



# TOWN OF MONROE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Session # 2025-09

Regular Meeting – Monday, April 7, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.  
Meeting conducted in Council Chambers of Town Hall  
& Remotely via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Jonathan Formichella  
Vice-Chairperson Enid Lipeles  
Councilmember Cathy Kohut  
Councilmember Jason Maur  
Councilmember Sean O'Rourke  
Councilmember Janice Persico  
Councilmember Kevin Reid (remote)  
Councilmember Dona-Lyn Wales

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Vincent A. Duva

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Terrence P. Rooney

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#### I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Formichella** called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Formichella** stated every member was present in person with the exception of Council Member Vincent Duva who was absent and Council Member Kevin Reid, who was remote.

#### III. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting Public Hearing held on March 24, 2025 (Session 2025-07) and the Town Council Regular Meeting held on March 24, 2025 (Session 2025-08).
- B. Approval of the Tax Collector's Request for Refunds, dated April 2, 2025, totaling \$24,661.47.
- C. Acceptance of the donations received for the following programs:
- Community & Social Services: \$513.00
  - Edith Wheeler Memorial Library: \$2,837.80 & in-kind donations of 6 books, 7 DVDS, 3 board games, 1 aluminum folding cot, bocce balls, and 1 juice fountain.
  - Emergency Medical Services: \$980.00
  - Food Pantry: \$916.00
  - Police Department: \$600.00
  - Project Warmth: \$100.00
- D. **RESOLUTION #25-044: 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 following Performing Artist Engagement Agreement, as well as any associated documents by and between the following parties:
1. Joseph Dewey - Hype
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the First Selectman is authorized to amend this agreement as may be necessary for, and limited to, the rescheduling of performance dates.

- E. **RESOLUTION #25-045: 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 Certification and any associated documents by and between the State of Connecticut, for the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Grant.
- F. **RESOLUTION #25-046: 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 Pest Control Contract and any associated documents by and between ABC Exterminating, Inc. for pest control services at the EMS Building.

#### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 3, 2025 regarding various donations.
- B. Memo from the Tax Collector to the Town Council Chair dated April 2, 2025 regarding a Request for Refunds.
- C. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 3, 2025 regarding the Performing Artist Engagement Agreement.
- D. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated April 3, 2025 regarding the Performing Artist Engagement Agreement.
- E. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 3, 2025 regarding the FY2025 Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Grant Certification.
- F. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated March 26, 2025 regarding the FY2025 Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) Grant Certification.
- G. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 3, 2025 regarding the ABC Exterminating Pest Control Contract.
- H. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated April 3, 2025 regarding the ABC Exterminating Pest Control Contract.
- I. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 3, 2025 regarding the Concessionaire Agreement.
- J. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated April 3, 2025 regarding the Concessionaire Agreement.
- K. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 3, 2025 regarding the Highway Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.

#### V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

**Formichella** asked if anyone else online or in person wished to participate. Hearing none, **Formichella** closed Public Participation.

#### VI. APPOINTMENTS

None

#### VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Town Council Committee on Finance, Education, Health & Public Safety Matters – **Lipeles** noted they had not met for a meeting in a while.
- B. Town Council Committee on Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Park & Recreation – **O'Rourke** stated that they had not met since the last meeting.
- C. Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters – **Reid** noted they met prior to the meeting and discussed five items. He noted that all resolutions passed for consensus to come before Council.
- D. Strategic Planning Committee - **Formichella** stated that he had two updates. He noted that the Board of Finance would have a capital meeting on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. He stated that Chairwoman

O'Donnell invited the Town Council. The other update was that there would be an Adhoc Board of Education Facilities Study Committee Meeting at the High School on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. **Formichella** stated that since the last Town Council meeting, there were further discussions about the progress of the committee and the creation of a survey released to parents and the community. He noted that if the link was still available he would encourage everyone to fill it out, as it had broad implications to every home and business in the Town as well as financial consequences.

- E. Open Space Preservation and Acquisition Committee – **O' Rourke** noted they have not met since the last Council meeting.
- F. First Selectman's Update –First Selectman Rooney provided an update as follows:

**Operations:**

FEMA

- The Town of Monroe was the first to receive the 75% reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) for damages incurred by the August 1000 year flood. Mitigating and repairing storm damage ultimately totaled \$413,333. FEMA released what they had promised and the Town of Monroe received \$310,000, which will be returned to the Emergency Fund Balance. Thank you to Public Works Director Chris Nowacki for his leadership through this. A special thanks to Deputy Director William Phillips and Public Works administrator Viana Machnicz for staying focused on damage documentation, labor costs and all record keeping needed to receive the Federal government reimbursement. Monroe was also made aware that we were the first Connecticut municipality to receive financial reimbursement from FEMA.

Housatonic Valley Rail Trail & Judd Road Bridge Projects

- The Town of Monroe has received an authorization to bid from CTDOT on March 18<sup>th</sup>,2025 for the Housatonic Valley Rail Trail. The Housatonic Valley Rail Trail Project is being funded by a DEEP grant; it will provide for the construction of an off-road multi use trail from Maple Drive to Wolfe Park.
- The Town of Monroe has also received and authorization to bid from CTDOT on April 7<sup>th</sup>,2025 for the Judd Road Bridge Project. The Judd Road Bridge Project is also State funded under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). Town Engineer, James DiMeo is currently working on necessary documents for construction monitoring services.

**Community Update:**

Make a Wish

- Make-a-wish representative and Monroe resident Kim Smith reached out asking for the selectman's office to be involved in a giveaway by a local vendor Jersey Mikes. I attended the small event in support of Make-a-wish and the Special Olympics.

Penguin Plunge

- As always, the annual penguin plunge held by the Monroe Police was a great success. People of all ages suited up at Great Hollow Lake to test their bravery by running into an extremely cold-water lake for the cause. Thank you, Monroe, P.D. for always conducting professional and well attended activities.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. VEMS (Executive Session Anticipated)
- B. Pepper Street (Executive Session Anticipated)

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Acceptance of the following donations that individually exceed \$1,500.00:

Food Pantry:

- \$4,000.00 from the First Selectman Rooney Foundation, Inc.
- \$1,540.00 from the Monroe Lions Charities, Inc. Monroe Lions Club

Project Warmth:

- \$4,000.00 from the First Selectman Rooney Foundation, Inc.

**Second: Maur**

**Discussion: Rooney** stated that the donations were greatly appreciated and the organizations could use them regularly. He noted that the food pantry needed items. **Formichella** thanked the First Selectman's Foundation and Lions Club for their generous donations to the Monroe Food Pantry and Project Warmth.

**Motion passed 8-0:**

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Duva

- B. Resolution #25-047:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the Concessionaire Agreement.

**Motion by Lipeles** to adopt **RESOLUTION #25-047: 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 Concessionaire Agreement and any associated documents by and between Peggy Lewis Catering, LLC, for the Concessions at Wolfe Park.

**Second: Maur**

**Discussion: Rooney** stated that our Director of Parks & Recreation had identified a vendor, Peggy Lewis Catering, LLC ("Concessionaire") to provide concessionaire services for the 2025 season at Wolfe Park. Attached was a Concessionaire Agreement with Peggy Lewis Catering, LLC to provide this service, along with an option to allow for an extension of the Term for one additional concession season, which may be granted or denied in the sole discretion of the Town. The agreement was previously drafted with our Town Attorney, who provided his opinion letter. **Maur** stated that this was discussed in L&A and he inquired if there was an idea of the discretionary time that the caterer had for either down at the lake or at the fields and inquired that if the concessionaire was a good fit, if in the future, they would be able to utilize the kitchen at the Senior Center to have someone in there.

**Motion passed 8-0:**

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

Voting No: None

Absent: Duva

- C. Resolution #25-048:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the Town of Monroe Highway Union Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Motion by Lipeles** to adopt **RESOLUTION #25-048: RESOLVED**, that the Town Council hereby accepts and ratifies the Tentative Agreement agreed to by and between the Town of Monroe and the Connecticut Association of Labor Unions, and authorizes Terrence P. Rooney, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Monroe, pursuant to such Tentative Agreement, a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028.

**Second: Wales**

**Discussion: Rooney** stated that after many hours of working with the Bargaining Unit, Finance Director, and Human Resource Director, there was a conclusion for the agreement. He noted that he found the agreement to be fair from both parties. **Rooney** stated that he found the bargaining unit to be very fair and understanding throughout the negotiations. He noted that we have been trying things differently, by getting in a room together and having everyone on the contracts to have a say. **Rooney** stated that he found this process to be educational and he personally had learned a lot about how their contract and the operation worked, finding hiccups and working through to correct them. He stated he was very proud to be able to work together. **Rooney** stated that sometimes the meetings were tough but everyone worked through them and he believed they found a contract that was good for the town. He stated that the bargaining unit did pass the agreement at their meeting last Wednesday. **Rooney** stated that the contract would help keep our Public Works people around for a while and noted that they do a great job! **Rooney** thanked all involved. **Maur** thanked everyone for their hard work and stated that as the Selectman said, that especially this past year, the town had seen some big challenges and they rose to those challenges.

**Motion passed 8-0:**

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

Voting No: None  
Absent: Duva

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
**None**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**  
**Formichella** adjourned the meeting at 7:20PM.  
*Respectfully submitted by, Kerry McAndrew, Clerk*