

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

**August 24, 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 Sean O'Rourke  
Councilmember Kevin Reid

**Not Present:** First Selectman Stephen J. Vavrek  
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin

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A regular meeting of the Monroe Town Council was held on Monday, August 24, 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 June 22, 2015 (Session 2015-12).

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Regular Town Council meeting held on July 27, 2015 (Session 2015-13).

Request for Refunds dated August 5, 2015 totaling \$6,286.72.

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously to the June 22, 2015 Town Council Meeting and July 27, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion: (F. Lieto)**

To go into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation: Terebesi vs. Town of Monroe. Invited to attend were Town Attorney John Fracassini, Attorney Richard Buturla, and Police Chief John Salvatore.

**Second: (E. Lipeles)**

**Motion passed 8-0**

Return to Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To approve and authorize Attorney Buturla to file the offer of judgment on behalf of the Town of Monroe.

**Second: (K. Reid)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto stated an appropriate amount of discussion was done during the Executive Session.

**Motion passed 8-0**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Memo from the Tax Collector to Town Council Chairman dated August 5, 2015 totaling \$6,286.72.

Letter of Opinion from Town Attorney Fracassini to the First Selectman dated August 17, 2015 regarding Emergency Medical Services Facility Agreement.

Memo from Parks & Recreation Commission to Town Council Chairman dated August 18, 2015 regarding Wolfe Park Field Project Sec. 8-24 Review/Application.

Letter of Opinion from Town Attorney Fracassini to the First Selectman dated August 20, 2015 regarding Tradition Energy Contract.

*A special recognition and Proclamation Ceremony was presented to the Monroe U11 Little League Girls Softball Team 2015 State Champions. State Representation J.P. Sredzinski was present to give this recognition.*

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

**APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Lieto appointed Councilmember Phyllis Kansky for the Pension Committee due to her experience with the pension. This appointment replaces Mr. Tony Unger. All Councilmember's were in favor of this appointment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

Councilmember Heim reported most of the Boards and Commissions have not met. Councilmember Kellogg noted the EMS Commission will be meeting this week to work on the part-time Administrator position, and he hopes this will be ready for consideration at the next Town Council Meeting. He also noted the Board of Health has been very busy with a variety of matters. He stated the acting interim Director did make note of inspections for the month of July.

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

Councilmember O'Rourke reported the sub-committee has not met. The next scheduled meeting for Parks & Recreation will be held in September.

### ***Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters***

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported they met tonight at 7:00 p.m. and discussed the EMS Facility Agreement, the Health Department Food Inspector Job Description, and the Tradition Energy Contract, on the agenda for tonight's meeting, under Unfinished Business and New Business.

### ***Trumbull/Monroe Health District***

Councilmember Knapp reported the Health District is still in the hands of the Town Attorney's, noting the bank has put a freeze on all the accounts. He noted the premises are now secured along with the equipment and furniture. The next meeting will not be scheduled until they hear back from the Attorney's.

### ***First Selectman's Update***

First Selectman Vavrek was not present, therefore, nothing to report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Monroe Local Health**

Councilmember Kellogg stated the Board of Health is up and running and right now it is focused on the Director and getting the new Department situated. He also noted budgetary items are being looked at but it is still too early to see the big picture.

### **Emergency Medical Services Facility Agreement**

#### **Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To approve, adopt, and authorize the First Selectman to execute on behalf of the Town of Monroe Proposed EMS Facility Agreement/Jacunski Humes Architects, LLC.

#### **Second: (D. Heim)**

**Discussion:** Councilmember Heim stated the funding has been approved by the Board of Finance and EMS would like to proceed with this. Councilmember Kellogg noted the agreement was looked at by the EMS Facility Workgroup, where comments and suggestions were submitted by Town Attorney, John Fracassini. These comments and suggestions were sent to Brian W. Humes, and he has agreed to all the proposed comments and/or changes from the Committee. Councilmember Kellogg requests to move forward on this agreement.

**Motion passed 8-0**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Health Department Food Inspector Job Description**

#### **Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To approve the Health Department Food Inspector Job Description and the part time rate will be approved at a rate not to exceed \$40.00 per hour.

#### **Second: (K. Kellogg)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted Human Resources Director, Cathy Lombardi and Councilmember Kellogg gave significant input and no changes were made to the proposed job description. Councilmember Kellogg noted the job summary performs food service inspections

under the direction of the Director of Health. He noted this is just a Food Inspector and not a full Sanitarian.

**Motion passed 8-0**

**Tradition Energy Contract**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To approve, adopt, and authorize the First Selectman to execute on behalf of the Town of Monroe the proposed agreement between the Town of Monroe and TFS Energy Solutions, LLC d/b/a Tradition Energy of Stamford, Connecticut.

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted Ron Bunovsky has been involved with Attorney Fracassini's opinion letter and this contract was also discussed at the L&A meeting and voted unanimously to be presented to Town Council for consideration. Ron Bunovsky noted with the services and recommendations being provided by Tradition Energy they are quickly acting on recommendations in order to get the best possible prices. Chairman Lieto noted this gives judgment to the Director of Finance and the Director of Public Works and even the First Selectman to make these on the spot decisions without the necessity of coming back to the Town Council and more importantly going out to bid.

**Motion passed 8-0**

**Amend Agenda**

**Motion: (F. Lieto)**

To include New Business Item D, Oil and Gas Consortium Authority

**Second: (E. Lipeles)**

**Motion passed 8-0**

**Oil and Gas Consortium Authority**

**Motion: (D. Heim)**

To authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract relative to locking in an oil and gas pricing contract.

**Second: (E. Lipeles)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted this would alleviate the necessity to come back to Council for approval.

**Motion passed 8-0**

**Wolfe Park Field Project Sec. 8-24 Review/Application**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To make a referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission to review pursuant to General Statutes 8-24, the Wolfe Park Multi Purpose Field Project.

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted the Sec. 8-24 states no municipal agency or legislative body shall substantially improve land without referring a proposal to take such action to the Planning Commission. He also noted he would like Frank Cooper, Director of Parks and Recreation to keep Councilmember O'Rourke informed with updates on the parks. Frank Cooper was present and reported the primary function of the fields would be to house the soccer and lacrosse athletic

programs currently operating in the town. He stated during the spring season, sharing field space has created significant issues with turf density and the department's ability to maintain optimal playing conditions. The establishment of the fields would reduce the intense wear and tear caused by these sports and would allow for a field rotation with less destructive activities. As a result, the maintenance performed on the athletic areas will result in greater longevity and playability throughout the park. In addition, there exists a burgeoning AAU and travel softball programs for girls. Currently, they have extremely limited use of the park's facilities and request more field time and space each year. Monroe has a tradition of successful girl's softball at the high school level and does not see this interest waning in the future. Funding for the project comes from the estate of Mrs. Lillian Wilton which was previously considered and approved by Town Council in 2014. Councilmember O'Rourke questioned the fencing issues involving the tennis courts. Mr. Cooper noted they are looking into a new systematic system for patching the tennis courts called a post tensioning concrete system. He also noted the Kids Creation needs new apparatus for the playground.

**Motion passed 8-0**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PARTICIPATION** - None

*Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on September 16, 2015*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: (R. Knapp)**

To adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

**Second: (E. Lipeles)**

**Motion passed 8-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta  
Town Council Clerk