

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

**March 9, 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, March 9, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Monroe Town Hall.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion to approve the minutes of the Joint Budget Workshop Session held on February 18, 2015.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop Session held on February 23, 2015.

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Regular Town Council meeting held on February 23, 2015.

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Budget Workshop Session dated February 25, 2015.

Request for Refunds dated March 4, 2015 totaling \$8,009.46.

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously to the Joint Budget Workshop Session held on February 18, 2015, the Budget Workshop Session held on February 23, 2015, the Regular Town Council meeting held on February 23, 2015, and the Budget Workshop Session held on February 25, 2015.

**AMEND AGENDA**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To include under New Business (H) Referendum Postcards

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Motion passed 9-0**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 27, 2015 regarding a Bid Waiver for the Selection of Crowley Ford.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated March 2, 2015 regarding a Bid Waiver for the Requirement of Sealed Proposals (Bids) for EMS Facility Study.

Memo from the Tax Collector to Town Council Chairman dated March 4, 2015 regarding Request for Refunds totaling \$8,009.46.

Email from Marven Moss to Town Council Chairman regarding Upcoming Activities.

Chairman Lieto noted he received an email from Marven Moss discussing upcoming activities in Monroe including Monroe Outstanding Citizen, to be held on May 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, Mines and Mills Tour on May 30, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Leavenworth/Curtiss Mills on Maple Street) (Lanes Mine on Flint Ridge Road) (Beardsley Mill, on Route 111), (Stevenson Dam, potential eagle sighting), Lunch: Pavilion, Wolfe Park. Start and finish: Senior Center, Cutler's Farm Road, Community Mobilization (440,000 DEEP grant) held on June 6, 2015, streamside buffer remediation, Great Hollow Lake, prevent erosion pollutants, combined with Connecticut Trails Day, Nature Walk, Wolfe Park, Harshbarger Pond, led by Dave Solek, Monroe Through Time, Book Launch on June 7, 2015, held at The Castle, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. proposed ticket is \$60, gold sponsor table (eight chairs) \$500, package-tour of Castle, copy of book, lunch, membership in Monroe Historical Society, and a nature walk held on June 6, 2015 at Wolfe Parke.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Lee Hossler, 272 Stanley Road* noted on tonight's agenda (B) EMS Facility Study, it seems Monroe is looking to hire a consultant, and he feels we have all the expertise needed already there. Mr. Hossler noted from all the years talking about the EMS facility, he feels the group set up on this committee is all the town needs.

## **APPOINTMENTS** - None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

Councilmember Heim reported they did not meet due to cancellations pertaining to the weather. The next scheduled meeting is March 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Councilmember O'Rourke reported the sub-committee did not meet. The next scheduled meeting is March 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. He also noted Planning and Zoning was cancelled. Councilmember Kansky stated CVS was passed and had nothing else to report.

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

Chairman Lieto reported the sub-committee has not met but anticipates a meeting will be set up to discuss contracts.

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

Councilmember Knapp reported they have not met. The next scheduled meeting is March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. He noted March is National Nutrition Month and the Trumbull Monroe Health District reminds you that good nutrition is a key component of staying healthy, no matter what your age. The Health District will have a lobby display during the month of March, with information on eating right, how to make healthier food choices, and eating right to maintain a healthy weight. Visit the Health District during the month of March for a free nutrition education kit. Due to inclement weather which has prevented folks from coming in, the Health District still has health kits available. Once you obtain the health kit, you will be eligible for an entry into the TMHD March Nutrition Raffle. Two winners will be drawn at the end of the month; prizes will be the New American Heart Association Cookbook food scale and a set of hand weights. The Health District will also be planning a program on Lyme disease in April.

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

First Selectman Vavrek reported he met with the Connecticut DOT Commissioner, James Redeker and municipal leaders from Monroe and Trumbull regarding realigning and widening Route 25 and Route 111. He felt this was the right time to sit down with all State delegation and commission to discuss this long overdue expansion due to congestion issues. He noted if any Town Council members want to look at a map that Trumbull has proposed, they may meet with him in his office. First Selectman Vavrek stated he was named on the Regional Entities Committee and discussed the Regional Dispatch Center and formation of the Health Districts. He noted the focus of the group is prioritizing and sharing equipment of services. He stated many towns have helped us in the past, and although he is looking to do much more, budgets and costs are increasing. First Selectman Vavrek noted he was at a Board of Education meeting and heard an insurance provider plans may show a projected town wide savings. Councilmember Kansky expressed her concerns about Trumbull expanding. First Selectman Vavrek noted the old Reads Warehouse, Pond Spring Nursery, and Trumbull Nature Arts Center are all designated for retail expansion. He noted the Oxford Health Building is up for sale and may have different types of retail. He noted this growth will come, regardless if it is Trumbull or Monroe.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Monroe Local Health**

Chairman Lieto noted this will be an agenda item on each Council meeting until it becomes New Business. First Selectman Vavrek thanked the Council for approving the budget and financial direction forming the Health District. He noted he met with a few people last week and decided to form our own department for the year 2015-2016. He is looking to have Town Council to approve the formation of the Health Department Committee to oversee the policies and operations similar to what was done for the Police Department, and feels this will be very important. He noted he has reached out to current committee members, Paul Moyses and Raymond Knapp, Jr. with hopes they will stay on. He noted while interviewing other Districts, the one thing Monroe has is a good Director to oversee how things are done, stating how well respected the Director is. He stated most of the people with the District now would like to remain on and he sees this as good continuity, as he has been interviewing all the current people. Councilmember Kansky questioned if he would like to keep the current Director on and his

response was yes. Councilmember Kansky stated the Trumbull District is an enforcement district in many ways and also feels Patrice does a great job. Councilmember Knapp noted if a smooth transition is wanted, he feels you cannot do any better than the people that are already there. Councilmember Martin questioned First Selectman Vavrek on an email that she received indicating to her that he would be appointing a Health Department Commission and she interpreted it as he would be in violation of the Charter. First Selectman Vavrek noted he is asking Town Council to approve that Committee. Councilmember Martin wanted to make sure what she was reading was accurate and was happy to hear Town Council will be approving the Committee, but Councilmember Martin noted within the email he suggested a specific political makeup of the new Health Department Commission, noting it was not made up of Council people. First Selectman Vavrek stated he is setting up the Committee just like he has always done in the past, and noted there was a “typo” in the email. Chairman Lieto noted the responsibility to act on the Commission sets with Council and the First Selectman has every right to make any suggestions under advisement of L&A and Council. Councilmember O’Rourke felt he was willing to hear all sides since he does come from a business background. He noted he did have reservations regarding the administration remaining on board with the Health Department, as this might have been the reason we are in the position right now. Chairman Lieto noted some direction can be obtained from Councilmember Heim’s subcommittee and Ms. Lombardi, Human Resource Director, reached out to him regarding job descriptions to be put on the L&A agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Amend Town Council Minutes of December 8, 2014 to correctly state the title of Bonding Resolution to read: Resolution Regarding an Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$2,400,000 for the Phase 3 & Phase 4 Road Construction and Reconstruction Project**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To amend the Town Council Minutes.

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted this change is to the resolution combining the two (2) phases. He noted there was a mistake in the title, and just wanted the title clarified.

**Motion passed 9-0**

## **Regional Performance Incentive Program Resolution**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To adopt the following resolution as written and incorporate it into the body of the resolution regarding the Regional Performance Incentive Program.

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Discussion:** Patrick Carlton, from the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council was present and stated there were two (2) resolutions. One is a resolution for the Automated Public Works Operations Platform, and the other is the Capitol Regional Council of Governments Statewide Aerial Flight. The resolution will support the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council’s proposal to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management’s Regional Performance Incentive Program for an Automated Public Works Operations Program. The automated Public Works Operations Program is a project that will allow the GBRC to develop and host a web-based

Automated Vehicle Location application. Automobile Vehicle Location is a means for automatically determining and transmitting the geographic location of a vehicle. The AVL application will map and store each municipality's vehicle fleet history, knowing the real-time location of all drivers which allows Public Works Management to meet customer needs more efficiently. He noted the RPIP is a grant program through the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management, with the goal of producing "economies of scale" beneficial to municipalities. The program provides funds to Councils of Governments for the following types of projects: joint provision of a service or services currently provided by individual municipalities but not presently provided on a regional basis, a planning study regarding the joint provision of any service on a regional basis or shared information technology services.

**Motion passed 9-0**

#### **AMEND AGENDA**

**Motion: (K. Kellogg)**

To add under New Business Item (I) Regional Performance Incentive Program for Capitol Regional Council of Governments Statewide Aerial Flight

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Motion passed 9-0**

#### **Regional Performance Incentive Program for Capitol Regional Council of Governments Statewide Aerial Flight**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To adopt the following resolution as written and incorporate it into the body of the resolution the Regional Performance Incentive Program by the Capitol Region Council of Governments to fund a Statewide flight to collect aerial imagery.

**Second: (D. Heim)**

**Motion passed 9-0**

#### **C-MED Tower Agreement**

Chairman Lieto noted this agreement was to be seen by L&A with an anticipated vote this evening, but it has been in legal review and to his understanding from an email he received from Town Attorney, John Fracassini, the legal negotiations have been resolved and an agreement as proposed. Chairman Lieto stated an Attorney opinion Letter will be forthcoming to the Council in the next few days. He stated after review, it will be put on the agenda for consideration.

#### **Bundle Billing Agreement Town of Monroe/Monroe EMS and Valley EMS**

#### **Valley EMS/Town of Monroe, Monroe Volunteer EMS Supplemental Paramedic Intercept Service Agreement**

#### **Valley EMS Agreement with the Town of Monroe**

Chairman Lieto noted the three proposed agreements are in legal review. He has not received an opinion letter from the Town Attorney, therefore, these contracts have not been reviewed by L&A's sub-committee, and until they are reviewed along with Town Council, they will not be put on the agenda.

### **Summary of Monroe EMS Commission Meeting Minutes 2014**

Chairman Lieto noted he asked First Selectman Vavrek, Administrative Assistant, Vida Stone, and Town Council Clerk, Marsha Beno to include the copies of the minutes from each and every board that occurs every month as part of the agenda. He feels this is important to keep Council informed and have better discussions. Chairman Lieto noted the EMS Commission Meeting Minutes are included in Town Council packets tonight.

### **Referendum Postcards**

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

To approve the Town Clerk's resident voting information postcard.

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

**Discussion:** Chairman Lieto noted they were given last year's postcard as a sample, noting the year needs to be changed to 2015-2016. Councilmember Reid noted there are two other dates that need to get changed and didn't want to get that overlooked. Councilmember Martin had concerns about how the ballot question and voting hours will be stated. Chairman Lieto asked Councilmember's for any suggestions to be put on the postcard. Councilmember Kansky stated the voting hours need to be consistent in case it goes to a multiple referendum.

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

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

To approve the budget referendum postcard with the following 2 amendments; to change the year from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 and add the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. after the line Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

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

**Motion passed 9-0**

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

*Nick Kapoor, 11 Cardinal Lane* wanted to comment on the discussion regarding the Health Department. He noted the Health Department and Commission has to be established by the Council according to Charter. He had concerns regarding Councilmember Martin's comments on the email she received from the First Selectman to select members, that pre-determined the political makeup of the body and the answer conveyed was "that is how it has always been done" and there was possibly a "typo". He feels this is a problem that reaches other Boards and Commissions. Mr. Kapoor does not understand the appointment process. He noted when he was a Town Chairman for the Democratic Party; he wrote a piece in the Monroe Courier how appointed seats do not belong to the parties, but to the people who do the work. He then stated the Republican Town Chairman answered him the following week stating he was completely off base and the letter at the end of your name does not dictate the validity. He stated "how can that statement and the assertion of a pre-determined political make up of this new commission live in the same reality". He does not believe this was a typographical error. He feels why nothing was said such as this will be a five member board hoping the parties will forward four names each to keep with minority representation. He feels the Board of Commissions should be open to everyone including friends and neighbors especially with the Board of Health, as this will be newly created, and everyone deserves the chance. Mr. Kapoor concluded by stating before

qualifications are looked at, he feels the letter at the end of their name is looked at instead. He is hoping Council will take his comments into consideration.

*Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on March 23, 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