

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

February 22, 2016 – 8:00 PM – Council Chambers

Present: Chairman Frank Lieto
Vice Chairman Enid Lipeles
Councilmember Nicholas Kapoor
Councilmember Phyllis Kansky
Councilmember Kenneth Kellogg
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin
Councilmember Sean O'Rourke
Councilmember Kevin Reid
Councilmember Terry Rooney

Also Present: First Selectman Stephen J. Vavrek

A regular meeting of the Monroe Town Council was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 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 Town Council meeting held on February 9, 2016 (Session 2016-03).

Motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2016/2017 Annual Town of Monroe Budget held on February 9, 2016.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council and Board of Finance Joint Budget Workshop Session held on February 10, 2016.

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Special Meeting held on February 17, 2016 (Session 2016-04).

Motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Board of Finance Joint Budget Workshop Session held on February 17, 2016.

Donations to Project Warmth from various residents and businesses in the amount of \$8,143.36.

Chairman Lieto noted on the Town Council Special Meeting Minutes, page 4 of 5 (last sentence) remove "by voting machine", and page 5 of 5, remove (MUST BE BETWEEN 7 AND 14 DAYS AFTER TOWN MEETING).

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously with the noted amendment to the Town Council Special Meeting Minutes held on February 17, 2016.

COMMUNICATIONS

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding donations to Project Warmth.

Memos from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding appointments to the Building Board of Appeals.

Memos from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding appointments to the Economic Development Commission.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Board of Ethics.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Memo from the First Selection to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Conservation and Water Resources Commission.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated February 18, 2016 regarding an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Steve Kirsch, 35 Applegate Lane stated he had some concerns on the budget as he was seeing no increase in operating funds. He is concerned the town is not budgeting and spending money on the way to paving roads, and feels this is a disservice to the town. Mr. Kirsch also noted there have been numerous conversations held regarding town hall and the grounds including the HVAC system. He feels we need to move ahead on this project and does not understand why the town is taking on more studies.

Debra Dutches, 15 Hearthstone Road noted when the First Selectman's office does not make recommendations to the Board of Ethics; it is a Town Council's appointment.

AMEND AGENDA

Motion: (K. Kellogg)

To add under New Business, (D) resolution from Special Meeting dated February 17, 2016.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Motion passed 9-0

APPOINTMENTS

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To appoint Joseph Viglione, Jr. (R) of 15 Barton Road to the Building Board of Appeals for a term ending October 1, 2019.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Viglione owns and operates his family's construction company in Monroe. Trained as a mason, his background is in all types of construction. He has strong ties to the community and has three children in our school system. Mr. Viglione is eager to give back more to his community through volunteer service. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Frank Quaranta.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Reid)

To appoint Brendan McKeon (R) of 4 Pebble Road to the Economic Development Commission for a term ending January 31, 2020.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. McKeon is the Director of Spadaccino Funeral Home and is actively involved in our community. He is a member and past president of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and a member of Monroe Rotary. He also serves our community on the Project Warmth Committee. Mr. McKeon's background positions him to be a strong contributor on this Commission. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Matthew Levinson.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Kellogg)

To appoint Bruno Maini (R) of 12 Woodlawn Road to the Economic Development Commission for a term ending January 31, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Maini is a 13 year resident and the owner of Smart Care Exteriors in Monroe. As a small business owner, he fosters many business relationships and looks forward to using his experience to grow Monroe's economy. He has a history of volunteering in our community, as both an AYSO and Little League coach. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Jeanette Politano.

Councilmember Terry Rooney and Mr. Bruno Maini are business partners, therefore Councilmember Rooney will not be voting.

Motion passed 8-0 (T. Rooney did not vote)

Motion: (T. Rooney)

To appoint Anthony Marciano (R), of 29 Patmar Circle to the Board of Ethics – Alternate for a term ending October 1, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Motion: (T. Rooney)

To appoint Ross M. Mastrorocco (R), of 101 Turkey Roost Road to the Inland Wetlands Commission for a term ending February 24, 2020.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Mastrorocco owns and operates a landscaping firm in Monroe and also works as a foreman for BBC Heat Specialists. His background and experience with landscaping and

soils, including a college education in Applied Science, will serve the Town well on this Commission. Mr. Mastrococco is looking to fulfill his desire to become more involved in Monroe as a volunteer. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Michael Beno.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (S. O'Rourke)

To appoint Jaime Cardinale (R), of 6 Birchwood Road to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term ending October 21, 2016.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Ms. Cardinale grew up in Monroe and is now raising her family here. She enjoys organized sports and has both organized and participated in many teams over the years. Educated in Architectural Engineering, she is employed as a designer and draftsman with 14 years of architectural planning experience. Her combined interest and career experience will serve this Commission well. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Terrence Rooney.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Reid)

To appoint Tanya Bombero (R), of 266 Wheeler Road to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending June 30, 2017.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Ms. Bombero has been a resident of Monroe for 17 years and has two children. One of her children went through the Monroe School system and the other currently attends St. Jude School. She is involved in the basketball program at St. Jude's and is the Assistant Coach of the Girls JV team. She has worked for the Town of Monroe for eight years in the Land Use Group, most recently as the Land Use Coordinator. Presently, she serves as the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Arthur James Nelson.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (K. Kellogg)

To appoint Al Cascella (R), of 88 Woodlawn Road to the Building Board of Appeals for a term ending October 1, 2018.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Cascella has been a resident of Monroe for over 16 years. He has been in the home remodeling business for over 14 years, and is the owner of A. Cascella Renovations based in Monroe. He is a very active member of our community, coaching youth sports for 13 years and is currently an AYSO Board Member and Safety Director. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Richard Steiner.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (T. Rooney)

To appoint Jeff Fulchino (R), of 11 Laurel Drive to the Conservation and Water Resources Commission for a term ending December 5, 2016.

Second: (E. Lipeles)

Discussion: Mr. Fulchino has been a Monroe resident for eight years. Employed as a realtor, Mr. Fulchino is a University of Connecticut graduate with a degree in Political Science. He is eager to be an active part of Monroe's future. This appointment fills the vacancy created by Gail Bunovsky.

Motion passed 9-0

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To appoint Ben Maini (R), of 23 Braeloch Way to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending February 22, 2019.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

Discussion: Mr. Maini is a Fairfield University graduate and a CPA employed by Reynolds & Rowella. He currently volunteers as a member of the Monroe High School Advisory Board. Past volunteer activities include the Monroe Soccer Club and the Housatonic Community College Foundation. He is looking forward to further giving back to his community. This appointment fills an open vacancy.

Motion passed 9-0

ACTION ITEMS

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

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported they have not met and Councilmember Kansky stated the Board of Education cancelled their meeting.

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

Councilmember Reid reported they did not have a formal meeting but did have a short meeting with Scott Schaszlein, Town Engineer.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Councilmember O'Rourke reported they did not meet.

Strategic Planning Committee

Councilmember Kellogg reported on the Chalk Hill School noting this has been the most pressing matter at this time.

EMS Facility Workgroup

Councilmember Kellogg reported they had a joint meeting and discussed the needs assessment. He stated a study was completed and the workgroup is hoping to move the project forward with more reports to come at the next Town Council meeting.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Vavrek stated there were two (2) grand openings in Monroe with two more openings next week. He also noted they are set with Route 25 interchange and should be done mid-summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Town Meeting/Adjourned Town Meeting Voter Postcards

Chairman Lieto held a brief discussion with Council members regarding advertising for voting days. The Registrar's office indicated that voter postcards for the referendum would cost approximately \$4,500 and they did not believe that was worth the investment. Councilmember O'Rourke suggested a robocall and the Council reached a consensus that Chairman Lieto would advise the Registrar of their consensus, but understood it was up to the Registrar to decide on which, if any, course of action they would take to get the vote out. The Registrars did indicate they would be using the sandwich boards to advise of the vote.

Raises for Elected Officials

Chairman Lieto noted this was nothing to vote on but in light of Councilmember Kansky's question on this issue raised at the last joint budget session, Ron Bunovsky, Finance Director researched the issue and determined that the Town is precluded giving raises to elected officials mid-term. Therefore, the only elected official salaries which may be considered this budget year are the Registrar of Voters.

Chalk Hill Building – Strategic Planning Committee Report

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To adopt and approve the Strategic Planning Committee Report on Chalk Hill.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

Discussion: Councilmember Kellogg handed out a draft report on the Chalk Hill Building to all Councilmembers. The report included a background of information gathered, input received, definitive matters, potential dispositions, and substantive issues identified. Also included were the future annual operating costs for just the facility, and options for the costs of demolition to the building, the potential lease of part of all the building (*being an attractive option*), and costs for hibernation of the facility. While the report was not formally adopted by a vote of SPC, the members of SPC were all involved in the drafting of the report and stated on the record that they approved and endorsed the report as is (Reid, Martin, Kellogg).

Motion passed 9-0

MINUTES AND VOTING RECORD OF THE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2016

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Special Meeting held on February 17, 2016 (Session 2016-04) as amended.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

Discussion: Chairman Lieto noted that the Town Council Special Meeting Minutes contained two errors, to wit: page 4 of 5 (last sentence) take out "by voting machine", and page 5 of 5, take out (MUST BE BETWEEN 7 AND 14 DAYS AFTER TOWN MEETING). He indicated that these errors were included in the draft version of the written resolution as presented to Council

but that those errors were corrected and Councilmember Lipeles read the Resolution into the record in light of these corrections rather than rely on the written resolution which contained the errors. Therefore the minutes should be corrected to reflect these changes.

Motion passed 9-0

AMEND AGENDA

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To add under New Business (E) resolution amending the resolution regarding the special town meeting and referendum vote on the appropriation and bond authorization of \$1,700,000 for the Masuk HS track and field reconstruction project.

Second: (K Kellogg)

Motion passed 9-0

AMEND RESOLUTION

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To adopt and approve a resolution amending the resolution regarding the special town meeting and referendum vote on the appropriation and bond authorization of \$1,700,000 for the Masuk HS track and field reconstruction project.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

**TOWN OF MONROE
RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SPECIAL
TOWN MEETING AND REFERENDUM VOTE ON THE APPROPRIATION
AND BOND AUTHORIZATION OF \$1,700,000 FOR THE MASUK HS TRACK AND
FIELD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Resolution Regarding A Special Town Meeting and Referendum Vote on the Appropriation and Bond Authorization of \$1,700,000 for the Masuk High School Track and Field Reconstruction Project is hereby amended for the following items:

- (i) any reference made in the resolution to “vote by voting machine” should be removed and replaced with “to vote by paper ballots”, and
- (ii) the reference “that the voters at the town meeting to be held on February 29, 2016 shall consider and act upon a resolution to determine the place of holding the adjourned Town Meeting to vote on the question as set forth above” should be removed and replaced with “that the adjourned town meeting shall be held on March 8, 2016 at the Monroe Senior Center, 235 Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe, Connecticut.

Discussion: Chairman Lieto indicated that with the corrections to the Minutes above, sub (i) of this amendment to the resolution is moot but harmless nonetheless no he saw no need to further amend it. The purpose is to establish the voting place as the Senior Center for the adjourned Town Meeting vote. Councilmember Martin asked about an email circulating indicating a problem with the voting date of March 8th at the Senior Center to which First Selectman Vavrek responded was resolved so the vote remains as per the referendum.

Motion passed 9-0

2ND PARTICIPATION - None

Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on March 14, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Second: (N. Kapoor)

Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta
Town Council Clerk