

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

October 24, 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 October 24, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Monroe Town Hall.

CONSENT CALENDAR

*Councilmember Kellogg stated on page 3 of 5, EMS Facility Workgroup, sentence should read 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.*

The Consent Calendar was passed unanimously with the noted amendment to the October 11, 2016 Town Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Memo from Town Council Liaison-Board of Health to L & A Chairman with a copy to the Town Council Chair dated September 30, 2016 regarding a Proposed New Chapter 420 "Public Swimming Pools" of the Town Code.

Correspondence from the Director of Community and Social Services to Town Council dated October 9, 2016 regarding donations to the Food Pantry.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council dated October 20, 2016 regarding a Vested Interest Donation to the Police Department.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 20, 2016 regarding donations to the Food Pantry.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 20, 2016 regarding a Bid Waiver request for lifting and leveling the sidewalks around Town Hall.

Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 20, 2016 regarding a Tax Abatement Application for 35 Cambridge Drive.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Steve Kirsch, 35 Applegate Lane commented on today's agenda under Communications, Item (E) Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated October 20, 2016 regarding a Bid Waiver request for lifting and leveling the sidewalks around Town Hall. He had concerns regarding the cost of this project. He noted if sidewalks are being replaced, you will need lighting, driveways, etc. and thought this was all part of the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval for the Police Department renovation a few years ago. He could not understand why we are doing a separate piece of work.

APPOINTMENTS - None

ACTION ITEMS

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

Vice-Chairman Lipeles reported EMS did a presentation at the Board of Finance meeting on an automated CPR that can now pump a person's chest for 45 minutes. To acquire three (3), the cost would be \$41,000 and will come out of the Capital Reserve Account. She stated a presentation was delivered on the Trails Project regarding the bicycle trails and they are looking to fix it up. The cost for this project will be \$1.4 million but noted the state will pay for this. The only cost to the town would be the design and engineering costs at \$150,000. Vice-Chairman Lipeles noted, according to Mike Manjos, he would like to have a capital meeting so not to make one decision at a time. She also noted the Board of Education raised approximately \$158,000 for the turf at Masuk High School. Vice-Chairman Lipeles stated Mr. Manjos would also like the salaries for elected officials increased such as the First Selectman, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector and he will make a recommendation to Town Council. She concluded by stating the taxation ordinance is still being tweaked. Councilmember Kansky had nothing to report. Councilmember Kellogg stated the Board of Health has not met since the last Town Council meeting, however, the proposed new Chapter 420, "public swimming pools" is on our agenda tonight. He stated EMS has not met but will be scheduled to meet this week. He also noted approximately 20 individuals were at the Senior Center regarding the tax relief and most seniors were pleased. Councilmember Rooney stated a discussion was done on the \$40,000 donation for the canine officer and the Ford Explorer is the preferred vehicle but that will be discussed at another time.

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

Councilmember Reid reported they have not met since the last Town Council meeting. A meeting will be scheduled soon.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Councilmember O'Rourke reported they met this evening and discussed Proposed New Chapter 420 "public swimming pools" to present to Town Council for approval, and briefly discussed how to best move forward on the purchase policy and blight ordinance. The next meeting is scheduled in two weeks.

Strategic Planning Committee

Councilmember Kellogg reported the next scheduled meeting is November 3, 2016.

EMS Facility Workgroup

Councilmember Kellogg reported the next scheduled meeting is November 9, 2016.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Vavrek stated he received the draft condition traffic study on Route 111 and Route 25, a 909 page document including traffic points.

Councilmember Martin questioned if he had any information regarding the Bid Waiver Request for the Town Hall sidewalks and any costs. First Selectman Vavrek noted a Safety Committee meets once a month and gives updates on conditions such as sidewalks and lighting. He discussed how the Safety Committee had called on the Department of Public Works to price different repair methods for the uneven sidewalks. He stated Chris Nowacki went out to price and found a vendor in Connecticut who utilizes a high density polyurethane product to lift level and stabilize concrete slabs, provides for a much quicker time for surface use. During the meeting, the Council asked the First Selectman about the bid waiver request he received from the Department of Public Works for the sidewalk project. Councilmember Kansky questioned when to anticipate doing this work and cannot understand why no bids have been made. First Selectman Vavrek stated he still needed to talk to Chris Nowacki. Councilmember Martin also asked why the repairs would be only a short term fix, noting if improvements are going to be made in the future, why spend the money now. She also asked about how the company Public Works is seeking to use was chosen since it had not been selected through a town bidding process. She was concerned because Chris Nowacki had found the company through the list of state-approved contractors provided by the Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCog) and she felt that not all of other companies on the list are reputable. Councilmember Kapoor questioned the letter the First Selectman sent to the Town Council Chairman regarding a bid waiver request. He does not understand why the First Selectman does not know what is being waived per his letter dated October 20, 2016. He could not understand why the First Selectman would pass along a waiver request to the Town Council when he did not have all the information about the request at that time. He feels the First Selectman should know what is being waived, therefore waiving the bidding process for a company you do not even know troubled him. Chairman Lieto also wanted an update on the RFP for the fire trucks. First Selectman Vavrek stated he heard from Mike Manjos as it was approved by the Board of Finance but did not have much information on this matter. Chairman Lieto wanted the First Selectman to explain how the RFP works as this all comes out of his office with proposals and responses from him. He asked the First Selectman to explain the bidding process. First Selectman Vavrek stated since both parties knew the process; he was not going to explain it again. Chairman Lieto was very concerned the First Selectman really did not know and this is very troubling to him. First

Selectman Vavrek stated he was sorry Chairman Lieto had doubts about the process and refused to answer the question. The First Selectman withdrew from the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chalk Hill Updates

Chairman Lieto stated the Chalk Hill updates will remain on the agenda for a resolution. Councilmember Kansky questioned how we push to get a plan. Councilmember Lieto noted the Strategic Planning Committee has been trying to gather information and noted we will not move forward until we have questions answered and public input. His problem was he was going to draft a letter in response to the Judge regarding Probate Court. He did not know what to put in the letter based upon the status of Council. He did not think it was fair to give his personal opinion and thought it was inappropriate at this time without a plan in place. He spoke with Mike Manjos, Pat O'Hara, and Barbara Yeager and he would like to call a joint meeting with all elected officials to discuss Chalk Hill but it is difficult to coordinate with all elected bodies. He believes a date of November 7, 2016 has been chosen but this has not been finalized. A few Boards and Commissions have interest in this building, and all members of Council should try to get the public to appear. Councilmember Kansky was very disappointed as she felt a comprehensive plan should have been presented by the First Selectman's office. Councilmember Kapoor noted when Chalk Hill was turned over to the town of Monroe; members of the town had questions that never got resolved purely noting this is a classic case of project management. Chairman Lieto noted the First Selectman has always stated information can be found on google.docs and he hopes more information will be brought forward to Council. He noted the Town Council has the Charter prevue of reviewing contracts and agreements, other than that, the Board of Finance control the money. He noted this is what Council can do to work on Chalk Hill. He stated there has been an interest by Mr. Cooper to move forward and if Chalk Hill is being utilized for programs someone needs to man the program and decisions have to be made to see if these programs can be utilized during the fiscal year. Councilmember Kansky would like to know the cost benefit of all this too. Councilmember Kapoor noted Councilmember Kellogg and Chairman Lieto have done more for the Chalk Hill Building, much more than they should have, and feels we are still having this conversation repeated and it is going on 5-6 years now.

Revisions to Code of Ethics

Chairman Lieto wanted to keep this on the agenda as he is waiting for a vote on the final language. He would like all of this prepared for a vote and public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Education Teachers' Contract

Chairman Lieto noted this item has already been discussed with James Agostine, Superintendent of Schools but has not been fully executed at the last Town Council meeting. He wanted to keep this on the agenda during the window of time to approve or disapprove.

Proposed New Chapter 420 “Public Swimming Pools” of the Town Code

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To approve the Proposed New Chapter 420 “Public Swimming Pools” of the Town Code.

Second: (D. Martin)

Discussion: Chairman Lieto noted this was discussed at L&A this evening and passed 3-0 to bring forth to Town Council. Councilmember Kellogg noted this was unanimously approved by the Board of Health. The Board of Health continues to work diligently in regards to certain proposed updates to the town code relative to public health matters. He has been working closely with the Board of Health, and has a proposed ordinance to create a new Chapter, “Public Swimming Pools”. He noted this was put on the agenda for consideration and further action from Town Council, including a request for the Town Attorney review. Chairman Lieto noted this should be ready for the next Town Council meeting. A consensus was done with approval from all Councilmembers.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Tax Abatement Application 35 Cambridge Drive – call for public hearing

Chairman Lieto noted he will call for a Public Hearing on November 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. on this application just before the Town Council Meeting. He stated this letter was presented by the Review Committee and approved by L&A that starts a 60 day clock to act upon this application.

2ND PARTICIPATION - None

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: (E. Lipeles)

To adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Second: (T. Rooney)

Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cerreta
Town Council Clerk