

**MONROE TOWN COUNCIL
Monroe, Connecticut
FINALMEETING MINUTES**

January 25, 2016– 8:00 PM – Council Chambers

Present: Chairman Frank Lieto
Vice Chairman Enid Lipeles
Councilmember Phyllis Kansky
Councilmember Nicholas Kapoor
Councilmember Kenneth Kellogg
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin
Councilmember Terry Rooney
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, January 25, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Monroe Town Hall.

Chairman Lieto requested the removal of Jerry Stevens (D) from the Consent Calendar and move to Appointments (L).

Chairman Lieto also noted the Executive Session has been cancelled for this evening.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Donation to the Food Pantry from the Bridgeport Sound Tigers in the amount of \$270.00.

Donation to Webb Mountain Discovery Zone from Newtown Savings Bank in the amount of \$965.00.

Donations to the Monroe Police Department Animal Control Unit from various residents and businesses in the amount of \$285.00.

Donations to Parks and Recreation from various citizens in the amount of \$2,750.00.

Reappointments:

- **Jason M. Maur, (D)** of 97 Bugg Hill Road to the Commission on Aging for a term ending July 2, 2017.
- **Kathleen Quinn, (U)** of 194 Josies Ring Road to the Commission on Aging for a term ending July 2, 2018.
- **Ken Wielk, (D)** of 18 School Street to the Emergency Medical Services Commission for a term ending December 1, 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS

Memo to the First Selectman from the Director of Parks and Recreation to Town Council Chairman dated January 6, 2016 regarding the Parks & Recreation Commission 2015 Attendance Report.

Memo from the Library Director to Town Council Chairman dated January 7, 2016 regarding Monroe Reads.

Memo from the Director of Parks and Recreation to Town Council Chairman dated January 20, 2016 regarding the establishment of two positions within the Parks and Recreation Department.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding a donation to the Food Pantry.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding donations to Parks and Recreation.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding donations to the Monroe Police Department Animal Control Unit.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding a donation to the Webb Mountain Discovery Zone.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Commission on Aging.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Emergency Medical Services Commission.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding an appointment to the WMNR Commission.

Memos from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Memos from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding appointments to the Conservation and Water Resources Commission.

Memos from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding appointments to the Board of Ethics.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding reappointments to various boards and commissions.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 21, 2016 regarding the Wolfe Park Concession Stand 8-24 Municipal Referral.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated January 8, 2016 regarding Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule.

Councilmember Lieto noted along with the First Selectman, he will try and consolidate all memos in the future.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Lieto noted the appointment of Felix Giannini to the Board of Ethics will be removed due to an L&A requirement prior to consideration by Town Council approval. A meeting was not done prior to this Town Council meeting, so this appointment will have to wait until the next meeting.

Motion: (K. Reid)

To appoint Amy Kopchak (U) of 51 Old Tannery Road to the Commission of Aging for a term ending July 2, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Amy is a Business Manager for the Consumables Division of the PEZ Candy Company in Orange, CT where she works with the executive team in marketing and new product development and launching. She is a graduate from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor in Business Management and a Masters of Business Administration. Amy possesses strong leadership skills in business and has extensive experience in marketing and business development. Amy is eager to begin service to her community and feels the Commission on Aging is a good fit for her personality. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Dorothy Woernor.

Councilmember Kellogg noted for the record, Ms. Kopchak was interviewed by the Republican Town Committee Vacancy Committee and subsequently endorsed by the Republican Town Committee.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To appoint Ryan Driscoll (U) of 20 Maplewood Drive to the Conservation & Water Resources Commission for a term ending December 5, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Ryan is an associate in the litigation department of Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C. He regularly represents municipalities, insurance companies and other private entities with a focus on defense of civil rights claims, Dram Shop actions, premises liability actions and workers' compensation matters. He has successfully handled such matters in federal and state court and before the Workers' Compensation Commission, Compensation Review Board and Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. Ryan is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and has a law degree from Seton Hall University. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Cynthia Ambrosey.

Councilmember Kellogg noted for the record, Mr. Driscoll was interviewed by the Republican Town Committee Vacancy Committee and subsequently endorsed by the Republican Town Committee.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Kellogg)

To appoint Ellie Krevolin (U) of 36 Blue Hills Road to the Conservation & Water Resources Commission for a term ending December 1, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Ellie is a Monroe resident since 2004 and has three sons that have all attended the Monroe School system. Two sons are Masuk graduates and the youngest is a senior there now. Ellie thoroughly enjoys the outdoors and takes advantage of the opportunities Monroe offers such as the Rail Trail and Webb Mountain Park. She is a Senior Credit Risk Analyst at Citizens Bank in Bridgeport. She holds Bachelor's in Computer Science from Alfred University. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Michael O'Reilly.

Councilmember Kellogg noted for the record, Ms. Krevolin was interviewed by the Republican Town Committee Vacancy Committee and subsequently endorsed by the Republican Town Committee.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (T. Rooney)

To appoint John Brenna (U) of 5 Lanthorne Road to the Emergency Medical Services Commission for a term ending December 1, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: John is a long-time resident of Monroe who has been an active EMT member of Monroe VEMS since 2005. He has served on the MVEMS Executive Board and has been a former Captain of Membership and Community Relations. He is currently a member of the Monroe EMS Facilities Workgroup and has an extensive business background through working with companies such as AT&T, Philips Medical Systems, LORAD and CTI. Currently he is the President of TOPEX Inc., an x-ray medical device manufacturing company. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Nicholas Sentementes.

Councilmember Kellogg noted for the record, Mr. Brenna was interviewed by the Republican Town Committee Vacancy Committee and subsequently endorsed by the Republican Town Committee.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To appoint Norman Rancourt (R) of 108 Wheeler Road to the Board of Ethics (Alternate) for a term ending January 1, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Rancourt is a lifetime resident of Monroe who is a Teacher with the Norwalk Public Schools. He has been active in the community, most particularly as a coach in youth athletics. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Hans Liechti.

Councilmember Kapoor noted since this was a Board of Ethics appointment, he felt it needed to go to L&A first.

Withdraw Motion

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To withdraw motion to appoint Norman Rancourt (R) of 108 Wheeler Road to the Board of Ethics (Alternate) for a term ending January 1, 2018.

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To appoint James R. Stewart (R) of 6 Nancy Drive to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term ending February 24, 2020.

Second: (T. Rooney)

Discussion: James is the current Director of Public Works for the Borough of Naugatuck, CT. He holds Bachelor's in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of New Hampshire along with a MBA from the University of Connecticut. He has an extensive background in all land use matters along with numerous professional certifications and training classes. This appointment fills the vacancy created by John Bath.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To appoint Joseph Iannucci (R) of 106 Woodlawn Road to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term ending October 21, 2019.

Second: (K. Reid)

Discussion: Joseph has lived in Monroe for most of his life and has been a lifelong athlete, coach and participant in sports. He is very familiar with the Monroe Parks System and is very involved with youth sports throughout town. He is also the owner of All American Embroidery and Screen Printing. He enjoys skiing, training and playing/coaching baseball and softball in his free time. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Jonathan Stone.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Kellogg)

To appoint Bill Florin (R) of 65 Verna Road to Police Commission for a term ending May 16, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Bill is the President and Owner of Resu-mazing Services Company in Monroe and holds the Certified Professional Resume Writer and Certified Employment Interview Professional credentials. He has worked in career development since 2009 and holds Bachelor's in Business Management from the University of Phoenix. He is a board member and trainer for TBICO in Danbury and is a past President of the Monroe Rotary Club and a volunteer for the CERT in Monroe as well. He is also active in his church, the Monroe United Methodist Church. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Bernie Sippin.

Councilmember Kapoor noted he cannot support this as there are 80% male and only 20% female on the police force. He feels it is important this appointment should go to a female.

Motion passed 8-1 (opposed N. Kapoor)

Motion: (K. Reid)

To appoint Ryan Condon (R) of 9 Stable Ridge Road to the Zoning Board of Appeals (alternate) for a term ending October 10, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Ryan is a lifelong resident of Monroe and a graduate of the Monroe School System. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Hofstra University in Film History and Production. Ryan

works full-time for a medical device company and is looking to begin his service to the Town of Monroe. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Matthew Levinson.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To appoint Monica Brushett (R) of 96 Old Colony Road to the WMNR Commission for a term ending October 23, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Ms. Brushett is a 16 year resident of Monroe with over 15 years of experience in retail management in upscale establishments. She has also served as a Substitute Teacher in the Monroe, Trumbull and Bridgeport School Systems. Monica holds Bachelor's in Marketing from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. She has a 7 year old daughter and also plays classical piano. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Elizabeth Heiney.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (D. Martin)

To appoint Jerry Stevens (D) of 14 Doris Drive to the Economic Development Commission for a term ending January 31, 2021.

Second: (P. Kansky)

Discussion: Councilmember Martin noted Mr. Stevens is a lifetime resident of Monroe, and currently a member of the Board of Education. She noted Mr. Stevens has shown the ability and energy to perform both positions. Councilmember Kapoor noted Mr. Stevens is also an asset to the Commission and he has seen a great team that was put together with seven (7) people on the Commission who really care about Monroe and know Monroe very well. He sees no logical reason why Mr. Stevens should not be reappointed this evening. Councilmember O'Rourke noted one person serving on two boards at the same time should be avoided. Councilmember Reid noted positions do need to be filled but it takes much effort to fill one job. He feels Mr. Stevens is very capable but it is a very busy schedule to do both jobs. Councilmember Kellogg noted he has no concerns about Mr. Stevens's ability to perform both jobs, but in the spirit of fairness, he feels one individual should serve on a board. Councilmember Kansky felt Council should consider someone who is willing to serve on both jobs and this should not be set aside or overlooked. First Selectman Vavrek stated procedurally this should all be discussed beforehand so we do not have to go back and forth with discussions. He commends the people who do want to get involved knowing how hard it is to get great people. Councilmember Kapoor noted he is voting no for procedural reasons and would like this issue to be addressed in the future.

Motion fails 2-7 (opposed Rooney, Kellogg, Reid, O'Rourke, Lieto, Lipeles, Kapoor)

ACTION ITEMS

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

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported she is now the Chairman and has received reports from Finance. She noted the motor vehicle tax was discussed and also discussions on Wal-Mart regarding a tax break. She noted it was confirmed that Wal-Mart will not have a tax break. Vice-Chairman Lipeles also noted the First Selectman was at the Board of Finance meeting and made some

comments about the OPM fiscal report from 2010-2014 and it shows Monroe being in a better position. Councilmember Kellogg's Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016. The EMS Facility Workgroup will have a meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. She also noted a new Police Commission is being sworn in.

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

Councilmember Reid reported they planned on having a meeting purposely to discuss budget overview and now the meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2016.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Councilmember O'Rourke reported they did not meet since the last Town Council meeting but hopes to have one before the next meeting.

Strategic Planning Committee

Councilmember Kellogg stated there were some scheduling challenges, so therefore there was no meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be February 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

EMS Facility Workgroup

Councilmember Kellogg noted a meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2016 but was cancelled and hopes to have a meeting set to come back with more information.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Vavrek noted a fundraiser will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. for Project Warmth at the Waterview. They will have hors d'oeuvres, food stations, open bar, raffle, silent auction, and a DJ. He feels this is a good opportunity to get together with neighbors and support this fundraiser. He also noted there was a grand opening of Meineke Muffler on Main Street. First Selectman stated on February 8, 2016, Tula's Restaurant announced new ownership and he hopes all will visit for some good food. He also wanted to thank both Republican Town Committee and Democratic Town Committee for putting unaffiliated voters in positions as he has tried to reach out to many to get involved.

Chairman Lieto called for a quick recess at 8:56 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 8:57 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Town Council Budget Workshop dates for Proposed 2016/17 Town of Monroe

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the Budget Workshop Sessions for 2016-2017 Proposed Municipal Budget.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

Discussions: Chairman Lieto noted a discussion was done at the last Town Council meeting during his absence where suggestions were made by Councilmember Kapoor. Councilmember Kapoor still objects to this schedule presented, as he feels there are not enough joint meetings for

Council and the Board of Finance which is comprised of 15 people to adequately go over the budget in a reasonable time. He is asking another meeting be held on a Saturday with the First Selectman, Town Council and public to have an opportunity to comment on the budget.

AMEND MOTION

Motion: (N. Kapoor)

To include a Town Council Public Hearing on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. with a snow date of Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Second: (P. Kansky)

Discussion: Councilmember Kapoor feels this is important for the public to learn about the budget and he has heard from a few people that the night time sessions were tough on certain people so this will give them an opportunity to voice their concerns and make it convenient hoping Town Council will try it. Councilmember Reid noted the town departments did an excellent job last year and he feels if we need it during the budget process it can be added, but for now he does not see adding it in. Councilmember Kellogg also agreed with Councilmember Reid. Councilmember Kansky noted this is the people's budget and they do have concerns and a right to give input. Chairman Lieto noted all the budget sessions have come a long way with joint meetings and all meetings are open to the public. He wanted it known that he has never received any phone calls or emails about the budget from the public as he has always encouraged the public to be open and to comment on the budget without being there physically. Councilmember Martin wanted the public to voice their opinions at the beginning of the process before any presentations. She feels just put it out there and see what happens.

Motion fails 3-6 (opposed Rooney, Kellogg, Reid, O'Rourke, Lieto, Lipeles)

Councilmember Kapoor still noted his concerns regarding not having enough time.

Councilmember Kellogg stated it was important to understand this is not a schedule of exclusion. He feels if another budget meeting is necessary it can be called by the Chairman if we do not have sufficient time.

ORIGINAL MOTION

Motion passed 6-3 (opposed Martin, Kapoor, Kansky)

Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule 2016

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule 2016.

Second: (T. Rooney)

Discussions: Councilmember Kellogg only saw one significant change on the fee schedule which was the pool fee for non members. Frank Cooper, Director of Parks and Recreation stated this was to make the fee schedule for pool membership consistent. He noted rates for children and adults previously were inconsistent.

Motion passed 9-0

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Meeting held on January 11, 2016 (Session 2016-01)

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Meeting held on January 11, 2016 (Session 2016-01)

Second: (N. Kapoor)

Discussion: Councilmember Kapoor noted on page 3 Town Council Committee on Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Parks & Recreation Matters, 5th line down states Councilmember Kapoor noted nothing to report on Economic Development Commission **not** Inland/Wetlands. Councilmember Kellogg noted on page 3, Town Council Committee on Finance, Education, Health & Public Safety Matters, 3rd line down Councilmember Kellogg stated the Board of Health is looking at departments such as the Trumbull Health Department, **not** Mental Health Department.

AMEND MOTION

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To amend the First Selectman's update on page 4, 3rd line the Hiram Hill Blight **not** lighthouse is now gone.

AMENDED MOTION

Motion: (N. Kapoor)

To amend the motion to incorporate the changes discussed.

Second: (D. Martin)

Motion passed 9-0

Motion to Approve the Minutes

Motion passed 7-0 (absent from TC Meeting on January 11, 2016 Lieto, Lipeles)

2016 Monroe Reads Presentation

Jack Zarmy gave a presentation on Monroe Reads Together, a community project that invites everyone in Monroe to experience the benefits and enjoyment of getting together and talking about a book they have read. The Monroe Reads Committee includes staff from the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library, Monroe Schools, community members, and local business owners. He noted the goal is to foster the love of reading for all ages, engage the community in a conversation about books and issues, promote the relevance of literacy, and expand and promote use of our libraries. Margaret Borchers, Library Director was also present and stated the book chosen was Boys in the Boat about the 1936 Olympic Rowing team. A panel discussion will be held on March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. She also noted the book is in large print edition, audio, and e-book.

Parks & Recreation Job Description – Recreation Supervisor

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the job of Recreation Supervisor with the amendment so that the person has to have a valid driver's license.

Second: (N. Kapoor)

Discussion: Chairman Lieto noted two job descriptions for Recreation Supervisor and Office Administrator were given to Town Council members. Frank Cooper, Director of Parks and Recreation was present and noticed this was already discussed previously, and he thought it would be good from an efficiency standpoint to provide the town with these 2 positions. He noted the funding is already in place and right now they have a multitude of people doing all jobs. They are trying to consolidate all those positions into one position. He feels they will run more efficiently and serve the people of Monroe better.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the position of Recreation Supervisor with having a valid driver's license and develop schedules and special events and prepares public relation materials to support such programs under essential job functions.

Second: (K. Reid)

Motion passed 9-0

Parks & Recreation Job Description – Office Administrator

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the Office Administrator to the Parks & Recreation Department

Second: (D. Martin)

Discussion: None

Motion passed 9-0

8-24 Municipal Referral – Wolfe Park Concession Stand

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the plan for improvements to the Wolfe Park Concession Stand be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for Connecticut State General Statute 8-24.

Second: (T. Rooney)

Discussion: Councilmember Reid noted they did not have enough time for discussion with Mr. Cooper, Direction of Parks and Recreation regarding the 8-24 Municipal Referral, Wolfe Park Concession Stand. Frank Cooper noted they are trying to re-design the patio lavatory into a concession stand. The request is being made from a Special Exception Permit to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission in accordance with Sec. 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Councilmember Reid noted he wanted to make an exception.

Motion passed 9-0

Masuk High School Turf Field – Town Meeting

James Agostine gave a presentation regarding the turf field for Masuk High School, a project that is all ready to go as stated previously. He noted there is a very aggressive time line prior to mid March for a contractor to start late May or June. He presented the proposed design plan, budget for improvements, project breakdown, and the project budget of \$2,260,500. He also noted they do have a fundraising plan and a town bond appropriation of \$1.7M, and his intention was to move forward on this project. Questions were asked by all Council members. Chairman Lieto noted the intention was to move forward, but noted the Board of Finance doesn't meet again until February 17, 2016 and he is hoping to have a bond resolution on the next meeting.

2ND PARTICIPATION - None

Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on February 8, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Second: (K. Reid)

Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta
Town Council Clerk