



# TOWN OF MONROE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Session # 2026-07

Regular Meeting – Monday, March 23, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.  
Meeting conducted in Council Chambers of Town Hall  
& Remotely via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Jonathan Formichella  
Vice-Chairperson Dona-Lyn Wales  
Councilmember Vincent A. Duva  
Councilmember Nina Gagnon  
Councilmember Cathy Kohut  
Councilmember Enid Lipeles  
Councilmember Jason Maur  
Councilmember Sean O'Rourke  
Councilmember Kevin Reid (remote)

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Terrence P. Rooney  
Town Attorney Frank Lieto

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#### I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Formichella** called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Formichella** took the roll call as noted above.

#### III. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting held on March 9, 2026 (Session 2026-06).
- B. **RESOLUTION #26-025: RESOLVED**, that Terrence P. Rooney, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, is authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Monroe, the Transparent Language, Inc. Contract and any associated documents by and between Transparent Language, Inc., for the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library Language Learning Database Renewal Contract.

#### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated March 19, 2026 regarding the Transparent Language, Inc., Renewal Contract.
- B. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated March 18, 2026 regarding the Transparent Language, Inc., Renewal Contract.
- C. Memo from a resident of Richmond Drive to the Town Council Chair dated March 10, 2026 regarding the Water Main Extension on Richmond Drive.
- D. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated March 19, 2026 regarding the Professional Services Agreement for On-Call Engineering Services.
- E. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated March 18, 2026 regarding the Professional Services Agreement for On-Call Engineering Services.

- F. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated March 19, 2026 regarding the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Formichella** noted that he received a letter that day at 3pm from the Board of Education Chair Dennis Condon regarding a request for the formation of a building committee. **Formichella** asked that the letter be incorporated into the next Town Council meeting packet for public viewing.

## V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Formichella** asked if anyone in chambers or online wished to participate.

**Susan Verespej** – 36 Richmond Drive – Thanked everyone for including her memo in the agenda and for their time and attention they were giving to the serious matter of bringing water to Richmond Drive. She noted that they were not all were in favor of it and that she felt moved to put that information together because it was concerning to her that there was not a clear picture of the neighbors and their needs and feelings.

**Formichella** asked if anyone in chambers or online wished to participate. Hearing none, Formichella closed public participation.

## VI. APPOINTMENTS

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Town Council Committee on Finance, Education, Health & Public Safety Matters – **Lipeles** noted they had not met since the last Town Council meeting.
- B. Town Council Committee on Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Park & Recreation – **Duva** stated that they had not met since the last meeting but that there is a meeting being scheduled for April 1, 2026 at 6pm and that they do have estimates from Aquarion. **Formichella** asked Councilmember Duva to reach out to Finance to see if there were any associated costs that would be borne by those homeowners with respect to any type of bonding so that residents have the most accurate picture of potential costs if they moved forward.
- C. Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters – **Reid** noted they met prior to the meeting and that three items were discussed and had reached consensus to come before Town Council.
- D. Strategic Planning Committee - **Formichella** stated they have not met since the last Town Council meeting. **Maur** requested that if the Board of Finance plans to have a meeting with respect to capital, if the chair would make them aware of such meeting.
- E. Open Space Preservation and Acquisition Committee – **O'Rourke** stated that he had spoke with the Planning & Zoning Chair regarding the open space at 3 Rowledge Pond Road. He stated that the Chair noted it was a postage stamp type property without further access to other open spaces or a bigger footprint. **O'Rourke** stated he was unsure if it abutted other open space properties and inquired with the Chair. He stated he was awaiting a reply and hopeful to have a meeting with the committee and landholder.
- F. First Selectman's Update – First Selectman Rooney provided an update as follows:

### Operations:

#### Phyllis Kansky

- Phyllis worked for the Town of Monroe for 30 years and during that time became the Human Resources Director. She also was elected to Town Council, where she served for two terms. Phyllis loved serving her community and was a dedicated to public service. She will be greatly missed, condolences to her friends and family.

#### Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

- Craig Hirsch, Human Resources Director, and I attended a CCM committee meeting regarding legislative matters affecting the State. Education funding and state legislation, such as HB 8002 were discussed.

Senior Tax Relief

- Justin Feldman, the Assessor, and I visited the Senior Center to discuss the change to the Tax Relief Program, which increased to \$75,000. We are currently working on a new ordinance that will benefit our seniors and will hopefully be supported by this council when presented for approval.

Neighborhood Assistance Act

- The Town of Monroe will once again participate in the Neighborhood Assistance Act. The NAA program allows certain businesses to claim a State tax credit for monetary donations made to qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies. Some programs that qualify for the tax credit program include community services, crime prevention and child care services. All applications must be submitted to my office by May 29, 2026 in order to be considered.

**Emergency Services Update:**

Greg Smith Retirement

- Deputy Chief Greg Smith has retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the Monroe Police Department. Many gathered to come celebrate at a reception held in his honor. It was privilege to work with him, and the town wishes him good luck in his future endeavors.

**Capital Projects:**

Community Center Site

- The kitchen has had a dishwasher installed and all appliances are being repaired to full operation. The walls have been resurfaced in the kitchen and the stage drapes are going to be cleaned, as they have decades of dust on them. Our IT Department is looking at the audio-visual components to see what upgrades or replacement is needed.

**Community Update:**

Bridgeport Saint Patrick’s Day Parade

- It’s always an honor to represent Monroe at the annual parade with other municipal leaders. There was no shortage of Monroe attendees and our presence there was extremely well received.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution #26-026:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the Professional Services Agreement for On-Call Engineering Services.

**Motion by Formichella** to adopt **RESOLUTION #26-026: RESOLVED**, that Terrence P. Rooney, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, is authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Monroe, the Professional Services Agreement for On-Call Engineering Services and any associated documents by and between James DiMeo for On-Call Engineering Services.

**Formichella** noted that the name of the contractor shall be DiMeo Engineering, LLC instead of James DiMeo, P.E.

**Second: Maur**

**Discussion: Rooney** stated that our current Town Engineer, James DiMeo, P.E., had provided his notice to resign from his employment with the Town of Monroe to pursue a personal business venture in the private sector. The Town Engineer position had been posted and applications were being received, however in the interim, James had offered to continue to work with the Town on current projects under a Professional Services On-Call Engineering Services Agreement. **Rooney** stated that this Agreement and services would provide continuity with the Town’s current and future projects. He stated that this Agreement had been drafted by our Town Attorney, who provided the attached opinion letter. **Formichella** noted there was a request from the Human Resource Director regarding the name change. **Maur** noted there were

questions discussed during L&A and those included that the hours would average around 10 a week, maybe more, maybe less and that it would be a savings in the interim of hiring the right candidate.

**Motion passed 9-0:**

Voting Yes: **Formichella, Wales, Duva, Gagnon, Kohut, Lipeles, Maur, O' Rourke, Reid**

Voting No: None

Absent: None

- B. Resolution #26-027:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Motion by Wales** to adopt **RESOLUTION #26-027: RESOLVED**, that the Town Council hereby accepts and ratifies the Tentative Agreement by and between the Town of Monroe and the Monroe Police Union Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 50, and that Terrence P. Rooney, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, is authorized to prepare and execute a final agreement pursuant to the Tentative Agreement.

**Second: Duva**

**Discussion: Formichella** stated that there was a non-meeting held that night prior to Council to discuss this item. He stated that there was consensus to move this item from the non-meeting to L&A and from L&A to Town Council. **Maur** thanked the entire force for their service to the Town.

**Motion passed 9-0:**

Voting Yes: **Formichella, Wales, Duva, Gagnon, Kohut, Lipeles, Maur, O' Rourke, Reid**

Voting No: None

Absent: None

- C. Tax Appeal Stipulation (Executive Session Anticipated)**

**Formichella** made a motion to enter executive session at 7:19pm inviting the First Selectman and Town Attorney to discuss a tax appeal stipulation.

**Second: Lipeles**

**Motion passed 9-0:**

Voting Yes: **Formichella, Wales, Duva, Gagnon, Kohut, Lipeles, Maur, O' Rourke, Reid**

Voting No: None

Absent: None

**Formichella** noted members returned from executive session at 7:31pm and that no votes were taken.

**Motion by Formichella** to adopt **RESOLUTION #26-028:** which authorizes the Town Attorney to enter into a tax appeal stipulation with Amy Smith and Kevin Pasacreta.

**Second: Maur**

**Discussion: Maur** stated that the stipulation required both the Town Attorney and First Selectman to sign and suggested adding that authorization.

**Formichella** noted no objection and therefore by unanimous consent, be adopted to add the First Selectman and the Town Attorney being authorized to sign the stipulation.

**Motion passed 9-0:**

Voting Yes: **Formichella, Wales, Duva, Gagnon, Kohut, Lipeles, Maur, O' Rourke, Reid**

Voting No: None

Absent: None

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Formichella** adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by, Kerry McAndrew, Clerk*