

MONROE TOWN COUNCIL
Monroe, Connecticut
AMENDED FINAL MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2016– 8:00 PM – Council Chambers

Present: Vice Chairman Enid Lipeles
Councilmember Phyllis Kansky
Councilmember Nicholas Kapoor
Councilmember Kenneth Kellogg
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin
Councilmember Terry Rooney
Councilmember Kevin Reid

Absent: Chairman Frank Lieto
Councilmember Sean O'Rourke

Not Present: First Selectman Stephen J. Vavrek

A regular meeting of the Monroe Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 11, 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 Special Town Council Meeting held on September 21, 2016 (Session 2016-16).

Motion to approve the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Meeting held on September 26, 2016 (Session 2016-17).

Request for Refunds dated October 3, 2016 totaling \$3,547.88.

Donations to the Food Pantry from various residents and businesses in the amount of \$315.00.

Donation to the Police Department from anonymous donor in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Donation to the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library from a resident in the amount of \$30.00.

*Councilmember Kapoor noted on the September 21, 2016 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, on page 3 of 4, sentence should read Councilmember Kapoor questioned if the Easton **First Selectman, Alan Dunsby** agrees or disagrees with the letter sent from Paul Knierim, Probate Court Administrator **not Town Attorney Alan Dunsby**.*

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously to the September 26, 2016 Town Council Meeting and the noted amendment to the September 21, 2016 Special Town Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Memo from the Police Chief to Town Council dated September 28, 2016 regarding a donation to the Police Department.

Memo from the Library Director to Town Council dated September 28, 2016 regarding a donation to the Library.

Memo from Senior Citizen Director to Town Council Chair dated September 29, 2016 regarding donations to the Food Pantry from various residents and businesses.

Memo from the Tax Collector to Town Council Chair dated October 3, 2016 regarding the request for refunds.

Memo from the First Selectman to Town Council Chair dated October 4, 2016 regarding Bequest for K-9 Unit for Police Department.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 4, 2016 regarding a Bid Waiver request for a tractor.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 4, 2016 regarding a Bid Waiver request for Skid Steer.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 4, 2016 regarding a Bid Waiver request for two vehicles from Crowley Ford.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 4, 2016 regarding a Bid Waiver request for backhoe.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 5, 2016 regarding donations to various Town departments and programs.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 5, 2016 regarding the FFY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program.

Letter of Opinion from Town Attorney to First Selectman dated October 6, 2016 regarding Pepper Street Reconstruction Project/Project Authorization Letter.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

APPOINTMENTS - None

ACTION ITEMS

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

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported meeting with Mike Manjos where he stated a decision on Chalk Hill may be made by Christmas and the transfer of funds is still being worked on. Mr. Manjos also noted the medical reserve is not looking good. Councilmember Kansky had nothing to report. Councilmember Kellogg noted the Board of Health did meet and discussed an agreement to bill services through Anthem, and a draft ordinance was also forwarded. He noted EMS met the last week in September and are sending out an RFP for contracted services but they are still waiting on the Town Attorneys. Vice-Chairman Lipeles concluded by stating she had a discussion with the Fire Marshall and they are anxiously waiting to see who the manufacturer will be for the new apparatus. Councilmember Rooney noted he spoke with Captain White but had nothing to report that pertained to Council.

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

Councilmember Reid reported a cutting ceremony was held for the turf fields at Masuk High School and they also played a successful game on the new field. He noted he would like the Economic Development Commission spokesman to come to a Council meeting but did not have a chance to speak with Chairman Lieto on this subject matter.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Councilmember Martin stated they did not meet; therefore, no report was given.

Strategic Planning Committee

Councilmember Kellogg reported they did not meet since the last Town Council meeting but received a follow-up email from Cathy Lombardi, Director of Human Resources, regarding the part-time pay plan. A meeting will be scheduled soon.

EMS Facility Workgroup

Councilmember Kellogg reported they did not meet since the last Town Council meeting but are still waiting for the next report from the architectural consultant.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Vavrek was not present, therefore no report was given. Councilmember Martin questioned bid waivers and would like more of an explanation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chalk Hill Updates

Patrick O'Hara, Chairman of the Monroe Planning and Zoning Commission was present to speak about a discussion they had last Thursday regarding Chalk Hill School. He submitted a letter addressed to the First Selectman, Town Council Chairman Frank Lieto, and Town Council Members with concerns regarding the use of 375 Fan Hill Road by the Town of Monroe Social Services Department for a Health fair event on October 20, 2016 with no permits. The Commission has no record of any permits for the use of 375 Fan Hill Road since abandonment by the Monroe Board of Education for use as a school over 5 years ago except for two rooms for a daycare center. He noted the Town of Monroe is subject to the same Zoning Regulations as every other property owner in Monroe. He noted 375 Fan Hill Road is a 94,000 square foot building which includes a parking lot and fields. He noted by regulation, government buildings; uses and facilities are permitted by Special Exception Permit. Special Exception Permits require applicants to meet certain standards contained in the regulations during a public hearing process. To date, there has been no application or public hearing regarding any Special Exception Use of 375 Fan Hill for anything other than the previously mention daycare, therefore, any use of 375 Fan Hill Road would be inconsistent with Town of Monroe Zoning Regulations and most likely a violation of Town of Monroe Zoning Regulations. Mr. O'Hara noted the Commission is obviously concerned about any violation of the Zoning Regulations, especially by the Town of Monroe. The Town enforces the Zoning Regulations and should therefore be a positive example. He stated the Commission has informed the First Selectman's office of these items (which

predate our current First Selectman) and are aware that efforts are ongoing to rectify those issues. The Commission's hope is that by this letter, the First Selectman and the Monroe Town Council are fully aware that 375 Fan Hill Road is subject to and to date without the required Special Exception Permit. He also hopes that all other Town of Monroe departments, offices, Boards and Commissions are made aware of the lack of permits for 375 Fan Hill Road to eliminate any future misunderstanding regarding use of the property. Mr. O'Hara did note there are also outstanding issues with the Discovery Zone and Food Pantry and the Town needs to work through them. Councilmembers feel we all need to be working together. Councilmember Kellogg feels zoning issues have to be addressed and need to finalize a comprehensive plan. He also feels the town of Monroe has to play by their own rules. Councilmember Reid feels all questions need to be reviewed by the First Selectman. Mr. O'Hara concluded by stating the Commission has concerns and everyone needs to concentrate on what to do with 375 Fan Hill Road as school buildings are considered community assets.

Revisions to Code of Ethics

Vice-Chairman Lipeles stated Revisions to Code of Ethics is not ready yet but hopefully it will be ready in two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Bequest for purchase and training of K-9 Unit for Police Department

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the bequest from the Estate of Kenneth M. Gleszer of \$40,000 towards the purchase and training of a K-9 as well as any equipment related to its training.

Second: (N. Kapoor)

Discussion: The Monroe Police Department, as well as several other service-dog organizations has been chosen to receive a bequest from the Estate of Kenneth M. Gleszer of \$40,000 towards the purchase and training of a K-9, as well as any equipment related to its training. Chief John Salvatore stated in his memo to the First Selectman, one of the K-9s will be retiring within the next year, and this bequest will greatly assist the Department in the acquisition and training of a new dog to keep the K-9 Unit a two-dog operation.

Motion passed 7-0

Project Authorization Letter – Reconstruction of Pepper Street

Vice-Chairman Lipeles noted this has been taken off the agenda per a letter sent from Town Attorney, John Fracassini.

FFY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Region 1 Memorandum of Agreement

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the FFY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Region 1 Memorandum of Agreement. The resolution states:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Monroe may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate pertaining to the 2014 State Homeland Security Region 1 Grant; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Stephen J. Vavrek, as First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Monroe and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

Discussion: The Monroe Police Department has the opportunity to receive funding for the FFY 2014 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 1.

Motion passed 7-0

Monroe Health Department Contract with Anthem

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the agreement of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield provider agreement with the Monroe Health Department.

Second: (K. Kellogg)

Discussion: Councilmember Kellogg stated this is a standard agreement with the Board of Health to provide certain services. He noted this is to allow the Town and Health Department to be able to bill Anthem Blue Cross for their insured members for these types of services,

Motion passed 7-0

2ND PARTICIPATION - None

Next Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on October 24, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Second: (K. Reid)

Motion passed 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta
Town Council Clerk