

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**TUESDAY AUGUST 6, 2019**  
[www.villageofmonroe.org](http://www.villageofmonroe.org)

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday August 6, 2019 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Boardroom of the Village Hall, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, New York. Mayor Neil Dwyer called the meeting to order and led in the pledge to the flag. Emergency exits were announced.

**Present:** Mayor Dwyer; Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle  
**Also present:** Attorney Terhune, Village Clerk Baxter, Deputy Clerk Zahra, Chief Melchiorre and Administrative Sergeant Amatetti

**Absent:** Trustee Alley

**MOMENT OF SILENCE IN RECOGNITION OF RECENT SHOOTINGS IN DAYTON, OHIO & EL PASO, TEXAS:**

Trustee Houle called for a moment of silence for the victims of the recent mass shootings in Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas.

**MINUTE APPROVAL: JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 16<sup>th</sup> :**

On a motion by Trustee Behringer seconded by Trustee Houle, the Minutes of the July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019 Meeting were approved.

**Ayes:** Mayor Dwyer, Trustees Behringer and Houle

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** Trustee Conklin

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Behringer, the Minutes of the July 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 Meeting were approved.

**Ayes:** Mayor Dwyer, Trustees Behringer and Conklin

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** Trustee Houle

**BUDGETARY TRANSFERS / MODIFICATIONS:**

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

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees authorized the Treasurer to make the following fund transfers / modifications to balance the budget:

<b>From:</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
A.9950.980	Transfer Bldg Insp Equip	A.3620.230	Bldg Insp Motor Vehicle	3,011.00
<b>Budget Modifications</b>				
A.2701	Refunds Prior Yrs Exp	A.3120.250	PD Other Equipment	135.83
A.2260	Police Services	A.3120.135	PD Grants OT	1,935.84

**APPOINTMENT: FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER: DOUGLAS HANSEN:**

Trustee Conklin asked for clarification on the anniversary date listed in the memo from the Police Department and requested that the matter to be discussed during Executive Session.

**RESIGNATION: GENNARO MARTUSCELLI, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:**

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

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Gennaro (Jerry) Martuscelli from the Village of Monroe Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. The Board thanked Mr. Martuscelli for his 2 ½ years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Conklin and Houle  
Nays: None

**APPOINTMENT: JOHN GILSTRAP, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:**

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

**RESOLVED**, the Board accepted Mayor Dwyer's recommendation and appointed ZBA alternate John Gilstrap to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jerry Martuscelli. Mr. Gilstrap will fulfill Mr. Martuscelli's unexpired, 5 year term, which expires 12/12/16-12/2021.

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Conklin and Houle  
Nays: None

**APPOINTMENT – PART TIME POLICE OFFICER (SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER) / KENNETH MALGIERI:**

On a motion by Trustee Houle, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of Chief Melchiorre and appointed Kenneth Malgieri to the position of part-time Police Officer, at an hourly salary of \$32.00 per hour. This appointment is pending the results of Mr. Malgieri's physical and is a result of the agreement between the Village of Monroe and the Monroe Woodbury Central School District to provide an SRO program (School Resource Officer) in the schools that are within the Village's geographical bounds. Mr. Malgieri is a retired New York City Police Officer and is currently employed as a school security guard in Rockland County. Once appointed, Mr. Malgieri will attend the "school resource officer training."

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle  
Nays: None

**APPOINTMENT – PART TIME POLICE OFFICER (SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER) / ERIK JOHNSON:**

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

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of Chief Melchiorre and appointed Erik Johnson to the position of part-time Police Officer, at an hourly salary of \$32.00 per hour, effective immediately, pending his approval from Orange County Human Resources and the required background, psychological, physical and drug screening. This appointment is a result of the agreement between the Village of Monroe and the Monroe Woodbury Central School District to provide an SRO program (School Resource Officer) in the schools that are within the Village's geographical bounds. Mr. Johnson is a retired police officer in the Town of Woodbury and is currently employed as a part-time officer with the Village of Tuxedo Park Police Department. Once appointed, Mr. Johnson will attend the "school resource officer training."

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle  
Nays: None

**REQUEST FOR LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR FENCE ON VILLAGE PROPERTY – 315 STAGE ROAD LLC - CONTINUED:**

(See Minutes 6/4/19, 7/2/19, 7/16/19)

At the July 16, 2019 meeting Mayor Dwyer stated that he had received additional information from the Building Department regarding the request for a licensing agreement so that the property owner of 315 Stage Road could install a fence on Village property. Mayor Dwyer added that this Village owned land is in fact parkland and part of Crane Park, so he requested additional time to review this new information. Discussion followed. Trustee Conklin stated that she spoke with Highway HEO Giudice who reviewed the area where the fence would be placed in the easement and confirmed that there are several other access points to that area, so he does not foresee an issue.

Trustee Houle asked if they had come to a decision if it was park or Village property. Mayor Dwyer replied that they had not come to a determination yet, but either way it is Village property. Trustee Houle stated that she had some concerns regarding deed restrictions put into place if it was part of Crane Park. She wants to ensure that there is nothing in there that would require the homeowner to have to take the fence down after he went through all the legwork to put the fence up. Trustee Conklin asked if a survey had been done and Attorney Terhune replied that there were two done, one

showed that it was Village property, and the other did not. Attorney Terhune continued that the field study done in 2017 shows the property line in one place and the survey from 1999 shows the property line in another spot. Attorney Terhune replied the Village has an issue with where it is and whose property it is on. Is the Village encroaching on the property owner or vice versa? Attorney Terhune stated that the 2017 survey is a field survey but it might be more likely that the 2017 is correct, then it may be safe to assume that it is Village property, and part of the park. Mayor Dwyer stated that when the current resident purchased the property in 2017 and had the survey done, it was validated over the 1999 one. Trustee Houle stated that she completely understands the homeowners desire to have a fence but she feels the Village should have a conversation with whoever it is that manages Crane Park to find out if there are any approvals that are required by them. Trustee Conklin replied that the Village manages Crane Park.

Jim Rogers, President of the Monroe Improvement Association, interjected and stated that matter had already been resolved. Mr. Rogers continued and stated that Roscoe Smith sold the property in question in 1953 to his brother-in-law, Wendell Bush, who lived there. The property is part of the historic district. Mr. Rogers continued that Wendy Bush sued the Monroe Improvement Association and spent \$50,000 to prove that the property had already been broken off from Crane Park. That was taken out of that park at that time and marked as a private residence. Mr. Rogers added that he recently found out it went from private residence to business because it didn't comply with all of Stage Roads businesses, so they changed it. Mr. Rogers reiterated that it is not part of Crane Park, it is a private residence since 1953, so it wouldn't apply to being restricted parkland. Trustee Houle asked Mr. Rogers if the Monroe Improvement Association has any say in that section of land, and Mr. Rogers replied no.

Attorney Terhune stated that she was confused. She clarified that she understood that obviously the house wasn't part of the park, but questioned the sliver of land that runs adjacent to the residence and whether that is part of the park or not, from his property line to the asphalt. Mr. Rogers stated that he recalls one of the concerns at the time was when the sidewalk was put it, it was put on private property. Attorney Terhune replied that it looks like that. Mr. Rogers added that it is probably in the Village right of way, but where the location is for the proposed fence has nothing to do with Crane Park.

Mayor Dwyer stated that Counsel had prepared two license agreements, one for the fence in the Village's right of way, and the other if the fence was going on parkland. Mayor Dwyer stated that they would proceed with the license agreement for the fence to be constructed in the Village's right of way. Trustee Conklin asked Mr. Rogers if he had a copy of the survey that he spoke about earlier and Mr. Rogers replied that he has a record of Village of Monroe parcels with all the dimensions on it. Trustee Conklin asked for a copy of that and Mr. Rogers stated he would provide one. Mayor Dwyer asked if it was for all the parcels in Crane Park and Mr. Rogers said yes, he had all of them. Mayor Dwyer replied he would love to see them.

Attorney Terhune stated that it was a standard license agreement for a temporary fence to be put in at the applicants cost. The Village retains it right to go onto the property and take the fence down if there is ever a necessity, and Mayor Dwyer added the property owner would have to replace it at his own expense. Attorney Terhune agreed. She stated that the beneficiary of the license agreement would record the agreement with the County Clerk's Office and that no building permit would be issued until it was recorded. It also provides the Building Inspector with the authority to ensure that it is just a temporary structure and there is no grading or filling to be done in order to do that. Mayor Dwyer asked Attorney Terhune to confirm that the right to have that fence does not survive the sale of the property and Attorney Terhune replied that the license can be terminated at any time, for any reason, by the Village, it doesn't speak to ownership. On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Houle, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees authorized Mayor Dwyer to sign the licensing agreement prepared by Attorney Terhune between the Village of Monroe and the property owner of 315 Stage Road, listed ad 315 Stage Road LLC, (Tax Map 212-3-3) allowing the installation of a fence on the Village's easement. It is further

**RESOLVED**, that 315 Stage Road LLC, owner of 315 Stage Road, is required to record the signed licensing agreement with the County Clerk's Office before any permits are issued by the Village of Monroe's Building Department.

**Ayes:** Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle  
**Nays:** None

Mayor Dwyer read the license agreement into record. Copy of the full text of the agreement is on file in the Village Clerk's Office.

**EVENT APPLICATION – VILLAGE OF MONROE COMMUNITY BBQ:**

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

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustee’s approved the Special Events Permit Application submitted by the Quasiquicentennial Committee to host a Community BBQ to celebrate the Village of Monroe’s 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The BBQ will be held on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 4PM to 7PM in Crane Park at Lake Street and Millpond Parkway. Food and activities will be supplied by the Mombasha Fire Company, the Methodist Church, South Orange Family YMCA and the Harper Smiles Foundation. Lake Street will be closed down between Millpond Parkway and Rt. 17M. The DPW, Building and Police Departments have all reviewed and approved the event application. The Police Department will oversee the event with 1 officer on 4 hours of overtime to assist with traffic control points and to completely close down Lake Street at an estimated cost of \$308.00. Emergency Services and the Village’s insurance carrier, Marshall & Sterling, will be copied on the approval letter.

**Ayes:** Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle  
**Nays:** None

**REQUEST FOR 3X PENALTY REFUND / 5 MIDOAKS STREET:**

Property owners Michael & Amy Abrahams have submitted a letter requesting the reimbursement of Building Department penalty fees totaling \$673.50 that they paid regarding the finished basement in their home located at 5 Midoaks Street. The Abrahams stated that the basement was finished when they purchased the home in 2005 and have not done any work or alterations to the basement since living there. When in the process of selling their home in April of 2019, they were contacted by the Building Department and advised they needed to apply for a Certificate of Occupancy because the finished basement was discovered when the title search was being completed by the prospective new owner. The Building Department confirmed that during their multiple listing search they discovered the property was listed with a finished basement without any permits or certificates on file. The Village of Monroe has no proof as to when the alteration was completed and the original plans on file show the house was constructed with an unfinished basement. Discussion followed.

Mayor Dwyer asked the Board to share their thoughts on the request. Trustee Houle replied that this is a similar request to ones they have received in the past. People make improvements to their homes, enjoy those improvements, they don’t get the proper permit until they are forced to get it upon sale of their home. She understands how this can delay the closing proceedings and how you need to pay this additional money is upsetting, but she does not see any grounds to award the refund.

Trustee Behringer agreed that they got to enjoy it, but they were also not taxed on it either. Trustee Behringer stated that she didn’t know what the taxes would’ve been on it, but it doesn’t seem that \$673.50 is a lot of money over the years had they been taxed on it.

Trustee Conklin agreed as well. She doesn’t know how you purchase a home and it supposedly has a finished basement but no CO, it’s always this big mystery. Someone has to be held accountable and unfortunately the ball fell into their basket. On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees denied the request of Michael and Amy Abrahams to be reimbursed for the penalty fees paid in the amount of \$673.50. Said fee is associated with a finished basement located at 5 Midoaks Street that was completed without a permit.

**Ayes:** Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle  
**Nays:** None

**NYS GOVERNOR TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – POLICE TRAFFIC SERVICES AWARD:**

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

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees accepted the grant awarded to the Monroe Police Department through the NYS Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee to participate in the statewide Police Traffic Services Program. The grant covers the period of 10/1/19 through 9/30/20 in the amount of \$4,260.

**Ayes:** Trustees Behringer, Conklin and Houle  
**Nays:** None

**JUSTICE COURT INDEPENDENT AUDIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Behringer, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court act requiring that Village Justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective Village auditing boards, and that such records be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the Board's proceedings, it is hereby

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby acknowledge that an audit of the Village Justice Court's cash receipts, cash disbursements and cash balances was made for year ending May 31, 2018 by the Village Independent Auditor, PKF O'Connor Davies LLP, Harrison NY and no discrepancies were found.

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Conklin and Houle

Nays: None

**NEW LEASE AGREEMENT – COPIER FOR DPW/WATER DEPARTMENTS:**

In a memo submitted by Ernest Mabee, Chief Water Plant Operator, he requested approval to lease a new copier through Toshiba Business Solutions, 230 North Plank Road Newburgh, NY 12550, to be utilized by both the Water and Highway Departments located at 124 Maple Avenue Monroe. Toshiba offered a 60 month lease opportunity through New York State Contract Deferred Payment Plan with a monthly payment of \$67.28, which includes monthly maintenance. Discussion followed. On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approved a lease agreement with Toshiba Business Solutions, 230 North Plank Road, Newburgh, NY 12550, for a new copier for the Water and Highway Department located at 124 Maple Avenue, through NYS Contract Deferred Payment Plan, Contract #PT66615 for a 60 month lease. The maintenance contract includes all parts, labor and toner, and maintenance pricing that is fixed for the term of the lease. There is no additional charge for shipment of supplies. The monthly lease payment is \$67.28 per month and will be allocated as follows:

\$50.46 (75%) / Water F.8310.4100 – Admin. Gen. Exp.

\$16.82 (25%) / Highway A.5010.4100 – St. Admin. Gen. Exp.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle

Nays: None

**BOND RESOLUTION – VARIOUS EQUIPMENT:**

**BOND RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF MONROE, NEW YORK,  
ADOPTED AUGUST 6, 2019, AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF  
VARIOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING A TRACTOR WITH  
GRASS FLAIL HEAD AND A SNOW BLOWER/SWEEPER, STATING THE  
ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$144,000, APPROPRIATING  
SAID AMOUNT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZING THE  
ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$144,000 TO  
FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION**

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MONROE, IN THE COUNTY  
OF ORANGE, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds  
of all the members of said Board of Trustees) AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. The Village of Monroe, in the County of Orange, New York (herein called the  
“Village”), is hereby authorized to acquire various items of equipment, including a tractor with grass**

flail head and a snow blower/sweeper. The estimated maximum cost thereof, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, is \$144,000 and said amount is hereby appropriated for such purpose. The plan of financing includes the issuance of \$144,000 bonds of the Village to finance said appropriation, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the Village to pay the principal of said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable.

**Section 2.** Bonds of the Village in the principal amount of \$144,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called the "Law"), to finance said appropriation.

**Section 3.** The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The period of probable usefulness applicable to the object or purpose for which said bonds are authorized to be issued may be in excess of five years; however, the bonds authorized pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, shall mature no later than five (5) years after the date of original issuance of said bonds or notes.

(b) The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, may be applied to reimburse the Village for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department.

(c) The proposed maturity of the bonds authorized by this resolution will not exceed five (5) years.

**Section 4.** Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and said bonds, and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall be general obligations of the Village, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the Village. The faith and credit of the Village are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds, and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the Village by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

**Section 5.** Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Law and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 of the Law relative to the authorization of the issuance of bonds with

substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and Section 50.00 and Sections 56.00 to 60.00 and 168.00 of the Law, the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees relative to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of the bonds herein authorized, and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, and the renewals of said bond anticipation notes, and as to the execution of agreements for credit enhancements, are hereby delegated to the Village Treasurer, the chief fiscal officer of the Village.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

- (a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the Village is not authorized to expend money, or
- (b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution, or a summary thereof, are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

- (c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. This bond resolution shall take effect immediately, and the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the foregoing resolution, in summary, together with a Notice attached in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of the Law in "*Times Herald Record*," a newspaper having a general circulation in the Village and hereby designated the official newspaper of said Village for such publication.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was made on a motion by Trustee Houle, seconded by Trustee Behringer and duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Dwyer; Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Alley

The resolution was declared adopted.

Mayor Dwyer stated that this bond is allowing the Village to purchase two pieces of DPW equipment. Mayor Dwyer explained that initially their plan was to lease the equipment by securing financing through our local bank, but it became progressively more difficult. Mayor Dwyer continued that the spoke with the Village's bond counsel who advised them that they could securing the same financing and terms with the bond as they would have with the lease agreement, and proceeded accordingly.

#### **REQUEST FOR LICENSING AGREEMENT – 31 DOROTHY DRIVE:**

Property owner Claudio Alzapiedi, of 31 Dorothy Drive, submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees a request for a licensing agreement which would allow him to install a fence within a Village owned drainage easement. Mr. Alzapiedi stated that the fence would close in the back portion of his property and allow him to close in a pool that he is having installed. He is aware that the fence would be removed at his expense should the Village need to access that area for any reason. Discussion followed.

Mr. Alzapiedi was present and Mayor Dwyer asked him to confirm that the fence would be included in the Village drainage easement and Mr. Alzapiedi replied that the fence would be in only part of the easement, on one side of his home between him and his neighbor's house. Mr. Alzapiedi added that they are in a cul-de-sac and when work needs to be done behind them, the Village enters through the

cul-de-sac and he realizes that if work needs to be done, the fence would need to come down. He stated that it would only be a standard chain link fence.

Trustee Conklin stated that Highway HEO Giudice reviewed the area and confirmed that there are multiple access points to the Village property should they need to do work back there and suggested that Attorney Terhune draw up a licensing agreement similar to the one that they just did for another resident.

Mayor Dwyer agreed and advised Mr. Alzapiedi that the Board will have the Village Attorney draw up the license agreement and he will be notified when it has been completed. Mayor Dwyer stated that the Board will take it up at the next Board meeting.

#### **WEBSITE REVIEW PROPOSAL – CONTINUED:**

(See Minutes 7/2/19)

Mayor Dwyer stated that Kurt Steinbruch came in and gave a presentation to update and improve the Village's website with the goal of making it more user friendly. He gave a great presentation. Trustee Houle stated that she spoke with him the day before and he is very motivated to come and work with the Village, and presented himself as someone who is very capable at developing a website that would not only be aesthetic but also easy to use and easy to update.

Trustee Conklin stated that she did not see the presentation and asked how this gentleman ended up on the Village's doorstep. Mayor Dwyer replied that he was sure that everyone could agree that the site as it is now and the language that it is written in, the Village has had problems with. It got to the point where we had no one but a person from the outside handling it for us. Mayor Dwyer added that the person did a great job for the Village, but it was a time issue. Rather than have that problem, the Board needs to make it more user friendly which would allow in house staff to do it. Mayor Dwyer stated that he reached out to a few webmasters and interviewed them. Mayor Dwyer had Trustee Alley meet this gentleman.

Mayor Dwyer continued that what appealed to him most about this gentleman was he had a very strong marketing background. Mayor Dwyer stated that Mr. Steinbruch furnished the Board with a list of clients that he went through and was very impressed. Mayor Dwyer continued that Mr. Steinbruch furnished the Village with a menu and they are looking at a project now that would cost \$3,850 and which was totally revamp the site, more pages and tabs than we currently have, ore accessibility and each department would be able to use to site because of the different language that they use, word press versus HTML. It has to be something that anyone in this building is able to use and be more user friendly for the residents. Mayor Dwyer stated what he liked about it is that once someone accesses the site and makes changes, there's ownership to that.

Mayor Dwyer stated that it needs to get done and he wants to keep it moving. Mayor Dwyer added that another fellow that came in had a proposal for \$2,950.00, but he had no energy. He asked Trustee Houle's impression of Mr. Steinbruch and Trustee Houle replied that Mr. Steinbruch stated that he would be available to the Village for the first 6 months and there would be a warranty on the website, and after that the Village could enter into a maintenance agreement with him. Mayor Dwyer commented that he thought that would be minimal because at that point, 6 months in, the Village should be at full user ability of the product, everyone should be pretty adept at using it. Trustee Houle interjected and stated she differed with him in regard to technology. Trustee Houle continued that technology is changing all the time, and there will be a significant amount of updating needed, so she is leaning more towards having some sort of maintenance agreement with the gentleman to ensure the website doesn't crash. That would be the worst thing for a municipality. Mayor Dwyer responded that it would depend on what was meant by maintenance agreement. He was referring to accessibility and Trustee Houle responded that she was referring to the software. It could be something to talk to Mr. Steinbruch about, he is very approachable.

Mayor Dwyer requested that the Board read through the agreement supplied by Mr. Steinbruch and state that he would have gotten it to them sooner, but he was late in getting it to Village Clerk Baxter. Mayor Dwyer asked them to contact him with any questions and Attorney Terhune stated that quite often you end up having maintenance agreements so she would like to review both the proposal and a maintenance agreement, so should they move forward she will have had a chance to review before they commit to it.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Dwyer stated that they celebrated the Village's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past weekend at Village Hall. It was pretty special and he was impressed by the turnout. They had representatives from



Senator Skoufis' Office as well as representatives from Assemblymen Brabenec and Schmitt's Offices, along with Orange County Legislator Tuohy and representatives from the Town of Monroe and the Board from the Village of Harriman as well as two former Mayor's and trustees. The model here is that we are part of a much bigger picture. Mayor Dwyer thanked Trustee Houle for putting it all together.

Trustee Houle stated that the Village had a wonderful weekend. The weather cooperated and the carnival was wonderful success. Saturday was a lovely day with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration ceremony that was held outside. The cheesecake that was voted #1 on Monroe was on hand for all to taste. Out thanks to Empire Diner. Trustee Houle thanked Village Clerk Baxter and Deputy Clerk Zahra for all their help in planning the event and the other events for the Quasiquicentennial. Additionally, there was a grand opening for a new business in town, LoveBites.

Trustee Behringer shared that she has received a lot of private messages about the great concerts in the Village. They are always a fun time and the next concert is 3 hours long.

Trustee Houle added that at the end of June she was invited to the EMS Awards dinner. She was there with the Monroe Volunteer Ambulance Corp. who won the following 4 awards:

EMS Agency of the Year / BLS Provider of the Year – Brandon Peifer / EMS Educator of the Year – Michael Rallo / Youth Provider of the Year – Karolina Smiechowski

Trustee Houle stated that it was a great night and their efforts are applauded. Mayor Dwyer added his appreciation as well, for all our volunteer agencies. Trustee Conklin commented especially the youth who volunteer their time.

Trustee Conklin mentioned that there were some resident's concerns regarding the condition of Still Road and asked Mayor Dwyer to provide an update. Mayor Dwyer stated that last year the Village oiled and chipped Still Road and it wasn't done properly. The shoulder wasn't done and the potholes weren't repaired. There is a lot that goes into that process to ensure it does its best work, and that didn't happen. Mayor Dwyer stated that he was committed to correcting it as he is committed to all the roads in the Village on a planned system to get all the roads done.

Mayor Dwyer stated that they are currently taking the ruts out by a process called "level and shim" so they could re-apply another layer of oil and chip, a smaller gravel, which will aid significantly in the quietness, better adhesion, and then add fog seal and stripe the road. Mayor Dwyer continued that may people ask why the Village uses oil and chip and not blacktop. He explained that from the blinking light at Stage Rd. and Orange Turnpike to Stage Rd. and Rt. 17M is about 4/5 of a mile. It was oil and chipped last year for \$28,000.00. Mayor Dwyer shared that he had a quote done to black top his long driveway, 587 feet, and the quote was \$28,000.00. It comes back to math, we have to be fiscally responsible. Use the resources we have and make the best decisions. If you look at the Village's budget for road repair, we could do one road a year and it would take us 25 years to get all the roads in the Village done. Mayor Dwyer reiterated that cost was the main reason behind the oil and chip process.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: # PRESENT 13 TIME: 7:55 PM**

Resident Sharon Scheere stated that she does a lot of driving throughout the Village and she has come in contact with the homeless in the community. She stated that there are about a dozen of them and claimed that they congregate under the bridge behind the old Pizza Hut building at night. Ms. Scheere commented that the Village spends money on parties and festivals, but could it squeak out a few pennies for a cooling station. Open up Village Hall on a day when it's 100 degrees outside. Ms. Scheere stated that the only ones that seem to do anything is Sacred Heart Church and shared with the Board the services that Our Fathers Kitchen provides to the community. The Board stated they were aware of their services and Ms. Scheere asked if they were posted on the Village's website and Trustee Houle replied that those services and all the services of Sacred Heart Church are posted on the Church's website. Ms. Scheere asked if it could be posted on the Village's website and Trustee Houle replied that they could. Ms. Scheere continued and listed some of the services that Our Father's Kitchen, a program offered through Sacred Heart Church, offers to members of the community. The Church has a heart and seems to be doing it all. Ms. Scheere continued that she has tried to connect with a particular individual that can be seen pushing her cart through the Village and she has realized that she is more than homeless, but that there seems to be something off there.

Trustee Conklin interjected and stated that she has a long relationship with this individual. Trustee Conklin has gotten this individual all kinds of help in the past, a place to go, food, everything that she needs, but she didn't want it. Trustee Conklin continued that although this individual spends a lot of time pushing around a cart and hanging out in places, this individual has a family. Trustee Conklin

stated that if Ms. Scheere would like to have a conversation about this individual outside of Village Hall so the individual's personal business isn't being discussed in public, she'd be happy to do so. Ms. Scheere stated that she isn't the only one and Trustee Conklin agreed, but countered that if you have a conversation with any of them, you will find out that they are comfortable in their style of living, and it is very difficult to pull them into an environment that they are trying to escape from.

Ms. Scheere continued that there are many programs that you can receive grant monies for to provide services for these individuals. We should not have homeless vets sleeping under bridges. Ms. Scheere stated that we are not addressing the mental health issue in today's society. These people are not homeless because they want to be, there is a mental health factor at play. Trustee Conklin interjected and stated that she is putting a huge title on something that you shouldn't be doing, that is your opinion. Ms. Scheere replied that the Village as a whole should be helping out with the services and not leaving it all up to Sacred Heart Church. Trustee Behringer added that the YMCA recently acted as a cooling station during the heat wave and opened its doors to all members of the community, not just YMCA members.

Ms. Scheere continued that there are two sleeping places for the homeless, one in Newburgh and the other in Middletown. Trustee Conklin asked how is the Village to get them there and Ms. Scheere replied that it was a good question. Trustee Conklin replied that while the intention is good, you can't make them go if they don't want to go. Ms. Scheere referenced Aileen Gunther, who is doing research on the homeless and how difficult it is and encouraged the Board to research her. We cannot turn a blind eye to the homeless problem, it will have to be faced eventually.

Ms. Scheere continued that on July 27, 2019 she had an incident with a dog. Ms. Scheere presented the Board with a copy of the inter-municipal agreement between the Town of Monroe and the Town of Woodbury and asked if the Village of Monroe would enter into its own agreement with Woodbury to utilize their shelter. Mayor Dwyer replied that if there was an issue in the Village it would contact the Town of Monroe. Ms. Scheere brought to the Board's attention the section of the agreement that spoke about the \$20,000 spent to participate in the agreement. Ms. Scheere claimed that the agreement in question was not posted on the Town of Monroe's website and if you wanted a copy of it you would have to go to Woodbury to get it.

Ms. Scheere claimed that the Town of Monroe had an officer who would bring dogs over to Woodbury but he is no longer there. Ms. Scheere continued that what happened on July 27<sup>th</sup> is sad. A dog was located in Round Lake Park, the State Police were contacted, and they refused to take it in their vehicle and transport it to Woodbury. Ms. Scheere claimed that the Town of Monroe was called and she claims that they didn't know what to do. Ms. Scheere states she arrived three hours later and took the dog herself over to Woodbury and left it. Ms. Scheere asked the Board what their plan was, because the current one is not working. Trustee Conklin stated that the agreement she is referring to is between the Town of Monroe and the Town of Woodbury. Mayor Dwyer interjected and stated that the area she just mentioned, Round Lake Park, is in the Town of Monroe, not the Village. Ms. Scheere asked what the plan was for the Village for dogs that are found. Mayor Dwyer replied that anyone who comes into a situation like that should be contacting the Monroe Police Department, who would in turn get in touch with the Town of Monroe. Ms. Scheere stated that the Town of Monroe paid Woodbury \$20,000 to board these animals, but how are they supposed to get from Monroe over there. Ms. Scheere asked if the Village utilized the Monroe shelter and if so, then they are united with the Town. Trustee Conklin reiterated that the Village did not enter into an agreement with Woodbury over this, the Town of Monroe did. Ms. Scheere stated that it was nice to know that the Monroe Police officers would help taxi the animals over there, and Trustee Conklin clarified that they would do it, but only when their schedules allowed, they aren't going to stop what they are doing if they're busy. Trustee Conklin added that she found three kittens and called Woodbury and they came and got them.

Ms. Scheere returned to the homeless conversation and that winter is coming and if they freeze to death on the benches, or die underneath the bridge, the Village cannot keep turning a blind eye to the situation. Why don't we offer them something? Trustee Behringer stated she doesn't believe the Village is turning a blind eye to it, she wasn't aware of a homeless issue besides the woman who pushes her cart around Monroe, who really does have family. Trustee Behringer continued that she gets offended when the remark is made that the Village is turning a blind eye because she doesn't believe that they are. Ms. Scheere stated that Harold the barber told her that under the bridge there are about 5 to 7 people sleeping under the bridge every night. Trustee Behringer replied that she wasn't aware of that because she doesn't drive that way in the evening. Administrative Sergeant Amatetti interjected and stated that information was completely false. He added that the Monroe Police Department checks that area 2 or 3 times a night and that isn't true. Ms. Scheere replied that if they're checking there 2 or 3 times a night and chasing them out of there, they have to go somewhere and Trustee Conklin stated that they aren't being chased out of there because they are there to begin

with. Administrative Sergeant Amatetti reiterated that there is no one there when the Police Department checks on that location throughout the evening.

Trustee Houle advised Ms. Scheere that recently Sacred Heart Church put out a call for volunteers on their website and in the Photo News. Trustee Houle recommended that she fill out a volunteer form and go help because that is where the most help is needed and she will see the most change.

Resident Paulette Brown commented that she has worked for the State Health Department and transferred from one area to another with 12 years' experience and because I transferred, my anniversary date followed me. Ms. Brown stated that if this is a civil service position for Officer Hansen, then she believed his anniversary date would be when he started in the Village of Harriman. The Board should check with Civil Service and the PBA Union.

Ms. Brown stated that the Village of Monroe residents pay Village, Town and County taxes. It is shame what happened with the Monroe animal shelter. We are part of the Town of Monroe, and they cover it. We can't handle everything in the Village, if we could then we wouldn't need to be part of the Town. Let them handle it.

Ms. Brown continued that there is a reason why Orange County has the Department of Social Services. If you have concerns, and as a person with a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology, she can speak as a mental health professional, that mental health is an issue with many in the homeless population. Ms. Brown reiterated that the Village cannot do everything. We pay County taxes also for the services that the County provides, utilize them.

Ms. Brown stated that she has been a resident of the Village for 33 years and has seen many changes. What she has to say may be taken as anti-semitic, but displayed her Star of David necklace for the Board and acknowledged that she is Jewish. She is not anti-semitic. She lives at the end of the cul-de-sac and with the "Ring" device she has installed on her home since the beginning of winter, she is aware of everything that goes on in front of her home. Ms. Brown stated that not once since having that device installed has she seen a Village of Monroe Police car go past her home. She will not state in her development but on her street. Ms. Brown stated that she pays her taxes and she wants the Police to show her that they are watching her development. She wants coverage where she lives.

Ms. Brown continued that she has very nice Hasidic neighbors. They had a new baby and they invited her into their home. Ms. Brown stated that there is a problem with the Quality Bus Company. These buses make turns on her cul-de-sac and confronted one of the bus driver's one time when they let a 5 year old girl off the bus, no flashers on, no arm out. She stated that it was a Hasidic driver and confronted him about letting the little girl off at the wrong house with not lights or flashers on. The driver indicated that it was his first time as a driver. Ms. Brown stated that she has called the company multiple times leaving extensive messages and they don't call her back. A neighbor who also called told her that they asked if it was a Hasidic driver, and it was. They claimed to be having issues with the Hasidic drivers. Ms. Brown added that perhaps if the police came around more it would help. Ms. Brown also stated that these neighbors recently had a large party for the baby. There were so many cars that they blocked her neighbors driveway and the fire hydrant was blocked. It has now become a matter of safety. If the police came around during those 5 hours, they would have seen it.

Trustee Conklin stated that she has spoken with her boss at the bus garage about the Quality bus issue. The issue is that the Monroe Woodbury School District has contracted out the Kiryas Joel bus runs to their company. Monroe Woodbury was only driving the female Kiryas Joel students and Quality got in on the business. Ms. Brown stated that perhaps if someone from the Village Board called it could help and Trustee Conklin stated the head of the Transportation Department called and they did nothing.

Trustee Houle asked if Ms. Brown was looking specifically for a marked police car and Ms. Brown replied that she sees every car that drives through her cul-de-sac. Trustee Conklin interjected and stated that what she thinks Trustee Houle was trying to say was that the Police Department have "ghost" vehicles which have no distinguishable markings to indicate that it is in fact a police vehicle. Ms. Brown asked if it had any markings at all on them and Trustee Conklin replied that it did but not you may not necessarily see them. Ms. Brown suggested that a marked police car come in once in a while because she doesn't feel like she is being protected. Administrative Sergeant Amatetti told Ms. Brown that if she has an incident where a fire hydrant is blocked, she should call the Police Department. Ms. Brown replied that didn't want to call the police on her neighbors because she didn't want them to think that she was calling the police based on their religion. Mayor Dwyer stated that there is a way to address it. It can be marked out so people can park next to it, behind it, just as long as its not blocked. Ms. Brown stated that she will call it in next.

Resident John Karl stated that there is a problem with buses in the development. He has sent videos to both the Mayor and Chief Melchiorre and today that same bus backed up and was almost hit by a transport van. They are continuing to do it. This is 6 days a week. He is not going to keep sending videos. There are other people in the development that have that ring doorbell and can see it. Trustee Behringer asked if Mr. Karl could provide the time of day that this is happening and Mr. Karl replied that he provided that information to Trustee Houle already, it is about 3:20pm every day, Sunday through Thursday. Trustee Conklin suggested Mr. Karl contact Dawn Russell at the Transportation Department as well. These bus drivers are not the best. Mr. Karl stated that the Board should not be shocked because he has brought it to their attention before. Mr. Karl continued that he knows what an unmarked police car looks like, he very rarely sees them.

Mr. Karl stated that Village of South Blooming Grove was recently in a battle with a transit bus company that is in and out of their Village all the time and asked if the Village of Monroe would be facing that issue shortly on our local streets. Is the Village going to come up with a plan to combat that? Mr. Karl stated you would even know that school was out in his development with the amount of school buses that are in and out of there each day. Mr. Karl added that he even recently spoke with one of his Hasidic neighbors, Joel, who attempted to call but got no one there. He was afraid to push too much because otherwise his children will suffer, that's how it works there. His development needs better police presence. Trustee Conklin reiterated the importance of him contacting the school district as well because it is their responsibility to transport these kids and they have contracted it out to Quality. Mr. Karl replied that he would contact Dawn Russell tomorrow. Trustee Conklin added the Transportation Department used to drive 6 buses into Kiryas Joel but because we have a Union and they wanted all male drivers and we couldn't supply all males drivers because it is based on seniority. That being said, the female drivers couldn't drive the boys, only the girls, and with there being a driver shortage, Dawn Russell, Director of the Transportation Department, contracted out to the Quality Bus Company. They went from 6 to 15 buses because they have now gone to Quality and Quality has hired their own drivers to drive them around. Mr. Karl asked what their enrollment is approximately and Trustee Conklin replied somewhere around 500 students and they haven't even gotten half of the kids enrolled yet. It is going to be tremendous. Trustee Conklin added that if the District just pulled the contract back, they'd be back to 6 drivers. Mr. Karl stated that Quality has been sold out to a large company, but he will speak with Ms. Russell tomorrow but there are definitely issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Karl asked what the amount of the bond that the Board has decided to take out for equipment and Mayor Dwyer replied \$144,000. Mr. Karl asked what happened to the \$75,000 that was going into the Highway Capital Reserve at the beginning of the year and Mayor Dwyer replied he would look into it and get back to him on that. Mayor Dwyer continued that as Mr. Karl is aware, highway equipment is very expensive. You could spend a half a million dollars on one piece of equipment. Mayor Dwyer added that the Village has trucks that are aging out, so either you are going to deal with the short term ban of \$144,000 or you'll take the \$75,000 and float another \$75,000. Mayor Dwyer stated that he understood his point and he's with him. But conservatively speaking currently down at the DPW garage there is approximately \$6 million dollars' worth of equipment. That is a lot of money. Mayor Dwyer stated that they just recently replaced a body on one of the dump trucks and he was able to negotiate the price to \$13,200. This is the problem with living in New York, they put a lot of salt on the roads and the trucks take a beating. The Village currently has a second mechanic on staff and that has helped with the cost so everything doesn't have to be sent out as much, and some of these vendors make \$275 per hour. Mayor Dwyer stated that they are building the reserve account. To do the highway fleet of vehicles in an appropriate and timely fashion, the Village would have to reserve approximately \$150-\$200,000 a year. Mr. Karl asked if the Village has looked into leasing the dump trucks and Mayor Dwyer replied that he has spoken to a guy in Syracuse, NY. In was an informal conversation. Mr. Karl added that they could have a new vehicle every 5 years. Mayor Dwyer stated that is what he does in his world, he leases everything.

Mr. Karl stated that the last thing he wanted to bring to the Boards attention was the amount of children in vehicles, not in car seats, in his development. Ms. Brown agreed. The vehicles are going up and down the road, you can see the kids standing up in the cars, and none of them are in child restraint seats. Mr. Karl stated that if he is seeing them, other people should be seeing it too. Ms. Brown asked to get the Monroe Police Department involved as well.

Resident Alison Priest asked for an update on the water chestnut issue at Lake Mombasha and the petition that she gave to the Board at the last meeting. Ms. Priest asked Mayor Dwyer if he received the video that her neighbor had sent him about how the city of Yonkers was dealing with a water chestnut issue, and they were utilizing the harvest machine to get rid of the water chestnuts. Trustee Behringer added that she saw it on News Channel 12. Ms. Priest stated that it was reported the harvester could clear out 40 yards in 5 minutes, which is great, and there is no chemicals going into the reservoir. Ms. Priest asked about the grant the Village spoke about at the last meeting. Mayor Dwyer replied that he wanted to clarify that because perhaps he misspoke at the last meeting. The Village did

write and apply for two grants, they were denied the invasive species grant, and they are waiting to hear back on the second one. That doesn't mean that they aren't committed to this and or taking the boat up the hill. Mayor Dwyer referenced the presentation made by Solitude Lake Management and stated that he wasn't into putting chemicals into the water and Ms. Priest agreed. Mayor Dwyer added that they are comprehensively looking into all alternatives. Someone had suggested going in and pulling them out by the roots and he heard that really works and Ms. Priest stated that she has volunteered to help with that.

Mayor Dwyer stated that the Millennium Grant Writing group who the Village entered into an agreement with is aware that this is one of the Village's targets and we are looking for opportunities. Ms. Priest replied that was good to hear because since the last meeting the water chestnuts have spread another 5 feet. It is really bad, especially where she lives. Ms. Priest stated that she is at the shallower end of the lake and that's where it's the worst. It's like having a field but you can't cut it or go anywhere near it. Ms. Priest added that she herself would like to have a permit to go into the lake and pull them out herself. Mayor Dwyer stated that they are still trying to process it all. Ms. Priest reiterated that she doesn't mind helping. If we don't take care of it now, it is going to be a huge expense in a few years from now.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On a motion by Trustee Houle, seconded by Trustee Behringer, with all in favor, the meeting was closed at 8:37PM. Following a 5-minute recess, the Board convened in Executive Session for discussion of Attorney Client, pending litigation and PD personnel.

Executive Session Minutes compiled by Mayor Dwyer.

**OPEN SESSION:** on a motion by Trustee Houle seconded by Trustee Behringer and carried, the Open Meeting resumed at 10:35 PM.

#### **APPOINTMENT: FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER: DOUGLAS HANSEN - CONTINUED:**

On a motion by Trustee Houle, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board approved the recommendation of Police Chief Melchiorre and appointed Douglas Hansen to the position of full-time Police Officer at a salary of \$75,444.00 per annum, effective August 26, 2019. Probation period not to exceed 26 weeks. Officer Hansen transfers from the Village of Harriman Police Department and fills the vacancy in the Village of Monroe Police Department created by the resignation of Police Officer Daniel Lindell. Officer Hansen comes to the Village after serving as a full-time Police Officer in the Village of Harriman since January 2018 and has met all requirements of the Orange County Department of Human Resources. In accordance with the terms of the Village of Monroe Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, Officer Hansen's anniversary date shall be August 26, 2018.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle

Nays: None

#### **AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN / INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN VILLAGE OF MONROE & MONROE-WOODBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) PROGRAM:**

On a motion by Trustee Houle, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees authorized Mayor Dwyer to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Monroe Woodbury Central School District to establish a School Resource Officer (SRO) Program at the following schools: North Main Street Elementary, Pine Tree Elementary and Sapphire Elementary. The term of the agreement is from August 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. It is further

**RESOLVED**, Mayor Dwyer is authorized to sign the agreement.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer and Houle

Nays: None

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**On a motion by Trustee Houle, seconded by Trustee Behringer and carried, no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ann-Margret Baxter  
Village Clerk**