



# TOWN OF MONROE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Session # 2021-02

Regular Meeting - Monday, January 25, 2021 – 8:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Chairwoman Enid Lipeles (**via phone**)  
Vice-Chairman Sean O'Rourke  
Councilmember Jennifer Aguilar (**via phone**)  
Councilmember Jonathan Formichella  
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin (**via phone**)  
Councilmember Jason Maur  
Councilmember Kevin Reid (**via phone**)  
Councilmember Terry Rooney (**via phone**)  
Councilmember Tony Scott

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Kenneth Kellogg

---

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Chairperson Lipeles* led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Chairperson Lipeles* stated that this is a hybrid meeting. She further stated that Town Council Members, designated staff, invited presenters, and members of the Press may attend in-person or remotely.

Public access to this meeting will be limited to joining this meeting as follows:

1. **A LIMITED NUMBER of IN-PERSON** public attendees will be permitted, based upon the reduced capacity of the meeting room, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders. ***Any member of the public wishing to attend in-person must email [Meetings@MonroeCT.org](mailto:Meetings@MonroeCT.org) at least 24 hours in advance. You will be notified as to whether or not space is available.***
2. **ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC may attend remotely as follows:**
  - Via computer, tablet or smartphone at this link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/302687541>
  - Via phone at: 1-571-317-3122, Access Code: 302-687-541

Please refer to further information provided at the end of this agenda regarding this remote electronic meeting and the use of GoToMeeting.

Written public comments in compliance with the Guidelines for Public Participation in Remote Electronic Meetings may be submitted in up to one hour in advance of the meeting via electronic mail to [towncouncil@monroect.org](mailto:towncouncil@monroect.org).

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Regular Meeting held on January 11, 2021 (Session 2021-01).
- B. Acceptance of donations received for the following programs:
  - EWML: \$1,000.00 and In-Kind donations of 6 books and café supplies
  - EMS: \$100.00
  - Other: In-Kind donation of desk and credenza

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated January 20, 2021 regarding donations for various departments and programs.
- B. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated January 19, 2021 regarding the Proposed Discontinuance of Old Webb Road aka Old Stationhouse Road.
- C. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated January 19, 2021 regarding the 2021 Parks & Recreation Fee Schedule.

## **1<sup>st</sup> PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

## **APPOINTMENTS - None**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters**

*Councilmember Reid* stated that L & A met and all of the items that were discussed at L&A are before Council this evening.

### **Town Council EMS Building Committee**

*Councilmember Rooney* stated that the bidding process has been approved. In addition an advertisement was taken out in the Connecticut Post on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bids are due by February 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **First Selectman's Update**

*First Selectman Kellogg* stated that while high infection rates continue, the case rate and statewide test positivity percentage have come down since last week. Monroe now is averaging just over 7 new cases per day. The 2-week case rate is now 36.7 cases per 100,000 population. The overall case totals in Monroe are 910 cases and 12 deaths (confirmed and probable since the beginning of the pandemic).

*First Selectman Kellogg* stated with regard to testing, there is a new, biweekly testing at Masuk that started last week through a new state vendor, Community Health Center, Inc. These tests are self-administered, which is typically more comfortable for the patient, but does take a little longer to explain to each person.

*First Selectman Kellogg* stated that individuals in Phase 1A continue to be vaccinated, and many are now receiving their 2nd dose. *First Selectman Kellogg* then stated that Phase 1B continues to emphasize that the current focus is on our older residents; statewide this group represents 18% of the population but 88% of deaths from COVID-19. The general schedule for phase 1b is as follows: Scheduling now: Individuals over the age of 75, Scheduling next (likely early February): Individuals between the ages of 65 and 74. He then stated that scheduling soon (likely late February or early March) would be frontline

essential workers and individuals with certain underlying medical conditions who have an increased risk for severe illness.

*First Selectman Kellogg* stated that we have started, and continue, to run vaccine clinics in Monroe for our seniors over age 75. Because the amount of vaccine we receive is limited, residents may find earlier appointments from a variety of other providers, which continue to grow in our area. The list of options for registration is available through our website at [www.MonroeCT.org/COVID-19](http://www.MonroeCT.org/COVID-19). Today the State announced that individuals may also search vaccination sites <http://www.211ct.org/vaccineclinics>. Residents over age 75 who need assistance may leave a message for Monroe Health Department at 203-452-2818 and someone will return their call. We have both staff and volunteers that are doing outreach, assisting in answering questions, and making appointments.

*Councilmember Maur* asked with regard to the budget meetings, if the members of Council could pick up the Budget binders if they are ready prior to the budget meeting. *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that if they are completed prior to the meeting, they will be made available for pick up.

*Councilmember Maur* then asked about the Senior Center and COVID-19, can the information about how to and who can sign up for the vaccine be put into their newsletter as well. *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that he is not sure that this information made it into the newsletter. Unfortunately, the information changes on a daily basis or even more often. Due to that alone, he is not sure but he will verify that the information is making it to the proper people. *Councilmember Maur* then asked if the Monroe portal is only for the residents of Monroe. He was told that Monroe citizens can either register to go to another location and people that are not residents can register to come to Monroe.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

- i. \$1,824.00 from Friends of the Library for CT Humanities Grant- History Program Series

**Motion: (S. O'Rourke)**

To accept the very generous donation of \$1,824.00 from Friends of the Library for CT Humanities Grant- History Program Series

**Second: (J. Maur)**

**Discussion:** *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that this is a donation where funds are coming in from the Friends of the Library which is a 501C3, which was created to support the Edith Wheeler Memorial Library. They were able as a 501C3 to apply for this grant for this history program. They received the grant and they are donating the funds to the Town library so that we could put on the program.

**Motion passed 9-0**

**B. Resolution #21-10:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the Proposed Discontinuance of Old Webb Road aka Old Stationhouse Road.

**Motion: (S. O'Rourke)**

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §13a-49 et seq, the Town of Monroe hereby discontinues Old Webb Road, aka Old Stationhouse Road, as designated and depicted as Old Webb Road on that certain map entitled "SITE SPECIFIC EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1603 AND 1615 MONROE TURNPIKE (C.D.O.T. ROUTE NO. 111) MONROE

CONNECTICUT PREPARED FOR BRUCE C. MONDO SHEET 3 OF 3" Scale 1" = 30 ' date 11-17-2016 and prepared by Lewis Associates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Kenneth M. Kellogg, the First Selectman is authorized to (A) provide written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of such discontinuance to the same persons to whom notice was sent pursuant to Town Council Resolution #20-123, and (B) after such written notice is sent, cause to be recorded on the land records of the town a notice of such discontinuance, which notice shall include (i) a listing of each parcel of property for which notice was sent pursuant to Town Council Resolution #20-123, (ii) the name of the owner of each such parcel of property as shown in the last-completed grand list of the town, and (iii) the current assessor's map, block and lot number for each such parcel.

**Second: (J. Maur)**

**Discussion:** *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that during the December 14, 2020 meeting the Town Council authorized, by resolution, certain procedural requirements required under C.G.S §13a-49 prior to final consideration of a road discontinuance. On the Town Council's authority, his office conducted such procedural requirements. The documentation regarding the requirements has been attached to the proposal.

1. In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §13a-49 (2), the owner of each property that bounds Old Webb Road, aka Old Stationhouse Road ("the Road"), was provided with notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting when it is anticipated that the Town Council shall vote to take final action on the discontinuance of the Road, by mailing a notice to each such owner's address, as shown on the last-completed grand list of the town, by first class mail postmarked not less than thirty days prior to the date of such meeting.

- a. Planning & Zoning Department report and GIS map identifying the three (3) abutting properties
- b. Assessor's Report of Owner Addresses as Shown on Last Completed Grant List
- c. Copies of notices and certificates of mailing on December 15, 2020 to abutting property owners

2. In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. §13a-49 (2) a sign was posted conspicuously at the intersection of the Road and Route 111, at least thirty days prior to the scheduled meeting date, and stating the date, time, and place of the meeting when it is anticipated that the Town Council shall vote to take final action on the discontinuance of the Road and specifically stating "NOTICE OF ROAD DISCONTINUANCE":

- a. Final design proof of sign that was procured.
- b. Three (3) photos showing the installation of the sign on December 22, 2020 at the proper location.

*First Selectman Kellogg* stated that the Town Council may now consider final action to discontinue this road. *Councilmember Reid* stated that this was discussed during L & A and was passed unanimously. *Councilmember Maur* stated that they have had no further communication from the attorney for the land owners that initially had filed a small objection to one procedural aspect of this proposal. They have been notified of the procedures today. It was stated that with the changes that were made after the initial objection was filed the land owners were satisfied with the resolution the way it has been presented.

**Motion passed 9-0**

C. **RESOLUTION #21-11:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding the 2021 Parks & Recreation Fee Schedule.

**Motion:** (S. O'Rourke)

**RESOLVED**, that the 2021 Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule as presented and recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission is hereby approved and to be made effective on February 16, 2021.

**Second:** (J. Formichella)

**Discussion:** *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that Parks & Recreation Director Missy Orosz provided her recommendations for revisions to the fee schedule to be effective February 16, 2021. The recommendations were further reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, which provided their approval at their January 4, 2021 meeting. Please find the attached document, which highlights the recommended changes. *Councilmember Maur* asked about the daily fees for senior citizens, he was told that it was a typo.

**(Motion was not withdrawn, voted on or passed at this time.)**

**Motion:** (J.Maur)

To change senior daily fees from \$6 to \$5

**Second:** (J. Aguilar)

**Discussion:** *Councilmember Maur* stated that this is to be in line with the intent of the Director of Parks and Recreation.

**Motion passed 8-1**

**(In favor: E. Lipeles, S. O'Rourke, J. Aguilar, J. Formichella, D. Martin, J. Maur, K. Reid, T. Scott)**

**(Opposed: T. Rooney)**

**Motion:** (J.Maur)

To amend Pool after 5 p.m. for residents from \$6 per person per day to \$5 per person per day.

**Second:** (J. Aguilar)

**Discussion:** *Councilmember Maur* stated that the residents are being taxed and pay a significant rate. One of the benefits is to have the use of the pool. He doesn't feel that individuals should be burdened with additional fees. *Councilmember Scott* stated that he was Chairman of Parks and Recreation and they were instructed that with regards to fees specifically for the pool had to be no more than twice the rate of residents. *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that they found language with relation to the pool that stated that the fees could not be more than twice that of residents for nonresidents as a result of receiving state funding specifically for the pool. *Councilmember Reid* asked if Ms. Orosz had any concerns with the changes being discussed. She stated that she had no concerns with this unless minimum wage increases.

**The Motion was withdrawn.**

**Motion:** (J.Maur)

To amend item Pool B2 residents after 5 p.m. to be \$5 per person per day and for non-residents to be \$10 per person per day.

**Second:** (J. Aguilar)

**Discussion:** *Councilmember Maur* stated that this is to make this twice the cost for the non-residents.

**Motion Failed 4-5**

**(In favor: E. Lipeles, J. Aguilar, J. Maur, T. Scott)**

**(Opposed: S. O'Rourke, J. Formichella, D. Martin, K. Reid, T. Rooney)**

**Motion:** (J.Maur)

To amend Tennis/Pickleball fees to go from \$2 to \$1 for reservations for residents.

**Second: (J. Aguilar)**

**Discussion:** Ms. Orosz stated that this fee is only to reserve a specific time to use the court. Councilmember Scott asked how this is going to deal with reservations. He was told that they will have staff members monitoring the courts. Councilmember O'Rourke stated that he feels that they are micromanaging the fee schedule.

**Motion passed 5-4**

**(In favor: E. Lipeles, J. Aguilar, J. Maur, D. Martin, T. Scott)**

**(Opposed: S. O'Rourke, J. Formichella, K. Reid, T. Rooney)**

**Motion: (J.Maur)**

To pass the fee schedule as modified based on the previous motions from the original submission.

**Second: (D. Martin)**

**Discussion:** Councilmember Maur to reiterate the changes that were passed were to change Senior daily fees for the Pool (Pool B3) from \$6 to \$5 and Tennis/pickleball reservations from \$2 to \$1 for residents.

**Motion passed 8-1**

**(In favor: E. Lipeles, S. O'Rourke, J. Aguilar, J. Formichella, D. Martin, J. Maur, K. Reid, T. Scott)**

**(Opposed: T. Rooney)**

**2nd PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairwoman Lipeles adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Sardinha  
Town Council Clerk