



# TOWN OF MONROE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Session # 2022-07

Special Meeting - Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Jonathan Formichella  
Vice-Chairperson Enid Lipeles  
Councilmember Jessica Katuska (**remotely**)  
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin  
Councilmember Jason Maur  
Councilmember Sean O'Rourke  
Councilmember Kevin Reid (**remotely**)  
Councilmember Dona-Lyn Wales

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Terry Rooney

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Kenneth M. Kellogg

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#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Jonathan Formichella* led the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Jonathan Formichella* stated that this meeting will be conducted in part via electronic equipment pursuant to Connecticut Law, Public Act 21-2.

#### **All participants may attend in-person or remotely as follows:**

Via computer, tablet or smartphone at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91312231327?pwd=V2tTeDBNclZucVB4aWI5dGJQYmpkZz09>

Via phone at: 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 913 1223 1327, Passcode: 838887

This meeting will be recorded and made available on the Town's website pursuant to state law.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Steve Kirsch, 35 Applegate Lane. Member of the Board of Finance but today's remarks don't represent the Board and are his personal comments. Failed to have strategic planning discussions. No. 1: DPW-2016-16 was first identified in 2016 – Dead trees – bucket truck would improve operations. \$245,000 – kept being pushed out – now pushed out to FY26. Carrying item for seven years. Is this how we manage a plan? Talk to Tree Warden and other experts for their feedback.

**TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT** – Jonathan Formichella – No vote tonight. Deliberations and final vote – 3/14/22. Any written motions submitted by 3/10/22 12:00PM to Secretary of First Selectman.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Assessor's Office:** Office Expense Line - \$2840 increase in budget – Is there anything you can purchase this year? No. Assessor School has been modified and cheaper in the past due to COVID-19 and that's why it's currently coming up under budget but coming out of the pandemic, proper formal training is back in place – schools are normalizing. School \$600 per person x 4. Two people UCONN \$2500 roughly.

**Emergency Management:** Operating Expense – Tracking way under for CERT Training. \$7500 still left – Can we purchase one of the batteries this year? One battery can be purchased for \$550 plus \$36. Large radio project. Stamford oversees project.

**Town Attorney:** Tracking under. COVID postponed items – lighter year. Would the \$260,000 cover or is it too light of a budget? Billing structure – Flat budget is appropriate. Tax appeals coming off. Hard to predict. Land use is a wild card. Routine, non-labor matters, labor contracts, Union a little up in the last few months, degree of uncertainty. Size of Municipality – not indicative of legal fees.

**EMS:** Office Expense Line – tracking well under. Can we purchase anything this year instead of next? Part-time employee – impacts supplies – in trailer – taken those costs on ourselves – supplies will go back to use current budget after renovation. Proposed adjustment \$25,000 – Equal, Neutral, BOF Contingency Line \$25,000. Use line and increase contracted services line. Recommended motion.

**Social Services / Senior Center:** \$22,300 – Covered in capital reserve recommendation.

**DPW:** Should we be spending more? Paving & Maintaining roads within our bandwidth - pushed to limit. Purchased excavator – Don't have enough staff – cost would be beyond additional costs – ask Town Council – Lower cost now. Can look into contract garbage removal – discussed several years ago and there is a lot to it.

Bucket Truck – Replacing Tree Warden – New person – Build out tree list. Look to Chris for direction, not Tree Warden – we can get a bucket truck. Relative – conscious decision. Other higher priorities. What did you want that you didn't get? Comfortable with what he got in budget.

**General Discussion:** Increase in Capital Reserve – Primarily being driven by proposed project scope and development. Smaller projects in Capital Reserve allow us to execute projects quicker. Inter-Governmental Town – Large increase in relief funds.

ARPA Funds – Healthy Fund Balance – Above BOF proposed range. Looking to utilize for conservation use – Very helpful this year – Will leave a hole next year that we would have to address.

Capital & Bonding - \$5 million rolling off. Bonding- unlike operations budget, not limited.

Potential Projects:

- Expansion at Senior Center
- Highway Garage

We just don't know yet, relative to Federal Infrastructure projects.

P/T Salary – Missy did a good with P/T Salaries. How many P/T in Library – allocation of funds for P/T Staff = 26.

New Library Director – working on getting her arms around operation and take a fresh look at things.

Economic Development- \$6000 Public Relations video – Several years ago. Prior chairperson of EDC.

First Selectman- The water distribution system. Town pays for water lines and hydrants. Small adjustment \$9,932 – BOF Contingency take-out. Motions to consider.

Memo from Ken Kellogg – Motions.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Formichella adjourned the meeting at 8:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cat Senenko  
Recording Secretary