

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

**May 23, 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

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A regular meeting of the Monroe Town Council was held on Monday, May 23, 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 Regular Town Council Meeting held on May 9, 2016 (Session 2016-10).

Donation to Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$1,400.00.

Donations to the Sprint for Monroe in the amount of \$3,800.00.

Donation to Project Warmth in the amount of \$269.00.

Donations to the Food Pantry in the amount of \$100.00.

*Councilmember Kellogg stated on the May 9, 2016 Town Council Meeting Minutes, page 3 of 5, EMS Facility Workgroup, the last sentence should read: He also noted discussions were done regarding the Jockey Hollow Fire/EMS Station **not** Jockey Hollow School.*

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously with the noted amendment to the May 9, 2016 Town Council Meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Memo from Parks and Recreation to Town Council dated May 12, 2016 regarding a donation to Parks and Recreation.

Memo from the Sprint for Monroe Race Director to the Town Council received May 12, 2016 regarding donations to the Sprint for Monroe.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated May 18, 2016 regarding a bid waiver from the Public Works Department requesting to waive the bidding process for the use of specific competitively bid contracts for road maintenance and reconstruction services.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chairman dated May 18, 2016 regarding a bid waiver from the Public Works Department requesting to waive the bidding process for the use of an auctioneering service.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated May 18, 2016 regarding donations to the Sprint for Monroe, Parks and Recreations, Project Warmth and the Food Pantry.

Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the Town Council dated May 18, 2016 regarding the Masuk High School Turf Field Contract.

*Chairman Lieto wanted to add for the record, under Communications, a letter he received in his packet dated May 5, 2016 from a concerned anonymous taxpayer with possible zoning violations and blight conditions on a certain property address.*

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Dr. Joseph Erardi (Newtown Superintendent of Schools), Dr. Kathy Gombos (Sandy Hook Principal), and Keith Alexander, Chairman of the Board, wanted to express their gratitude and the support the town of Monroe has given them. Dr. Gombos noted the decision to use Chalk Hill School in December changed their path for recovery and noted Monroe's administration, as well as the Police Department, supported them immensely. Keith Alexander stated they are very happy and excited about bringing the students back to Newtown and expressed his appreciation to Monroe for helping when they needed it the most. Dr. Joseph Erardi wanted to thank Town Council and the First Selectman for everything they did for them. He wanted it known to everyone that the keys to the school will be given back on August 1, 2016 and they will "leave the building in a way that you will be proud". Dr. Erardi also noted a consistency of class, dignity, and compassion was given by the Town of Monroe to members of their community, noting from "our school, our Chair, our families of Sandy Hook, we thank everyone wholeheartedly". He also invited the First Selectman and the Town Council to visit the school.*

*Mary Stewart, 217 Barn Hill Road shared an experience about a neighbor mowing his grass from 6:30-8:30 a.m. She noted the Police Department was notified but she was told there was no noise ordinance in place. She was requesting the Town Council to come up with some sort of noise ordinance as some other towns already have one in place.*

*Mr. Stewart, 217 Barn Hill Road, noted the State of Connecticut has decibel meters available throughout the state regarding excessive noise. He noted in residential areas, the noise cannot exceed the property line of the person that is causing the noise, so they put a decibel meter on the edge of a property and if it goes over the decibel, the person gets cited. He noted with holidays, the Fourth of July, and fireworks, he hopes an ordinance will be considered.*

### **APPOINTMENTS** - None

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported Mike Manjos discussed Chalk Hill and the Fire Departments at his meeting. Councilmember Kansky noted the Board of Education is awaiting final approval from Planning and Zoning for the turf field. She noted the low bid for the project was the Dalling Construction Company and the contract will be going to the Town Council for approval. She also stated the bid came in lower so they will have \$100,000 to put toward alternatives. Councilmember Kapoor spoke about the Food Pantry generator, and the Board decided to take the generator from Chalk Hill and move it to the Food Pantry. They will evaluate this again in August or September. Councilmember Kellogg stated EMS and the Board of Health did not meet since the last meeting but will be meeting in June.

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

Councilmember Reid reported he met with Mr. Stone (EDC), and there will be an assessment with the fundamentals of Economic Development at the Town Hall on June 1, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

Councilmember O'Rourke stated they met this evening and discussed the Masuk High School turf fields. He noted members of the Board of Ethics met to go over ethic procedures and are continuing to review the Town Council procedures.

### ***Strategic Planning Committee***

Councilmember Kellogg reported they did not meet, however, he had conversations with Mike Manjos about the fire apparatus which was presented to the Board of Finance, and the plan is to have a joint meeting to discuss further. He also noted discussions on the Chalk Hill School were done with Mr. Cooper, Director of Parks and Recreation.

### ***EMS Facility Workgroup***

Councilmember Kellogg reported a special meeting was held this morning and reviewed the workgroups efforts to pare down some open space areas.

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

First Selectman Vavrek reported emails were sent to the Chairman on state funding regarding the budget and the breakdown, along with road work situations noting Route 34 will be shut down beginning June. He also noted the Route 25/Route 111 corridor will begin on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. First Selectman Vavrek feels the Economic Development Commission has a good plan in place and is moving forward. He also noted he had a lengthy meeting with Mr. Stone (EDC) on how to coordinate Chalk Hill. Councilmember Kapoor questioned the July 1 budget and if we are budgeted for the grant finder from CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) as he wanted to know if we will be up and running and who is responsible for the administration. First Selectman Vavrek stated he will get back to him. Councilmember Kapoor then noted we paid for the software and it was supposed to be up and running in the new fiscal year, and he hopes training will come along with it. Councilmember Martin noted on the agenda why we are waiving the bidding process. First Selectman stated he had discussions with Mike Manjos, Ron

Bunovsky, and Sean O'Rourke noting things comes up quicker than we want and we need a new person policy. She also requested six (6) month updates on Honeywell. Gabriela DiBlasi, the Director of Finance for the Monroe Board of Education was present and stated reports are usually done annually.

First Selectman Vavrek concluded by stating Chalk Hill will be ours soon and the staff is committed to keeping the building open and interested in ways to save money. He noted he will do what is best for the community with this building.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Health Department Fee Schedule**

Chairman Lieto noted this is off the agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Masuk High School Turf Field Contract**

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

To approve, adopt and authorize the First Selectman to execute on behalf of the Town of Monroe the Masuk High School turf field contract.

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

**Discussion:** Ms. Gabriela DiBlasi, Director of Finance was present to answer questions regarding the Masuk High School Turf Field. Chairman Lieto noted all Councilmembers had the Town Attorney's opinion letter and numerous exhibits pertaining to the field contract in their packets. He noted L&A did review the contract and opinion letter and voted unanimously to move it forward to the Town Council. Ms. DiBlasi noted Dalling was the lowest qualified bidder noting there was another bidder that was low but did not meet the qualifications in terms of having completed turf field construction projects. She also noted Dalling has done numerous projects such as this and all permits are in place. Ms. DiBlasi stated to Councilmembers that all information will be on the website.

**Motion passed 9-0**

### **Part Time Tax Clerk Job Description**

Chairman Lieto noted this is not ready for discussion as they were not reviewed by L&A.

### **Part Time Front Desk Senior Center Job Description**

Chairman Lieto noted this is not ready for discussion as they were not reviewed by L&A.

**2<sup>ND</sup> PARTICIPATION** - None

*Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on June 13, 2016*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: (E. Lipeles)**

To adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

**Second: (T. Rooney)**

**Motion passed 9-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta  
Town Council Clerk