

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

February 10, 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 February 9, 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 special meeting held on January 29, 2015 (Session 2015-02).

Request for Refunds dated February 5, 2015 totaling \$6,438.29.

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously to the January 29, 2015 Special Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Lieto noted there will be no Executive Session tonight as Attorney Fracassini will not be present at this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Memo from the Town Council Chairman to the Town Clerk dated January 28, 2015 regarding a Public Hearing for the Proposed 2015/2016 Town of Monroe Annual Budget.

Memo from the Tax Collector and Town Clerk to Town Council Chairman dated February 4, 2015 regarding Salaries.

Memo from Tax Collector to Town Council Chairman dated February 4, 2015 regarding Request for Refunds totaling \$6,438.29.

Memo from First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 5, 2015 regarding an appointment Board of Assessment Appeals.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

APPOINTMENTS

Motion: (D. Martin)

To approve the appointment of Jennifer Aguilar (D) of 32 Surrey Lane to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending February 1, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Jennifer has lived in Monroe for 11 years. She is married with three children in the school system. Jen has served as Co-PTO president for three years and is currently on PTO for Jockey Hollow and Fawn Hollow schools. She received the Monroe Friends of Education award in 2009. Her volunteer activities include chairing events such as Fawn Hollow's fall fundraiser, Holiday Breakfast and silent auctions as well as the Town Trunk and Treat for the past two years. Jen currently serves on the Youth Commission.

Motion passed 9-0

ACTION ITEMS

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

Councilmember Heim reported there was a meeting scheduled but due to winter storms they have been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is February 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Councilmember O'Rourke reported a Parks and Recreation meeting was scheduled but was cancelled due to weather and no meeting has been rescheduled. Councilmember Kansky also noted her meeting was cancelled due to weather. The next scheduled meeting for Planning and Zoning is February 19, 2015.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported they are still working on the anti-blight ordinance.

Trumbull/Monroe Health District

Councilmember Knapp reported they were to meet this evening and the next meeting has not been set.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Vavrek wanted to thank Ron Bunovsky, Acting Financial Director and Heidi Meade, Deputy Director of Finance on their hard work preparing the budget for tonight's meeting. He noted because of weather conditions, everyone worked nights and weekends to have this budget ready for tonight's meeting. First Selectman Vavrek stated he spoke with Planning and Zoning noting a new development, outside of Victoria Drive will be discussed soon, as well as an approval on Axel Plastics, an 11,000 square foot building that will house approximately 40-80 people.

Chairman Lieto wanted to thank all Council members for taking on all the extra work and time to help stream line all meetings that have been presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Monroe Local Health

Chairman Lieto stated he wants to keep this topic on the agenda until a resolution is in place noting everyone wants to know which direction the town of Monroe will go. He noted as developments occur, information will be reported to Council, but unfortunately, meetings have been cancelled due to the weather conditions. Chairman Lieto noted Councilmember Heim's sub-committee will be working on this topic and meetings have been rescheduled.

First Selectman Vavrek invited Council members Kansky and Knapp to a meeting regarding the Health District that will be held on Friday, February 13, 2015 at the Trumbull Mall at 1:00 p.m. He noted if Monroe makes a decision to open our own Health District, we will need to have good staffing and provide the services with the best cost for the town of Monroe. He hopes this will be a team effort.

Councilmember Kansky questioned why the First Selectman did not want to look into the Valley. First Selectman Vavrek thought we need one town as opposed to the Valley and wants to do the right collaboration and felt we would not get the good service. First Selectman Vavrek noted from Councilmember Kansky's comment that it is a possibility to lose grant money if Monroe does go on their own, but noted we can collaborate with another town. He also noted he wished Trumbull held off for one year, but Trumbull did not want to do that. Councilmember Heim had concerns for being in the proper region if things do happen. Chairman Lieto noted our town is very blessed to have very knowledgeable people with initial skill sets so all of our questions can be answered. He also feels the citizens of Monroe should be protected and does not want to make a rushed decision on this matter as we need to be properly budgeted for these services. First Selectman Vavrek stated if we do go with an outside district that we at least get 3 days in town. Councilmember Kansky does not know how we can budget this as one sanitarium is not enough for work needed to get done. Chairman Lieto stated we will continue to keep discussing matters on the Health District.

NEW BUSINESS - None

2ND PARTICIPATION - None

Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on February 23, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (R. Knapp)

To adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta
Town Council Clerk