

Select Board Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Members Present: Douglas Ludewig, Chair, Timothy McDonald, Vice Chair, Krisitin Sanborn, Harold Jones, and Kent Ackley

Staff Present: Linda Cohen, Town Manager, Kevin Mulherin, Police Chief, Dan Roy, Fire Chief, and Elizabeth Bertrand, Secretary.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Motion was made by Kent Ackley and seconded by Ms. Sanborn to appoint Mr. Ludewig as Chair. Passage 4/1/0, with Mr. McDonald voting in the opposition.

Motion was made by Mr. Ackley and seconded by Mr. Ludewig to appoint Ms. Sanborn for Vice Chair. Motion was then made by Mr. Jones to appoint Mr. McDonald for Vice Chair.

Vote for Ms. Sanborn Passed 3-2, with Mr. Jones and Mr. McDonald voting in the opposition.

Vote for Mr. McDonald failed 2-3 with Mr. Ludewig, Mr. Ackley, and Ms. Sanborn in the opposition.

3. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2021

Motion was made Mr. Ackley by and seconded by Ms. Sanborn to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting. Passage 5/0/0.

4. Department Reports

Mr. Roy reported there have been few calls. The firefighters have been doing some training. The beach party went well. They are also hoping to receive a grant from Firehouse Subs. Mr. Roy let the board know that there is a screening program for cancer which the firefighters will be participating in.

Chief Mulherin summarized his monthly report. Kirk Barkman has been accepted into the academy and will be graduating in December. The 25 MPH speed limit signs have been ordered. He summarized the data from the electronic speed limit sign that had been placed on Main Street. Tuesday August 2nd is National Night Out at the Police Department.

Ms. Cohen worked with the RFP that Mr. McDonald submitted last meeting. Some deadlines at the end are moved back to January due to contracting availability. There is now a donate button on the Monmouth Town Website, with additional information on how to donate cash or checks. The RFP on the playground has been posted on the website with a copy of the drawing. Admin building is getting carpet at the end of August, and they are getting quotes for heat pumps. Ms. Cohen hopes we will be in the admin building by the first meeting in September.

5. Select Board Reports

No Select Board Reports

6. Public Comment

No Public Comment

7. Board and Committee Appointments

Motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Ms. Sanborn to make the following appointments. Passage 5/0/0.

Board of Appeals Term to Expire 7/31/24
David Lewis

Conservation Commission Term to Expire 7/31/2024
Martha Geores
Herbert Whittier

Planning Board Term to Expire 7/31/2024
Rick Grant, Alternate
Lawrence Saucier
Ray Simond

Recreation Commission Term to Expire 7/31/2024
Thomas Beckwith

8. Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign a Lease Agreement for a Plow Truck

Voters approved purchase of a plow truck in June.

Motion was made by Ms. Sanborn and seconded by Mr. Jones for passage. Passage 5/0/0.

9. Approving the Maine Municipal Association Ballot

This is an annual item that comes before all members of MMA. Mr. McDonald suggested that the board should not approve this ballot because it lacks choice.

Motion was made by Mr. McDonald to not approve the ballot. The motion failed due to lack of second.

Motion was made by Ms. Sanborn and seconded by Mr. Ackley to approve the ballot.

Mr. Jones echoed the sentiment from Mr. McDonald's motion, suggesting that it should be conveyed to MMA. Ms. Cohen let the board know that there isn't much interest in these positions.

Passage 3/2/0, with Mr. Jones and Mr. McDonald in the opposition.

10. Appointing Building Committee for Former Monmouth Academy Renovation

Building committee spots were advertised on Facebook.

Motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Ms. Sanborn to make the following appointments. Passage 5/0/0.

Steven Brown
Lawrence Buggia
Laurie Gifford
Dawn Hodsdon
Paul Ruopp Jr.
Sarah Simpson

Motion was made by Mr. Ackley and seconded by Mr. Jones to appoint Ms. Sanborn as the Select Board liaison to the Building Committee. Passage 4/1/0, with Mr. McDonald in the opposition.

11. Adopting Policy Regarding Virtual Meetings

Prior to the pandemic, there was no ability to facilitate virtual meetings. The legislature recently adopted a policy allowing virtual meetings to take place under specific parameters. Each board and committee will have to adopt their own policy.

Motion was made by Mr. Ackley and seconded by Ms. Sanborn for passage of the policy.

Mr. Ackley discussed that the virtual meeting held thus far have been popular among constituents and urged the other board members to support this policy. Ms. Cohen added that many municipalities experienced increase in participation due to virtual meetings.

Passage 5/0/0.

12. Adding June 19th, Juneteenth to the List of Holidays in the Employee Handbook and Labor Agreement

Motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Jones to add Juneteenth to the List of Holidays in the Employee Handbook and Labor Agreement. Passage 5/0/0.

13. Warrant #2

Motion was made by Mr. McDonald and seconded by Mr. Ackley to approve Warrant #2. Passage 5/0/0.

14. Work Session – Solar Options

Ms. Cohen reached out to Purchase Power Options to ask about solar options. First option is buying into solar array that may not be in the Town of Monmouth. Electricity rates would go down, anticipated at \$3000/year. Second option is a power purchase agreement, where a solar array is built either in or out of the municipality, the electricity is purchased through them and the option to purchase the array comes along in five or seven years. The third option is regarding rooftop units, with a similar policy to the second option.

Mr. McDonald had concerns regarding subsidies on solar power and on roof units. He suggested speaking to the town of Readfield. Mr. Jones echoed the concerns on subsidies. His preference was roof or ground arrays, and Ms. Sanborn agreed. Mr. Ackley said that the ground-based arrays are easier to install and mentioned the issue of the cost of traditional power on the climate.

Ms. Cohen reached out to Readfield and confirmed that have a community solar farm. The consensus from the board was for Ms. Cohen to investigate options for what may work best for the town,

15. Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Ackley to adjourn. Passage 5/0/0, 7:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Bertrand, Board Secretary