



TOWN OF MONROE

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

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FIRST SELECTMAN'S UPDATE March 10, 2025 Town Council Meeting

Operations

Public Works

- Warmer weather has put road repair and public works functions in high gear. DPW has been busy repairing potholes, manhole covers, and damage from storm impact. My office with the advice of DPW has opened brush drop off for the month of March at the Garder Road landfill at no cost. Also, commercial companies with proof of removal from Monroe properties by residency verification can also use this option to help those citizens who do not have means to transport debris.

Emergency Services Update:

- Monroe Emergency Services have been steady with call volume. Fire, Police and EMS mitigated some significant accidents in the last few weeks due to high rates of speed. Our police have been doing regular patrol functions with traffic enforcement consistently being conducted.

Capital Projects:

Animal Control

- Our animal control facility is nearing the finish line. This project plan was reviewed and approved by Kelly Baker, the Chief State Animal Control Officer with Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Our town officials have spoken with Chuck Delarocco, Regional Inspector from the CT DOAG, to arrange a meeting this week to ensure full compliance. This will allow any necessary changes to be addressed before the final inspection, as per my request.

CCS

- Interior renovations have started inside the Community Center Site. As we move into warmer weather, the plans to connect technology from town hall to CCS are being configured with DPW, Building Officials and our Town Engineer. The excavation needed to connect the buildings will be conducted by town machine operators and highway staff. Once connected we will begin moving Parks and Recreation into their new home. Our Parks and Recreation Director Missy Orosz is eager for the move so she can champion revenue generating ideas and programming to make this new venture a success.

Community Update:

Rotary Club Blood Drive

- The Rotary Club held a Blood Drive conducted by Red Cross in honor of Tax Collector Deb Heim. Under the leadership of Former First Selectman Ken Kellogg, Monroe's Rotary Club contributes a significant amount of financial help to needs of the Monroe community.

St. Augustine's Church

- I attended and spoke at a breakfast at the Gaelic American Club in Fairfield along with many other community leaders. It was a tribute to Irish Heritage.

Binky Patrol

- Monroe is full of altruism and amazing people doing incredible things. Our beloved Edith Wheeler Memorial Library hosted the Binky Patrol of Southern Connecticut who handmade 101 blankets.

Eagle Scout Commendation

- I attended and awarded a commendation for Eagle Scout Andrew Cavanaugh this past weekend. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an impressive accomplishment, AJ is a credit to his troop and community.

Grants:

- See below for a chart of what our Special Projects Coordinator/Grant Writer is currently pursuing.

Grants Status

Key: **Grant Awarded** **Applied, awaiting decision** **Under Review** **Pending** **Paused** **Unavailable**

Grant Name	Department	Grant Amount	Match	Project	Status
Active Transportation Microgrant Program	CT DOT	\$5,000	None	Bike Rodeo Giveaways R. Riber, B. Holsworth, H. Ramalhete (PD)	Awarded
Healthy Communities Grant	U.S. EPA	\$40,000	None	Geothermal Design Costs for HVAC at 709 Monroe Turnpike R. Riber, B. Holsworth	Applied Notification: 4/2025
PROTECT Grant	US DOT	\$1,981,000 \$1,584,000 (80%)	20% (\$397,000)	Hammertown Road Culvert Replacement R. Riber, J. DiMeo	Program Paused, waiting for re-posting, application is prepared
Section 5310 Grant	CT DOT	\$149,000 \$119,200 (80%)	20% (\$29,800)	20 passenger van for the Monroe Senior Center K. Cassia, A. LaChioma, R. Riber	Applied Notification: 1/2026
CT STEAP Grant	CT OPM	\$1,250,000 \$1,000,000 (80%)	20% (\$250,000)	Gym wall replacement 709 Monroe Tpk. B. Holsworth	Applied Notification: 4/2025
Brownfields Grant Program	CT DECD	\$1,010,000 \$808,000 (80%)	20% (\$202,000)	Remediation/removal of mold & asbestos in 709 Monroe Tpk. R. Riber, B. Phillips	Applied Notification: 6 or 7/2025
Public School HVAC Grant Program	CT DAS	-	-	3 rd round of applications and awards not expected	Unavailable
School Construction Grant Program	CT DAS	\$1M+	62.14%	Chalk Hill renovation Limited scope of activities funded Michelle Miller, B. Holsworth	Pending
School Safety Grant Program				Attending webinar on 3/18 for funding school safety initiatives	Under Review Upcoming
ARSL Grant	Assn. for Rural Libraries	Up to \$15,000	None	Upgrading LED lighting in Library N. Cignoli, R. Riber	Applied Notification 4/2025
Scaling Community Through Archives Project	Univ. of Washington	\$7,000	None	Digitizing Monroe's archives at EWML N. Cignoli, L. Bartlomiejczyk, RR	Applied Notification: 5/2025

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Grant Name	Department	Grant Amount	Match	Project	Status
State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program	CT DEMHS	Varies	10%	Meeting w/P. Koorse on 3/14 B. Holsworth, P. Koorse, R. Riber	Under Review
CDS Program	CT DOJ	\$250,000	None	Police Bodycams B. Holsworth, K. White (PD)	Pending; Awaiting Congressional Budget
Summer Reading Grant	Dollar General Literacy Foundation	\$3,000	None	Summer Reading Program at EWML L. Obach, R. Riber	Applied Notification: 5/2025
Community Connectivity Grant Program	CT DOT	\$100 - \$800,000	None	Municipal construction projects that improve safety & accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists & transit users. Construction only, other fees considered match	Under Review
National Culvert Removal Replacement and Restoration Grant Program	US DOT	\$200,000 and up	20%	Meaningfully improve or restore anadromous fish passage through replacement, removal or repair of culverts or weirs	Under Review
Active Transportation Microgrant Program	CT DOT	\$5,000	None	Bikes, Etc. R. Riber, B. Holsworth, H. Ramalhete (PD) (Rolling Basis)	Pending
T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program	T-Mobile	Up to \$50,000	None	Shovel-ready projects – 709 Monroe Tpk. B. Holsworth	Pending
RAISE Grant	US DOT	Up to \$25,000,000	50%	The parameters were for larger regional projects	Reviewed Did not apply
High Energy Cost Grants	USDA			N/A for our town	Reviewed Did not apply
BRIC	FEMA			Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities	Currently Paused