

**MONROE TOWN COUNCIL
Monroe, Connecticut
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

April 27, 2015– 8:00 PM – Council Chambers

Present: Chairman Frank Lieto
Vice Chairman Enid Lipeles
Councilmember Deborah Heim
Councilmember Phyllis Kansky
Councilmember Kenneth Kellogg
Councilmember Raymond Knapp, Jr.
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin
Councilmember Sean O'Rourke
Councilmember Kevin Reid

Also Present: First Selectman Stephen J. Vavrek

A regular meeting of the Monroe Town Council was held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Monroe Town Hall.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Regular Town Council meeting held on April 13, 2015.

Motion to approve and the minutes and voting record of the Special Town Council meeting held on April 20, 2015.

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously to the April 13, 2015 Town Council Meeting and the Special Town Council meeting on April 20, 2015.

COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated April 21, 2015 regarding a bid waiver for a Dump Truck Body for the Public Works Department.

Correspondence from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated April 2, 2015 regarding an appointment to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Correspondence from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated April 2, 2015 regarding an appointment to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Correspondence from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated April 23, 2015 regarding an appointment to the Health Department Commission.

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Correspondence from the Chairman of the EMS Facility Workgroup to Town Council Chairman regarding an appointment to the EMS Facility Workgroup.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

APPOINTMENTS

Motion: (D. Martin)

To approve the appointment of Peter Oliva (D) 57 Longview Road to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term ending February 24, 2019.

Second: (R. Knapp)

Discussion: Mr. Oliva is a long time resident of Monroe and is currently employed by the City of Bridgeport as a Fire Lieutenant. His previous community service includes volunteer work with EMS, American Red Cross and AYSO. This appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Dan Hunsberger.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (D. Martin)

To approve the appointment of John Epifano (D) 25 Gerardo Drive to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending June 30, 2018.

Second: (P. Kansky)

Discussion: Mr. Epifano is currently employed as a Project Manager with Epifano Builders, Inc. In 2004 John served on the Monroe Planning and Zoning Commission. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Felix Giannini.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Kellogg)

To approve the appointment of Michael A. Vitello (R) 30 Hearthstone Road to the EMS Facility Group Workgroup.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Vitello has over 40 years of experience, having worked as both an Owner/President and Executive Project Manager in the construction industry. Mr. Viello has worked on projects that include multiple public buildings in Connecticut, including public safety. In Monroe, Mr. Vitello has also served the community as a member of the Architectural Review Board. This appointment is requested subsequent to the resignation of Mr. John Quinlavin from the Workgroup. Chairman Lieto noted a few members of L&A met with Mr. Vitello for an interview with a bipartisan group and information was reported back to Town Council to see if there were any issues/conflicts. He noted all voted unanimously that Mr. Vitello was an excellent choice.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (D. Martin)

To approve the appointment of Eileen Fuchs (D) 251 Old Zoar Road to the Health Department Commission for a term ending April 27, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Chairman Lieto noted for the record, a list of revised appointments for Eileen Fuchs, Dr. Michael O'Reilly, Nicole Lieto and Dennis Condon were appointed to the Board of Health not Health Department Commission.

RESTATE MOTION

Motion: (D. Martin)

To approve the appointment of Eileen Fuchs (D) 251 Old Zoar Road to the Board of Health for term ending April 27, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Chairman Lieto noted the revised appointments state a term ending April 27, 2018 not April 27, 2017.

AMEND MOTION

Motion: (F. Lieto)

Second: (E. Lipeles)

To amend the motion to read a term ending April 27, 2018.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (D. Martin)

To approve the appointment of Eileen Fuchs (D) 251 Old Zoar Road to the Board of Health for a term ending April 27, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Councilmember Martin stated she fully supports all the appointments to the Board of Health, but noted to form a Health Department Commission; Council was to form it by ordinance. Chairman Lieto noted we need to move forward on the Board of Health so the Board could be seated and stated after all prior meetings, Councilmember's were unanimously agreeable. Councilmember Martin's concern was the First Selectman forming a new Commission authorized by Town Council. Chairman Lieto noted all the issues stated have all been resolved during our prior meetings. Chairman Lieto confirmed we have five members with one being the Director of Health. Councilmember Kellogg stated we are creating a Municipal Department and have the Municipal Board of Health reestablished so the board members can assist the First Selectman in making decisions. He noted there is a tremendous amount of work to be done to get the Health Department running and firmly believes we need to get this body established now and not delay any longer.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (D. Heim)

To approve the appointment of Dr. Michael O'Reilly (R) of 100 Webb Circle to the Board of Health for a term ending April 27, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: None
Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To approve the appointment of Nicole Lieto (R) of 528 Moose Hill Road to the Board of Health for a term ending April 27, 2018.

Second: (K. Reid)

Discussion: Chairman Lieto noted Ms. Lieto is his wife and he will be abstaining from this vote. Ms. Lieto is a dental hygienist and is experienced in the health field. She is looking forward to volunteering for the town of Monroe.

Motion passed 8-0-1 (F. Lieto abstained from voting)

Motion: (K. Reid)

To approve the appointment of Dennis Condon (R) of 9 Stable Ridge Road to the Board of Health for a term ending April 27, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Condon is a former EMS Chairman of the EMS Commission. He is currently a Senior Executive in the health care industry with Advanced Radiology and has a Masters Degree in Health Care Administration.

Motion passed 9-0

ACTION ITEMS

Town Council Committee on Finance, Education, Health & Public Safety Matters

Councilmember Heim reported she did not meet due to personal matters. The next scheduled meeting has not been set. Councilmember Knapp reported Bernie Sippin is no longer Commissioner and assumes he has resigned, and noted the Police Department is still discussing body cameras and costs. Councilmember Kellogg reported he attended the EMS Commission meeting with discussions on crew retention and issues with riders/contracts.

Town Council Committee on Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Parks & Recreation Matters

Councilmember O'Rourke reported they did not meet. The next scheduled meeting will be in May. He noted Parks and Recreation had discussions regarding the replacement of fencing around the tennis court area. He noted the firehouse maintenance issues are still waiting for Public Works to come back with an outline of numbers and costs for review. Councilmember Kansky stated Inland/Wetlands did not meet.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Chairman Lieto stated the committee did not meet and they will have a scheduled meeting shortly.

Trumbull/Monroe Health District

Councilmember Knapp reported his meeting will be held on April 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. He noted the Health District is now in the process of renewing swimming pool licenses for Trumbull and Monroe. The license is issued from May to September for seasonal pools and May to May for year round pools. As of July 1, 2015, the license will be transferred to either the town of

Trumbull or Monroe. The Health District reminds residents and homeowners to remove any standing water from their property after any significant rainfall. Mosquitoes breed around the home and can be reduced significantly. Available at the Health District are larvicide briquettes and mosquito control information. Briquettes can be purchased at the Health District and are \$1.00 each. They can also be purchased at your local hardware stores. The Health District is offering free dermascan screenings on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Friday, May 8, 2015 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The screenings shows underline facial skin damage. Contact the Health District to schedule an appointment. The Health District has not yet received the 4th quarter payments from either of the member towns at this point. All services continue to be provided at the same level.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Vavrek noted he has been very busy with the Local Health Department and the budget. He noted the Attorney's will be meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2015 to discuss questions. He wanted to thank Town Council for getting the Board together and he is very excited about having a new Department. First Selectman Vavrek noted job descriptions are ready to go and hopes the meeting tomorrow will move this new Health Department without delays. Councilmember Knapp questioned if a Consultant has been appointed and Councilmember Martin wanted some information on why bills are not being paid with the Health District. First Selectman Vavrek stated this will be discussed at the meeting. Councilmember Martin questioned why a member from the Democratic Town Committee (Dan Tuba) was denied. First Selectman Vavrek noted a discussion was done and an agreement was made to be taken off the ticket. Chairman Lieto noted this is the First Selectman's right and his reasoning need not be questioned. Councilmember Kansky thought Dan Tuba had 30 years of experience in Planning and Zoning and felt he can bring a great deal to the table and she would like the First Selectman to reconsider this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Monroe Local Health

Chairman Lieto stated this topic will remain on the agenda for discussions and updates. Councilmember Kansky noted that the Board of Health has been established and will have a Board of Health Department but wanted to know if it was in the budget to have a Sanitarian and also get someone to do secretarial work. First Selectman Vavrek stated everything was in the budget for this.

NEW BUSINESS

2015-2016 Annual Town of Monroe Budget

Chairman Lieto put this on the agenda for discussion tonight with members of Council. First Selectman Vavrek noted there have been misconceptions of the budget. He wanted the public to know with the benefits of social media, he has talked to some members of the community and helped them understand their tax increase/decrease. He noted there is no fat in the budget and feels if the budget does go down, he would like members of Council to really think hard whether good or bad. Chairman Lieto stated he supports the budget and feels all 3 boards worked well together. He hopes the budgets/meetings can be televised for all to see as he feels it is important

that people see how the process works. He hopes the budget will pass on this 2nd referendum. Councilmember Kellogg noted the budget originally put forth was lean and responsible. He feels the First Selectman did make adjustments and also agrees there is a certain amount of confusion relevant to what the tax and mil rate impact will be, and he would like this to be communicated better to the public. Councilmember Reid noted he would personally like to volunteer to work getting media to televise the budget and work alongside Jack Zamarly, IT Department.

2ND PARTICIPATION - None

Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on May 11, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (R. Knapp)

To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta
Town Council Clerk