S. Peisch will provide M. Casey a written response after obtaining Town Attorney guidance regarding culvert and Highway Policy issues.
- S. Peisch will send the updated Facility Use Policy and Street Naming and Street Numbering Ordinance to the Town Attorney for review.
- S. Peisch will send the draft school-zone Traffic Ordinance amendment to the Town Attorney and [Carol—title/name to confirm].
- S. Peisch and J. Szarejko will direct and coordinate the Piney Woods Road FEMA scope-of-work change with Vermont Emergency Management and DuBois & King.



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- S. Peisch will obtain expert input on the Tyler Bridge Road culvert before determining whether a restriction or closure is warranted.

Joe

- J. Szarejko and T. Currier will continue to coordinate on the Hollow Road hydraulic-assessment needs.

Trevor

- T. Currier will measure potential school-zone boundaries, determine sign and post needs, and obtain cost estimates.
- T. Currier will complete Hardscrabble Road ditching, arrange final seeding and mulching, continue road-mowing work, and provide advance notice to residents before Piney Woods Road work begins.
- T. Currier will obtain pricing and performance information for carbide and steel plow blades.
- T. Currier will develop a list of eligible PACIF Safety Grant equipment; the Town will prepare the grant application before the October 31 deadline.
- T. Currier will continue planning a Touch-a-Truck event and truck-naming activity.
- J. Szarejko & T. Currier will develop a Better Roads grant application focused on Boro Hill Road for the Board to approve and submit.

Adjourn

W. Crandall moved to adjourn. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Jones