



TOWN OF MONROE

TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Session # 2024-17

Regular Meeting – Monday, September 9, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.

Meeting conducted in Council Chambers of Town Hall

& Remotely via Zoom

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Terrence P. Rooney
Meghan Sloane, MetroCOG
James DiMeo, Town Engineer

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Formichella called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 August 12, 2024 (Session 2024-16).
- B. Approval of the Tax Collector's Request for Refunds, dated September 4, 2024, totaling \$7,950.05.
- C. Acceptance of the donations received for the following programs:
 - Community & Social Services: \$217.00
 - Edith Wheeler Memorial Library: \$547.66 & In-Kind of laser cutting machine, accessories for the Makerspace, 4 books, 1 puzzle, kitchen toys & toys for preschool lab.
 - Emergency Medical Services: \$125.00
 - Food Pantry: \$3,553.51
 - Police Department: \$350.00
 - Department of Public Works: In-kind donation of memorial bench & bench refurbishing at Town Hall Gazebo.
- D. **Resolution #24-123: RESOLVED**, that 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 Paul Bozzi – Moto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to amend these agreements as may be necessary for, and limited to, the rescheduling of performance dates.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- A.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding various donations.
- B.** Memo from the Tax Collector to the Town Council Chair dated September 4, 2024 regarding a Request for Refunds.
- C.** Memo from the Director of Public Work's to the Town Council Chair dated August 29, 2024 regarding a formal thank you to the First Selectman.
- D.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding the Performing Artist Engagement Agreement.
- E.** Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated August 12, 2024 regarding the Performing Artist Engagement Agreement.
- F.** Memo from the Republican Town Committee to the Town Council Chair dated August 27, 2024 regarding an appointment to the Board of Finance.
- G.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding an appointment to the Lake Zoar Authority.
- H.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding an appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- I.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding an appointment to the Board of Health.
- J.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding an appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- K.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding an appointment to the Historic District Commission.
- L.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- M.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council dated September 5, 2024 regarding the State of Connecticut Coronavirus State Fiscal Local Recovery Fund Beneficiary Agreement.
- N.** Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated September 5, 2024 regarding the State of Connecticut Coronavirus State Fiscal Local Recovery Fund Beneficiary Agreement.
- O.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding the MOA with Ledge Light Health District for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- P.** Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated September 5, 2024 regarding the MOA with Ledge Light Health District for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.
- Q.** Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated September 5, 2024 regarding the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program Agreement.
- R.** Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated September 5, 2024 regarding the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program Agreement.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

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

VI. APPOINTMENTS

- A. Resolution #24-124:** To consider and act upon the resolution regarding the appointment of **Mark O'Donnell (R)** to the Board of Finance for a term ending November 24, 2025.

Motion by Lipeles to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-124: RESOLVED**, that the Monroe Town Council hereby approves the appointment of **Mark O'Donnell (R)** to the Board of Finance for a term ending November 24, 2025 filing the vacancy of Republican Michael Manjos.

Second: Wales

Discussion: Formichella stated that Redding Connecticut Police Department and has been a full-time officer in the department for 39 years. He stated that he has resided in Monroe for 40 years and is a graduate of Masuk High School and resides in Monroe with his wife, daughter and granddaughter. **Formichella** stated that as Police Chief, Mark was familiar with managing a municipal budget and being fiscally responsible, had been a Capstone judge at Masuk, and a mentor to high school and college students. He noted that Mark was looking forward to giving back to the town of Monroe. **Formichella** stated that Mr. O'Donnell was interviewed at L&A that evening and his nomination was passed to Town Council for its full consideration. He stated that Mr. O'Donnell opined that he would abide by the Code of Ethics and Town Charter, that he would do what was in the best interest for Monroe, work bipartisan, and answered all of the committee's questions.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

Rooney swore in Mark O'Donnell.

- B. Resolution #24-125:** To consider and act upon the resolution regarding the appointment of **Avinash (Avi) Veeraraghav (D)** of 33 Perry Drive to the Lake Zoar Authority for a term ending November 8, 2025.

Motion by Maur to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-125: RESOLVED**, that the Monroe Town Council hereby approves the First Selectman's appointment of **Avinash (Avi) Veeraraghav (D)** of 33 Perry Drive to the Lake Zoar Authority for a term ending November 8, 2025.

Second: Persico

Discussion: Maur stated that Avi had been a resident of Monroe since 1996, he graduated from Masuk High School in 2014, attained his bachelor's degree from UConn in 2018, and his master's in Public Health from the University of Bridgeport in 2021. **Maur** stated that he currently works as the Epidemiologist with the Milford Health Department, volunteers with the University of Bridgeport's MPH program as the Alumni Coordinator for its Academic Affairs Committee, and is also a member of the Hamden Symphony Orchestra, playing in its second violin section every Thursday evening. He noted that given his longstanding ties to Monroe, Avi was glad to finally have a chance to contribute towards and make a difference in the Town that has greatly shaped who he is today.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

Rooney swore in Avi Veeraraghav.

- C. Resolution #24-126:** To consider and act upon the resolution regarding the appointment of **Margaret Lee (D)** of 26 Overlook Drive to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate for a term ending August 22, 2025.

Motion by Maur to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-126: RESOLVED**, that the Monroe Town Council hereby approves the First Selectman's appointment of **Margaret Lee (D)** of 26 Overlook Drive to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate for a term ending August 22, 2025.

Second: Lipeles

Discussion: Maur stated that in January 2005, Margaret Lee moved to Northbrook Condominium Association in Monroe. He noted that prior to her retirement in 2007, she served as corporate Benefits Assistant, then Manager, handling health insurance, 401K plans, traditional pension plans and health insurance benefits, giving seminars to and working one on one with salaried and hourly employees to help them understand and enroll in those benefits. **Maur** stated that her love of nature and the outdoors, inspired her to join the Northbrook Landscape Committee, serving there throughout her tenure on the Board. He noted that she was elected to the Board of Directors in 2008, and subsequently

served as VP in 2014, then as President from 2015 to 2022. **Maur** stated that in that capacity she represented Northbrook before the Planning and Zoning Commission in two separate cases before the town. He noted that Margaret wished to continue her history of volunteerism by working with the Town of Monroe to give back to the community she loves.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

Rooney swore in Margaret Lee.

- D. Resolution #24-127:** To consider and act upon the resolution regarding the appointment of **Marybeth McGuire (R)** of 23 Georges Lane to the Board of Health for a term ending April 27, 2027.

Motion by Formichella to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-127: RESOLVED**, that the Monroe Town Council hereby approves the First Selectman's appointment of **Marybeth McGuire (R)** of 23 Georges Lane to the Board of Health for a term ending April 27, 2027.

Second: Maur

Discussion: Formichella stated that Marybeth was a Director of Corporate Communication at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Communications. He noted that she has been a long-time resident of Monroe and resided here with her husband and three children. **Formichella** stated that she was involved with many charitable organizations including LivFree and UMC of Monroe. He stated that Marybeth was looking forward to using her skills in translating complicated health topics into accessible language, engaging with the community to foster trust, promote health literacy, as well as helping to manage public health emergencies and disseminating critical health information promptly and efficiently.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

Rooney swore in Marybeth McGuire.

- E. Resolution #24-128:** To consider and act upon the resolution regarding the appointment of **Rob Primorac (R)** of 320 Cross Hill Road to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term ending October 25, 2025.

Motion by Formichella to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-128: RESOLVED**, that the Monroe Town Council hereby approves the First Selectman's appointment of **Rob Primorac (R)** of 320 Cross Hill Road to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term ending October 25, 2025.

Second: Maur

Discussion: Formichella stated that Robert retired from GE as an executive with over 24 years of experience primarily working in Corporate Accounting. He noted that he held a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and had resided in Monroe for 20 years with his wife and three children. **Formichella** stated that Robert had been an active volunteer in the community as an advocate for breast cancer awareness, supporting performing arts both in the Monroe Public School system and other districts, and engaged with the Parks and Recreation Leadership for the Arts in the Park Series since 2014. He noted that Robert was looking forward to bringing his passion and fiscal discipline to the Town and looking to bring ideas to the commission.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

Rooney swore in Robert Primorac.

- F. Resolution #24-129:** To consider and act upon the resolution regarding the appointment of **Sue DeGeorge (R)** of 403 Elm Street to the Historic District Commission as an alternate for a term ending July 1, 2027.

Motion by Formichella to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-129: RESOLVED**, that the Monroe Town Council hereby approves the First Selectman’s appointment of **Sue DeGeorge (R)** of 403 Elm Street to the Historic District Commission as an alternate for a term ending July 1, 2027.

Second: Wales

Discussion: Formichella stated Sue currently works for the Town of Monroe as the Assistant Town Clerk. He noted that she graduated from Boston College with an Education Degree and had always enjoyed being an active member and volunteer of multiple organizations in Monroe. He stated that she had resided in Monroe for 21 years with her husband and has raised 3 children here. **Formichella** stated that Sue previously volunteered for Stepney PTO, Parent’s Council, Masuk PTC, St. Jude’s Religious Education, Sprint for Monroe and was a former employee of the Monroe Public Schools. He stated that Sue would like to focus on becoming more active in town wide programs, was very interested in Monroe’s history, and being able to help preserve it through being a part of this commission.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

Rooney swore in Sue DeGeorge.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Town Council Committee on Finance, Education, Health & Public Safety Matters – **Lipeles** noted they had not met since the last Council meeting.
- B. Town Council Committee on Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Park & Recreation – **Duva** stated there was no update.
- C. Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters – **Reid** noted they met prior to the meeting. He noted they discussed six items of business of which Mr. O’Donnell was included in addition to the performing artist agreement, the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan, State of Connecticut Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the MOA with Ledge Light Health District for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant, and the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program Agreement, all of which reached consensus to be discussed at Council.
- D. Strategic Planning Committee - **Formichella** stated they have not met since the last Council meeting. He noted that the Board of Education had engaged in a facility study that was wrapping up and would provide concrete information about the conditions of the buildings as well as a demographic report about student population and projections. **Formichella** stated that he would be attending two meetings, one this month on the 16th which was the facility study report on building conditions and the second on the 21st of October which would discuss the demographic report. **Formichella** stated that it was his understanding that the Board of Education would be moving forward with a facilities master committee this fall and he would represent the Town Council. He noted a member of the Board of Finance would be selected on that committee as well. **Formichella** stated he would keep Councilmembers updated.
- 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 Update:

August 18th

- The Town of Monroe suffered significant damage from the August 18th flooding incident now being recognized as a 1000-year storm having recorded rainfall up to 16’ in the area of Lake Zoar and Stevenson Dam. The event started in the afternoon and it became quickly apparent this was a different rain storm. Warnings from Department of Home Land Security were released through cellular devices and other technology; however, it’s been recognized that none of the agencies had the expectation that unfolded in just a few hours. As I was in Stevenson, the majority of the time helping Police, Fire, and the Department of Public Works make crucial decisions, neighboring municipalities sent additional assistance. A mutual aid rescue was done on the Monroe border in Newtown with Norwalk Fire Department and our Department of Public Works. Our Public Works

Department assisted with equipment that could withstand deep rapid moving water. The Police Department and DPW began setting up barricades and other road closure tactics to keep travelers from flooded and washed away dangerous roadways. The Waterview had a ground collapse and at first reports were grim, however, that situation was quickly under control and the 150 patrons were guided from the venue safely by law enforcement. Our Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments controlled this sudden and unforeseen act of nature admirably resulting in no loss of life or injury.

As the storm subsided, the evident damage revealed there would be a significant need for equipment not owned by the town of Monroe. I was informed and made confident by Public Works that we could handle rebuilding our roads with our current Town staff. It was at that time I declared a State of Emergency for Monroe and approved the rental of equipment needed. That effort resulted in a commendable effort in restoring lost infrastructure and restoring all our non-passable roads to full operation. These efforts were completed by Town staff in Public Works and led by the expertise in heavy equipment operation by crew leader Shane Everetts.

In just a few days we had most of our roads open, leaving only Cottage Street and State Road Route 34 unpassable. In just 3 days from receiving the aforementioned heavy equipment, Cottage Street was open and all roads were also fully paved saving them from erosion and double work that would have occurred if Monroe needed to wait for an outside paving company. Through this event I was in contact with State Legislators and State Representative Tony Scott about concerns for Route 34. As we were finishing Cottage Street, we received news that Manafort construction was contracted by State DOT to start repair efforts. Myself and Town Engineer, James DeMaio visited the site and they also were moving at an impressive pace.

It is difficult to comprehend the amount of skill, organization, and the mutual aid to get these projects done in the professional and rapid manner in which they were completed as professionals can make things look easy, however I want this Council and the people of Monroe to understand this was anything but easy. With my goal of having all roads open by the start of school all members of DPW and the Highway Department were under extreme pressure. However, mutual aid from Trumbull and Fairfield's Public Works providing additional trucking and stone assisted in making that goal a reality.

As we visited homes and businesses damaged by this flood it was surreal. The amount of water that poured through places like Galbo Industries and Brookside Trail was unimaginable and the damage left was difficult to comprehend. We kept constant contact with the Department of Homeland Security every day and that contact is ongoing daily. FEMA met with Monroe to discuss property damage only. The link is once again in my upcoming emergency services update.

It is important for all of our citizens to understand that FEMA is a federal agency and only acts under a Declaration of Disaster by the President of the United States, however until or if that happens the Town and State are in a holding pattern. I understand it's very difficult to stay patient, however FEMA has their protocol which cannot and will not be expedited in any way by local or state governmental pressure until the damages are tallied by the Department of Homeland Security and the threshold of specific damage from this storm of \$ 4,404,127.40 has been met. Therefore, the current State of Emergency will still stay in effect until further notice pending Federal decisions.

I would like to thank the surrounding Towns of Shelton, Trumbull, Bridgeport, Fairfield and Norwalk for their rapid and professional mutual aid during this 1000-year flood. In addition, I would like to specifically thank Trumbull and Fairfield for the collaboration in our re-construction efforts.

Thank you to our Town staff and Directors, Chief of Police Keith White, Fire Chief Kevin Catalano, Chief Chris Krise, Deputy Chief Joseph McNellis, Director Chris Nowacki, Assistant Director Bill Phillips, as well as Crew Leaders Shane Everett and Josh Krise. Also thank you to our Law enforcement personnel, Department of Public Works staff, our Fire volunteers, Dispatchers and our EMS for handling this sudden and unforeseen act of nature professionally and without further

incident.

Emergency Services Update:

HEARTSafe Community

- I am proud to say on behalf of the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association our Town is once again a HEARTSafe Community. This means our community continues to provide improved cardiac response care and utilizing the “Chain of Survival” of early 9-1-1 access, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and advanced care.

August 18th Flooding

- There has been a lot of information released regarding the August 18th storm. On August 26th I released a memo going over Monroe declaring a local State of Emergency, the self-reporting link from FEMA to report damages and to be vigilant of natural disaster related scams. I have added the link below if there are residents that have not yet filled out the self-reporting link.
- <https://crisistrack.juvar.com/public/CTDEMHS/request.html>

Finance

- Finance department in finalizing FY 23/24 close out has preliminary numbers showing a potential surplus of 4.7 million which is inclusive of the Board of Education budgeting overages.

Capital Projects

St. Jude

- Town Attorney Lieto has informed my office that closing dates are being discussed.

Community Update:

Camp Tepee

- I took a tour and visited Camp Tepee in Monroe.

Monroe Police Night Out

- On August 13th the Police Department presented the Town with National Law Enforcement Night Out. Fun was had by all! There was an estimated amount of 3,000 people at Wolfe Park. Thank you, Monroe Police Department and Public Works. It was an honor to be in attendance with my family and see everyone enjoy the many activities that were there.

Kyle Granello Bench Dedication

- Monroe Town Hall’s Gazebo now has refurbished benches. Thank you to the Granello Family. One of the benches is in dedication to their son, Kyle Granello who lost his life to opioids. Kyle was a great kid and is missed by many, I hope this dedication in his memory is a reminder to all to stay vigilant and to teach our children to stay away from even one-time use.

Ribbon Cuttings

- Dunkin Donuts
- Village Coffee Bar
- Cruvinel Brothers
- El Sol Deli

Grants:

OSWA Grant

- I attended and spoke at a press conference regarding the 1.8 million dollars granted for open space at 30 Old Newtown Road. Thank you, Aspetuck Land Trust, and the Benedict Family for making this possible. Please see below for more information on the grant.

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grants

Project Name: Benedict Property

Sponsor: Town of Monroe in partnership with Aspetuck Land Trust

Location: 30 Old Newtown Road; 460 Purdy Hill Road; 504 Purdy Hill Road; Monroe

Grant Amount: \$1,803,750

Size: 65 Acres

Description: The Benedict property is adjacent to the existing Pequonnock/Housatonic Railbed Greenway. The Pequonnock River Trail runs along the eastern property boundary, sandwiched between this property and the 346-acre William Wolfe Park.

The Town of Monroe and Aspetuck Land Trust plan to link the Benedict property to this trail and increase recreational opportunities within the subject parcel as well as Wolfe Park. This property will be used to create an off-street parking area, and hiking trail network with scenic vistas, open meadows, and dense woods. This parcel features extensive wildlife habitat, wetlands, and a complex of meadows. The parcel contains ideal habitat for numerous State-listed species of conservation concern.

This is the 5th OSWA grant that the Town of Monroe has received:

- 44 Old Fish House Road (Webb Mountain)
- 156 Webb Circle
- 71 Webb Circle (Webb Mountain Discovery Zone)
- 104 Old Newtown Road

Sustainable CT – Application Package

Overview:

- **Mission:** To foster inclusive, resilient and vibrant Connecticut Municipalities that provide opportunities for all to thrive by: Providing a menu of sustainability actions that build local economies, support equity and respect the finite capacity of the environment.
- **Monroe has submitted their application as part of the Fall Certification Cycle.**
 - Monroe’s application cited 28 different actions for which we are seeking BRONZE certification.
 - Over 500 points have been accrued as part of our application process.
- Voluntary certification available to all municipalities in the State of Connecticut
 - demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, ensuring a vibrant economy and a healthy, resilient community in the future.
- 138 (82%) of the 169 municipalities have registered with Sustainable CT, 63 (46%) of which have attained certification.
- Gold Certified – 750 points – 2 municipalities (3%)
- Silver Certified – 500 points – 24 municipalities (38%)
- Bronze Certified – 200 points – 37 municipalities (59%)
- Climate Leader – Additional designation achieved if application has 150 points in high-impact actions – 11 municipalities (17%)

New Hires

- Cara Conroy- Library Aide
- Kaitlyn Maloney- Library Aide
- Luca Bartłomiejczyk– Adult and Teen Librarian
- Lauren Todd- Library Aide
- Lucas Pettway- Parks & Recreation Intern
- Cassidy Swanson- Public Works Office Assistant

Promotions

- Sue DeGeorge- Assistant Town Clerk I to Assistant Town Clerk II
- Jeanne Jarnutowski- Part time Public Works Admin to Library Office Assistant
- Tracy Cooling- Part time Finance Admin to Payroll & Accounts Coordinator

Discussion: **Maur** inquired, if Councilmembers would be able to receive advanced notice of Ribbon Cuttings and Press Releases. **Rooney** noted that he would have Bill Holsworth add Councilmembers to

Those invites. **Maur** stated that Monroe’s Joe Morosky is on the American Ninja Warrior finals tonight and there was a viewing party at 8pm at Masuk. **O’Rourke** stated that regarding the bench dedication, at that event a statistic came up regarding opioid and Fentanyl deaths in this country and he noted that the First Selectman was very eloquent in how he presented it. **O’Rourke** stated that there was probably an estimate of 75,000 people this year that would succumb to this dreaded disease, that approximately 157 people per day. He noted that he shared that statistic to show how this disease really hits home and had devastating effects on the community and country.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Beardsley House Discussion – Rooney** stated that this was a conversation that comes for the Historic Society, not to be confused with the Commission. He noted that the Society was a separate entity. **Rooney** stated that the Beardsley House was an older home that the Town maintains and owns the property of, however the Society owns the house. He noted that the house was in significant disrepair. **Rooney** stated that he met with the Society and wanted Councils opinion on what direction the Town would be interested in going on this. He noted that he requested Councilmembers drive by the area and was unaware if anyone had, besides Dona-Lyn Wales, Enid Lipeles, and Janice Persico. **Rooney** stated the Society had an estimate for repairs and that this should be discussed further in the future. **Formichella** noted that this should be referred to the Strategic Planning Committee to handle the tasks of fact gathering and making recommendations to Town Council for its consideration. **Maur** noted that he met with the Society at the house, took a tour, and had pictures he would provide. He noted they had discussions about what may be possible in the future.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

Community & Social Services:

- \$2,745.19 value for In-Kind donation of mulch at the Food Pantry.

Second: Maur

Discussion: Rooney stated that all donations are greatly appreciated.

Motion passed 9-0:

Voting Yes: **Formichella, Lipeles, Duva, Kohut, Maur, O’Rourke, Persico, Reid, Wales**
Voting No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Formichella to waive the reading of the resolution adopting the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Second: Duva

Discussion: None

Motion passed 9-0:

Voting Yes: **Formichella, Lipeles, Duva, Kohut, Maur, O’Rourke, Persico, Reid, Wales**
Voting No: None
Absent: None

- B. Resolution #24-130:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion by Formichella to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-130**

Second: Lipeles

Discussion: Rooney stated that the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), the Regional Council of Governments that includes the Town of Monroe, recently developed the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) Update. He noted that the primary goal of the NHMP is to reduce the loss of life, personal injury, and damage to property and infrastructure from a natural disaster.

Rooney stated the effort of developing a multi-jurisdictional plan was consistent with federal requirements while also leveraging the collaboration and efficiencies of utilizing regional resources for plan development. He stated that the State of Connecticut required that each municipality formally

accept and endorse the grant application by resolution of the legislative body. He noted that Meghan from MetroCOG and the Town Engineer James DiMeo were both in attendance for additional questions and discussion. **Meghan** thanked Town staff for their assistance.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

- C. **Resolution #24-131:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the State of Connecticut Coronavirus State Fiscal Local Recovery Fund Beneficiary Agreement.

Motion by Lipeles to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-131: 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 State of Connecticut Coronavirus State Fiscal Local Recovery Fund Beneficiary Agreement and any associated documents by and between the State of Connecticut, for the Coronavirus State Fiscal Local Recovery Fund.

Second: Maur

Discussion: Rooney stated that pursuant to the U.S. Department of the Treasury final rule for CSLFRF funds, effective April 1, 2022, recipient states may use CSLFRF funds to provide beneficiaries, including municipalities or nonprofits, with funds for facilities improvements or programming expenditures that respond to the public health. He noted that the Director of Community & Social Services had been informed by the State of Connecticut that the Town of Monroe was assigned \$43,129.00 in funds based on the number of individuals in our municipality who are over 60 years of age. **Rooney** stated that these funds would be allocated towards needed facility upgrades and programming. The agreement was reviewed by our Town Attorney who provided his opinion letter.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

- D. **Resolution #24-132:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding MOA with Ledge Light Health District for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

Motion by Lipeles to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-132: 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 Memorandum of Agreement, and any associated documents by and between Ledge Light Health District, for the purpose of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

Second: Wales

Discussion: Rooney stated the Health Department had been awarded Emergency Preparedness Grant funding in the amount of \$10,312.00. He stated that the grant program is provided through the Connecticut Department of Public Health ("DPH") and that the agreement was reviewed by our Town Attorney who provided his opinion letter.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

- E. **Resolution #24-133:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program Agreement.

Motion by Lipeles to adopt **RESOLUTION #24-133: 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 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program Agreement and any associated documents by and between Alliance for Community Empowerment, Inc., for the Energy Assistance Program.

Second: Kohut

Discussion: Rooney stated that the Director of Community & Social Services in conjunction with Alliance for Community Empowerment, an agency contractually responsible to the Department of Social Services, was requesting the ability to assist residents with applying for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program

for the 2024-2025 year. He stated that the agreement had been reviewed by our Town Attorney who provided his opinion letter.

Motion passed 9-0:

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

Voting No: None

Absent: None

- F. **State of Emergency/FEMA Update – Rooney** stated that he had received an email from Governor Lamont's office stating that he submitted a request for major disaster declaration to secure Federal Assistance for our communities impacted by the extreme flooding. He noted that our current State of Emergency would allow us to obtain funds through the State and that the State's State of Emergency allows funds through Federal government, therefore we must wait for FEMA, but that this was a good move by the Governor.

Duva called attention to an item that was included in correspondence from Mr. Nowacki and Mr. Phillips and noted that he would like to read it into the record.

On behalf of the Public Works Department for the Town of Monroe we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to First Selectman, Terrence Rooney and his unwavering leadership and support during and after the recent flood that devastated our community. The extent of the damage, particularly to our roadways and other critical infrastructure, posed immense challenges. The First Selectman's decisive leadership and his ongoing support made all the difference in the Highway's ability to respond effectively and begin the rebuilding process. His commitment to the safety and well-being of our residents, as well as the constant communication with our department, has been invaluable. Thanks to the resources that the First Selectman mobilized, our department made significant progress in restoring Town roads and ensuring that our community can restore normalcy to their daily commutes. His leadership and support during this challenging time further strengthens the mission of the Department of Public Works in enhancing the quality of life for residents through safe, responsive, efficient, and effective delivery of services throughout our Town. As we move forward, the Department of Public Works looks forward to further collaboration with the First Selectman. His optimism to further strengthen our relationship with the community and enhance the overall quality for our Town is appreciated.

Thank you.

O'Rourke thanked Public Works. **Formichella** thanked Public Works and all of our municipal employees that worked hard to get our roads open, to be safe and passable to get to work, school, medical appointments and to live our lives. He noted it was an incredible job by Town staff and our First Selectman. **Formichella** thanked an extended appreciation to our first responders, Police, Fire, and EMS and anyone who volunteered during that storm both in Monroe and our surrounding communities. He noted that everyone did a wonderful job coming together and supporting the Town and its people.

O'Rourke noted that from the time of the storm until all the roads were reopened was only 8 or 9 days and that was unbelievable.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Formichella adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by, Kerry McAndrew, Clerk