

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

**February 23, 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

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A regular meeting of the Monroe Town Council was held on Monday, February 23, 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 meeting held on February 9, 2015 (Session 2015-03).

Motion to approve the minutes of the public hearing on the Proposed 2015/2016 Annual Town of Monroe Budget held on February 9, 2015.

Motion to approve the minutes of the joint budget workshop session held on February 11, 2015.

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously to the February 9, 2015 Town Council Meeting, the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2015/2016 Annual Town of Monroe Budget held on February 9, 2015, and the Joint Budget Workshop session held on February 11, 2015.

**REAPPOINTMENTS**

**WMNR Commission**

Elizabeth Heiney (R) of 114 Hammertown Road for a term ending February 23, 2018

**Water Pollution Control Authority**

Michael Wellman (R) of 15 Bug Hill Road for a term ending June 30, 2018

**Housing Authority**

Robert Transillo (R) of 33 Pamela Drive for a term ending October 31, 2019

Walter Hedden (R) of 21 Woodycrest Road for a term ending October 31, 2018

**Emergency Medical Services Commission**

Paul L. Resnik (R) of Barn Hill Extension for a term ending December 1, 2017

David Ferris, Jr. (R) of 32 Blueberry Hill Road for a term ending December 1, 2017

John Quinlavin (R) of 689 Elm Street for a term ending December 1, 2017

#### **Economic Development Commission**

Matthew Levinson (R) of 56 Secret Hollow Road for a term ending January 31, 2020

#### **Architectural Review Board**

Raymond Ganser (R) of 96 Longview Road for a term ending December 5, 2017

Nakia Dube (R) of 117 Ripton Ridge for a term ending December 5, 2017

#### **Conservation and Water Resources Commission**

Marven Moss (R) of 110 Church Street for a term ending December 5, 2018

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 19, 2015 regarding an appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 19, 2015 regarding an appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 19, 2015 regarding various reappointments to boards and commissions.

Correspondence from Labor Attorney David Ryan to Town Council Chairman dated February 20, 2015 regarding Local 818, of Council #4, AFL-CIO and Monroe Chapter 136-1, Local 136, I.F.P.T.E. Agreements.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

### **APPOINTMENTS**

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

To approve the appointment of Edward J. Ryan, Jr. (R) of 495 Elm Street to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending February 23, 2016.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Ryan has lived in Monroe since 1975. He is a retired engineer and construction consultant. Mr. Ryan is a veteran and had served in the U.S. Army "61-64". Councilmember Heim stated this was a temporary position.

#### **Motion passed 9-0**

#### **Motion: (S. O'Rourke)**

To approve the appointment of Ernest U. Stone (R) of 119 Guinea Road to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending February 23, 2016.

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

**Discussion:** Mr. Stone is a long-time resident of Monroe. He is a veteran and had served in the U.S. Army "61-64". Chairman Lieto noted this is an expansion to the Board of Assessment Appeals during the revaluation year.

#### **Motion passed 9-0**

#### **Motion: (K. Reid)**

To approve the appointment of Mary Mclaughlin (R) of Seven Hollow Tree Road to the WMNR Commission for a term ending February 23, 2018.

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

**Discussion:** Mary is a long time resident of Monroe as well as a long time listener and volunteer for WMNR Radio. She has donated her time answering telephones during the three WMNR pledge drives. She will be a welcome contributor as a member of the WMNR Commission team. This appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Steve Rugh.

**Motion passed 9-0**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To approve the appointment of David Townson (R) of 25 Historic Drive to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term ending November 22, 2015.

**Second: (K. Reid)**

**Discussion:** David is a 7 year resident of Monroe. He is employed by Novartis Oncology Research as a Global Team Leader. He has volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America, as well as having served on industry boards including Concepts Worldwide Advisory Board, on the Board of Directors of 501© nonprofit and as Alumni Ambassador, Walden University. Mr. Townson has a PHD in Management, a Masters of Arts Business and Policy and a BA in Environmental Science. His organizational skills honed through his business career as well as his innate intelligence and high standard of ethics will serve him well in any voluntary position in our town and certainly on the Planning and Zoning Commission. This replaces the vacancy created by the resignation of Jim Weinberg. Chairman Lieto noted he had a resignation letter from Mr. Weinberg to Town Clerk, Marsha Motter Beno, and dated February 23, 2015, stamped received by Monroe Town Clerk, February 23, 2015, 2:59 p.m. and also by the First Selectman. Councilmember Martin noted Mr. Townson was interviewed by three (3) members of L&A was unanimously approved.

**Motion passed 9-0**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

Councilmember Heim reported they met with the Board of Education on February 19, 2015 and also with the Board of Finance. She noted they went over the schedule for the upcoming budget meetings and proposals for the auditors. She noted the EMS Commission had a discussion on the duties of the Administrative Assistant and they approved the paramedic and the contracts should be coming soon for Council approval. She stated EMS is getting information on the current policy Monroe has and what other towns do with aging accounts so we can come up with some solutions. Councilmember Heim also reported the Trumbull Health District hired an attorney, as they are a separate entity of the two towns to make sure the transition goes well regarding the disbanding of the District. She stated a draft was drawn up regarding the Health Department noting the functions of each department. Councilmember Heim noted a discussion of the Honeywell Project was also done and the Technology Department is working on the finalization of the copiers. The next scheduled meeting has not been set. Councilmember

Martin questioned the hiring of an attorney for the Health District and wanted to know who is paying for this attorney. Councilmember Heim thought it would be best to discuss with Councilmember Knapp. Chairman Lieto noted for the record, if this was Councilmember Heim's opinion or was this discussed at the meeting she attended. Councilmember Heim noted Councilmember Knapp is the liaison to the Health Department and that is what was relayed to her at the meeting. Councilmember Knapp noted it was funded by both towns. Councilmember

Martin continued to ask questions regarding the attorney, and Chairman Lieto stopped the line of questioning as he felt it was more appropriate to put on the agenda and invite appropriate members to the meeting so all Council members can get answers to all their questions.

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

Councilmember O'Rourke reported they met on February 17, 2015 and revisited the Wolfe Park closing of the kitchen near the senior picnic area. He noted the biggest issue was access to the bathrooms that will be closed and the space will be utilized as storage by the Parks and Recreation Department. He noted Mr. Cooper will be providing further clarification as to what their plans are for the space and how they will work around it. Mr. O'Rourke stated a discussion was done on the budget for the Land Use Department and this will be kept on their agenda. The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 10, 2015. Councilmember Kansky reported an application on 288 Monroe Turnpike for construction of a proposed Day Care Center, driveway, parking, and utilities, and associated site improvements. A motion was made to hold a public hearing and was passed 6-0. She also noted 5 Victoria Drive; an application was approved for activities associated with wetland restoration, a site improvement to the existing facility. She noted this was also approved.

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

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported they interviewed David Townson and were very impressed by his background and will also be going back to discussions on the anti-blight ordinance, once budget is completed.

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

Councilmember Knapp reported they have not met and has nothing to report. The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

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

First Selectman Vavrek stated for all residents that have a Smartphone, I- phone, or Android, they now have an interactive system to contact the Town Hall for any service requests, ask any department questions, or take pictures of pot holes or dead animals on the road to the town to get a response. The app also offers features to recommend places to eat and inform residents when a town meeting is being held. First Selectman Vavrek stated the Food Pantry will not be open on Thursdays, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. He noted the reason behind the Thursday closing was due to what was legal and what was not legal on the pensions for the part-time employees. First Selectman Vavrek concluded by stating they do get a number of calls regarding street plowing, and now they will have a GPS tracking device to actually track to see if in fact a particular street has been plowed. He noted the Dial-A-Dump Program will also be getting back on track. Councilmember Martin questioned the pensions on the Food Pantry and wanted the First Selectman to elaborate on this topic. First Selectman Vavrek stated anything over 19 hours would have to have a pension put on it, so it was expanded to 25 hours. Councilmember Kansky asked if the expanded hours were for the clerical contract. First Selectman Vavrek stated it was only for the employees working already. Councilmember Heim wanted to remind everyone the Food Pantry will be holding a Ladies Night Out at Roberto's Restaurant, Thursday, March 5,

2015 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 (includes wine and raffles), and all proceeds will go to the Food Pantry.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Monroe Local Health**

First Selectman Vavrek noted a meeting was held with the two towns to discuss how everything was set up. He handed out a DRAFT of some pertinent information what he is proposing for a Health District. The packet contained information about the Assistant Director of Health, Town Sanitarian, Assistant Sanitarian, highlights of areas of responsibility including sewage disposal and building, food service, etc. He would like Town Council members to read it for now, and hopefully, he will have more information next week. First Selectman Vavrek does not see more than 6 people to run the Health District. Councilmember Martin questioned the potential litigation to the town and if he was aware. First Selectman Vavrek stated yes he is aware but requested she ask Councilmember Raymond Knapp, since he is Chairman of the District. Chairman Lieto noted this will remain on the agenda and all members need to be updated as much as we can. Chairman Lieto questioned if the First Selectman had an idea what the number will be since they are faced with making an intelligent decision. First Selectman Vavrek noted \$170,000. He noted he will be meeting with Cathy Lombardi, Director of Human Resources, and hopefully have an answer on Wednesday during their meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Local 818, of Council #4, AFL-CIO Agreement**

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

To accept and authorize the First Selectman to execute on behalf of the Town of Monroe the tentative agreement between the Town of Monroe and Local 818 of Council #4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

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

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted that Council met prior to this meeting to discuss these contracts in a closed door meeting.

**Motion passes 9-0**

### **Monroe Chapter 136-1, Local 136, I.F.P.T.E. Agreement**

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

To accept and authorize the First Selectman to execute on behalf of the Town of Monroe the tentative agreement between the Town of Monroe and Monroe Chapter 136-1, Local 136 International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

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

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted that Council met prior to this meeting to discuss these contracts in a closed door meeting.

**Motion passes 9-0**

### **Proposed 2015/2016 Annual Town of Monroe Budget**

Chairman Lieto noted he left this on the agenda to get through this within the time constraints to get the budget to the Board of Finance, with the final budget due on February 27, 2015. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. He anticipates opening the floor to public comments or suggestions and then going through line item adjustments byway of motion and going by department and moving forward.

Chairman Lieto noted Mr. Cooper, Director of Parks and Recreation did send Mr. Manjos a spreadsheet in response to some questions asked by Council.

### **Monroe Volunteer Fire Department Roof**

Chairman Lieto stated he heard from Mr. Krize and he is working diligently to get this right, and his request was to have it on the agenda and to refer to Councilmember O'Rourke's sub-committee.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> PARTICIPATION**

*Paul Moyse, 37 Maplewood Drive* stated this was the first time he was hearing the Health District was suing the town of Monroe. He went to a Town Council meeting in Trumbull, and comments were made regarding Trumbull not being responsible for lease fees and feels that should be the responsibility of the Health District. He believes the lease fees are \$275,000 and wanted to know where Monroe stands legally. Mr. Moyse feels we need legal support and wanted to know if we really can be sued. He noted he has been on the Board of Health for six years and now he hears we are dissolving it. He feels as Monroe residents, we need to protect ourselves.

*Raymond Knapp, 61 Ripton Ridge Road* stated as Chairman of the Health District, he wants to make it plainly visible to everyone that to his knowledge never was there a discussion the Health District suing either town. He noted we were a separate entity, not covered by either town, and that is our reason for requiring our own representation.

*Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on March 9, 2015*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: (R. Knapp)**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

**Second: (E. Lipeles)**

**Motion passed 9-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta  
Town Council Clerk