

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 @ 4:00 PM
(www.villageofmonroe.org)**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1, a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020 beginning at 4:00 PM via ZOOM videoconferencing. Although there was no physical meeting location, the meeting was deemed to be conducted in the Boardroom of the Village Hall, 7 Stage Road Monroe NY. Mayor Neil Dwyer called the meeting to order and led in the pledge to the flag. Emergency exits were announced.

**Present: Mayor Dwyer, Trustees Behringer, Conklin and Houle
Also present: Village Clerk Baxter and Deputy Clerk Zahra**

**Absent: Trustee Alley (work conflict)
Attorney Terhune**

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING JUSTICE:

Mayor Dwyer stated he along with Trustee Houle met with the candidate and liked her very much. They asked Justice Strauss to meet with her and review her qualifications, which he did, and he liked her very much. They all feel she is a great candidate for the position.

Mayor Dwyer explained that she is an attorney working for the 1st Appellate Division and she is still awaiting permission from her employment before accepting the appointment. Mayor Dwyer stated that he suggested to her that they appoint her contingent upon getting said approval, but the candidate replied that she would prefer to wait and to keep everything above board. Based upon that Mayor Dwyer suggested that the matter be tabled until the proper approval is given. On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Conklin, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees tabled the appointment of the Village of Monroe Acting Justice.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE / FULL TIME DPW LABORER POSITION:

Mayor Dwyer stated that Jamie Turnbull retired from the Village of Monroe after 20 years of service and they are looking to replace him. On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Houle and carried, the Board directed the Village Clerk to advertise in the Times Herald Record, as well as the Village's website and Constant Contact for the position of F/T DPW Laborer as follows:

**HELP WANTED
VILLAGE OF MONROE HIGHWAY DEPT.
FULLTIME LABORER**

The Village of Monroe is seeking to fill the position of fulltime LABORER, working with the Public Works Department.

All Candidates must possess a valid Driver's License and be capable of performing varied types of manual and unskilled laboring work. The Orange County Application for Employment can be downloaded from the Village's website, www.villageofmonroe.org, or picked up in the Village Clerk's Office, 7 Stage Road Monroe, NY. Candidates will be subject to an appropriate background check. Village residents preferred. Send resume and cover letter to the attention of Larry Giudice, DPW Supervisor, Village of Monroe, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, NY 10950 no later than September 18, 2020.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE / PART TIME SEASONAL LABORERS (WINTER 2020):

Mayor Dwyer stated that he wants to get in front of this as opposed to being behind it, with the goal to find some part time workers that the Village has had in the past to assist in the winter of 2020 with plowing and other seasonal work.

Mayor Dwyer asked Village Clerk Baxter to verify the rate of pay for the position and Trustee Conklin stated that the rate of pay was \$15 per hour and it was listed correctly in the ad. On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Houle and carried, the Board directed the Village Clerk to advertise in

the Times Herald Record, as well as the Village's website and Constant Contact for the positions of P/T Seasonal Laborers as follows:

**HELP WANTED / SEASONAL
VILLAGE OF MONROE HIGHWAY DEPT.
PART –TIME LABORERS**

The Village of Monroe is seeking to fill two (2) winter seasonal, part time positions of Laborer working with the Public Works Department from November 1, 2020 through January 31, 2020 at the hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour.

Additionally, the Village of Monroe is accepting applications to fill two (2) summer seasonal, part time positions of Laborer working with the Public Works Department from June 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 at the hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour.

All Candidates must possess a valid Driver's License and be capable of performing varied types of manual and unskilled laboring work. The Orange County Application for Employment can be downloaded from the Village's website, www.villageofmonroe.org, or picked up in the Village Clerk's Office, 7 Stage Road Monroe, NY. Candidates will be subject to an appropriate background check. Village residents preferred. Send resume and cover letter to the attention of Larry Giudice, DPW Supervisor, Village of Monroe, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, NY 10950 no later than September 18, 2020.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE / PART TIME SEASONAL LABORERS (SPRING 2021):

Trustee Houle asked what these laborers would be doing and Mayor Dwyer clarified that they would mostly be in the parks, mowing, maintenance on the retention ponds, weed wacking. Mayor Dwyer continued that the cost of having them as opposed to a fulltime, benefit HEO is 3:1. It would be in the Village's best interest to find these people to water the plants, mow and weed. On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Behringer and carried, the Board directed the Village Clerk to advertise in the Times Herald Record, as well as the Village's website and Constant Contact for the positions of P/T Seasonal Laborers for the Spring of 2021.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Trustee Behringer stated that she is aware that an email went out regarding the Village's 9/11 Ceremony and she has received many phone calls and texts regarding it, as well as the many offensive comments that appeared on social media. She stated that she comes from a family of FDNY members, her husband, her brother and father and what she has read has been deeply offensive and hurtful. Trustee Behringer added that she wanted to set the record straight that this is not ok.

Trustee Conklin stated that it is important for people to understand that there is not right way to do this during COVID. Their goal is to maintain safety in the community and it was never their goal to shut people out of an event, especially one that is so important. An event that just didn't affect people of Monroe but across New York. Trustee Conklin shared that her husband along with other members of he Monroe Police Department assisted by standing guard on the streets on New York after 9/11 and it is deeply personal. They are trying to do their very best to make it safe for everyone.

Trustee Conklin added that there has been a lot of chatter about how could they allow a Black Lives Matter protest in the Village, but people have the right to come together, it is their constitutional right. The Board isn't saying that they are turning anyone away from this event, they are just doing what they need to do under the guidelines of the CDC and the Governor. For people to assume that they don't care is very hurtful. They do their very best to try and please everyone.

Trustee Houle stated that she has not shared this with the Board previously, but her father was on the missing list that day and didn't hear from him until 8:00pm that night. He was a Fire Lieutenant, but he survived and is now retired. She shares the Boards hurt but in reading the message that went out can see how it is misconstrued that they were asking people to stay away. Trustee Houle added that they are presenting the ceremony in such a way that those that may feel uncomfortable attending in person can still participate. The right to assembly is a right that cannot be taken away by an Executive Order. This community along with many others, tomorrow is a day that most people don't want to relive. A lot of emotions are getting the best of people and on September 12th people will remember to come together.

Mayor Dwyer thanked the Board for speaking and stated that he made the decision to hold the ceremony in the way that it was planned. Mayor Dwyer added that the original intent was to respect everyone's right to be there but offer a different way to participate if they had concerns. The Board has worked tirelessly for the best of the community and has probably missed the mark at times. But to suggest that they don't care is the farthest from the truth.

Mayor Dwyer continued that he met with the Inter-Faith community as well as the Monroe Police Department. He added that he spoke with the Fire Department as well as Monroe EMS as well as many of the stakeholders and the general consensus was that this live opportunity would serve a lot of people without them having to be there. Mayor Dwyer clarified that this was his decision, not the Board's, and he did it unilaterally. 9/11 is an important time for this community. Mayor Dwyer added that he spoke with the family members of those that perished and they were ok with how it's being handled. Mayor Dwyer shared that he got emails today telling him that the event was cancelled and stated that he didn't know why people would say that, the letter he wrote clearly stated that the event was going to go on in its full status, nothing has changed.

Mayor Dwyer also stated that Black Lives Matter and Back the Blue were not sanctioned events by the Village. People has the absolute right to assemble under the constitution. The only thing he did was meet with them to find out what their goals were and share what his goals were, but they were very respectful. They honored it to the letter and left. The Board did not pass it by resolution, they did what they knew they could do under the constitution. Same thing with Back the Blue.

Mayor Dwyer stated for the public that the Village would be preparing PPE on site for anyone that wanted to attend the 9/11 ceremony, masks, gloves, Purell, etc. They will keep the path clear as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **#PRESENT 2** **TIME: 4:23 PM**

Resident John Karl asked about the part time Code Enforcement Officer that they spoke about advertising for while back for the new property maintenance law and asked when they would be advertising for it. Mayor Dwyer replied that they have a packet of names from the first time they did it. They had about 10 names, of which 6 were actually qualified to take that position. They will be looking into those 6 individuals again and if they cannot find a suitable candidate, they will advertise for it again. Mayor Dwyer added that the Board is committed to 2 part time positions and enforcement will be had.

Mr. Karl continued that earlier in the meeting Mayor Dwyer was referring to the Associate Justice, however if the NYCOM handbook it is actually listed as the Acting Justice. Mayor Dwyer replied that he was correct and Village Clerk Baxter interjected and stated that the mistake was hers for the incorrect verbiage.

Mr. Karl shared that they lost one of their members in 9/11 and is a tough day for everyone. Mr. Karl shared that on that day he saw a plane flying very low over the Arden House that day and he eventually put two and two together. Mr. Karl stated that the talkers will talk but it is a day of remembrance and people shouldn't forget that and encouraged people to do a good deed tomorrow. Trustee Conklin replied that she's like to believe that they do something good every day. She stated that it so disheartening to hear what people have said about her. They all have families that are in this community and its just heart breaking. She has spent 9 years doing what she thinks is best for this community, taking time away from her family, birthdays, etc. and then to go on social media and see all the awful things being said about her. Trustee Conklin told Mr. Karl that she would like to think that she has never said a negative thing about him, but he says it about them all the time and its hurtful. It is disheartening that these people bash them, but they don't come to meetings and don't get involved.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Behringer, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann-Margret Baxter
Village Clerk