

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014**

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7 PM in the Boardroom of the Village Hall, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, NY. Mayor James Purcell called the meeting to order and led in the pledge to the flag. Emergency exits were announced.

**Present:** Mayor Purcell; Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin  
**Also Present:** Attorney Bonacic and Village Clerk Carey

**MINUTE APPROVAL: DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> AND DECEMBER 19, 2013**

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Chan, the Minutes of the December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> Meetings were approved.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin  
**Nays:** None

**RESIGNATION: TIMOTHY P. LEE, COURT SECURITY OFFICER**

Village Justice Strauss forwarded to the Board a copy of Court Security Officer Timothy Lee's resignation effective December 31, 2013. Officer Lee has accepted a full-time position at Orange Regional Medical Center. On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Gormley, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Court Security Officer Timothy P. Lee effective 12/31/13. Mr. Lee is thanked for his 3 years of service with the Village of Monroe Justice Court and the Board joins with the Village Justices wishing him well as he embarks upon future endeavors.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin  
**Nays:** None

**SALARY COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES: ERNIE MABEE, WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR**

On a motion by Trustee Gormley seconded by Trustee Chan, it was:

**RESOLVED**, in recognition of additional administrative duties that he has assumed these past 7 months, the Board of Trustees approved a stipend of \$5 more an hour in addition to his regular pay (\$31.97/hr.) be paid to Ernest D. Mabee III, Water Treatment Plant Operator. This stipend is effective 1/9/14.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin  
**Nays:** None

**RESIGNATION: DAVID NIEMOTKO, PLANNING BOARD MEMBER**

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Wright, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board accepted with regret the resignation of David Niemotko from the Planning Board effective 12/27/13. On behalf of the Village Board and Planning Board Mr. Niemotko was thanked for his nine years of committed service and wished the best of good fortune on his future endeavors.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin  
**Nays:** None

Mayor Purcell will send a letter thanking Mr. Niemotko for his volunteerism these past nine years.

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULING: PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 3-c**

On a motion by Trustee Wright seconded by Trustee Conklin, it was:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees do hereby authorize a Public Hearing to be scheduled on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 6:30 PM, on a proposed Local Law entitled “A Local Law Authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c”. The purpose of this proposed Local Law is to allow the Village to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Monroe pursuant to General Municipal Law S. 3-c, and to allow the Village of Monroe to adopt a village budget for (a) village purposes and (b) any other special or improvement district governed by the Board of Trustees for this fiscal year 2013 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law S. 3-c. This Local Law, if adopted, will relieve the Village of the prohibition against increasing a tax levy by more than 2% as imposed by General Municipal Law S. 3-c. As the Village of Monroe relies upon the assessments of the Town of Monroe and therefore cannot anticipate the impact of resolutions of tax certiorari matters or other unanticipated expenses, the restrictions of General Municipal Law would potentially impose a great hardship upon the Village or require borrowing otherwise deemed unnecessary.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin

**Nays:** None

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Mayor Purcell wished everyone a Happy New Year and prosperous year. 2013 was a fantastic year, one without incident.

**WINTER FESTIVAL:** Mayor Purcell thanked Trustee Conklin for spearheading the Winter Festival on 12/28/13. Her tenacity and passion are applauded. The event was well attended by over 150 people. Trustee Conklin publically thanked Peter Baird, Manager at Shoprite for their donation of cookies, hot chocolate, water, and paper products. Mr. Baird is community minded and willing to play a part in whatever we do. Trustee Conklin also thanked Mike Vernola, a resident, who assisted in handing out hot chocolate and helped at the arts & craft table. Thank you too to Elizabeth Doherty and Inda Stora who graciously volunteered with the arts and crafts all day. Also thanked were Trustee Conklin’s daughter Hope and her friend Scott Norton. A big thank you too, to you to John Linderman. John brought his two John Deere Tractors and trailer with hay bales, giving rides pulled by the tractor. To Brian Dunleavy, Joe’s Fix-It, for loan of the Lionel Train set that day.

**EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION:** Trustee Conklin thanked Building Inspector Wilkins for his prompt response today. He assisted a rental family with no heat on North Main Street. The furnace was fixed and heat was restored. Chief Melchiorre, thank you, for sending a Spanish speaking officer to interpret for the family. The last few weeks has been one with harsh weather.

Mayor Purcell thanked all Village employees and Department Heads for using social media to keep residents updated on pertinent information. We are here to serve the needs of the community and our employees do that.

**WARMING STATION:** Due to the harsh cold temperatures, the Monroe Senior Center is available as a warming station during the day for those who need it. Call the Town Hall for more information.

**MOVIE THEATER:** The Town of Monroe has not reached out to our attorney to set-up a date for inspection of the Theater per court order. Attorney Levinson who is representing the Village in this matter has sent a letter to the Judge asking that the Town Attorney be directed to make a date available to the Village to get access to inspect the building in the interest of public safety and to make sure the Town adheres to the Court Order.

Chief Melchiorre and Lieutenant Conklin were present for Public Comment.

**POLICE CANINE UNIT PROPOSAL:**

Chief Melchiorre and Lt. Conklin requested authorization to start-up a Police Canine Unit. Lt. Conklin gave a presentation citing reasons canines are effective for law enforcement agencies. Their keen sense of smell, sight and hearing they have proven to be assets with searches for lost, missing or wanted persons, recovering evidence, detecting narcotics, crowd control, searching buildings, officer's safety and public relations. The Monroe PD through donations has received a dog and some required equipment for free. Chief Melchiorre said Monroe has grown over the years and he feels a canine dog would be a great tool for all the reasons stated by Lt. Conklin. As the dog was donated, it is not only beneficial but a cost savings to the community. (The cost of a K-9 dog usually runs between \$8,000 - \$9,000.) The dog has been medically checked out. Our startup cost for a canine unit will run \$7,818 (Vet, kennel, car insert, remote door opener, training equipment, grooming supplies, officer stipend, dog crate, chain link kennel). Training expenses will run \$2,400 (14 week Canine Patrol School at O.C. Sheriff's Office, overtime for officer to attend training 40 hours x \$60/hour; shift coverage for officer while in training: 20 shifts at overtime. Insurance is covered. The dog's name is Simba. Simba is a 17 month old German Shepard / Belgian Malinois mix. His father is a City of Newburgh canine. Discussion followed. On a motion by Trustee Wright seconded by Trustee Chan it was:

**RESOLVED**, contingent upon a signed mutual agreement between the Village of Monroe, Monroe Police Department and PBA, the Board accepted the Police Department's proposal of a K-9 Unit.

**Ayes:** Trustees Gormley, Chan, Wright and Conklin

**Nays:** None

**ADJOURNMENT / EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On a motion by Trustee Wright seconded by Trustee Conklin, and carried, the meeting was closed at 7:40 PM. Following a short recess, the Board convened in Executive Session for discussion of Water and Police Department Personnel and Attorney Client Privilege.

The Open Meeting resumed at 8:25 PM on a motion by Trustee Gormley seconded by Trustee Conklin and carried.

**LIEUTENANT'S POSITION PART OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT (PBA):**

On a motion by Trustee Chan seconded by Trustee Wright, and carried, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board approved the Police Lieutenant's position be part of the Monroe Police Benevolent Association Agreement with language changes to be agreed upon by the PBA and Village Board.

**AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION: SALARY COMPENSATION TO WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR ERNEST MABEE**

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Chan, with all in favor, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the additional salary compensation approved for assuming administrative duties to Ernest Mabee, Water Treatment Plant Operator shall be for a 6 month period with an employee evaluation review at the end of that time.

**ADJORNMENT:** On a motion by Trustee Gormley seconded by Trustee Wright and carried, no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Carey, Village Clerk

