

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023  
([www.villageofmonroe.org](http://www.villageofmonroe.org))**

**This Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the Upstairs Boardroom of the Village Hall, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, New York. Mayor Neil S. Dwyer called the meeting to order and led in the pledge to the flag. Emergency exits were announced.**

**Present: Mayor Dwyer, Trustees Behringer, Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor  
Also present: Attorney Terhune, Village Clerk Zahra, and Treasurer Feliz**

**BUDGET ADOPTION FY/2024:**

**General Fund: \$11,850,378                      Water Fund: \$2,652,336  
Amount to be raised by Taxes: \$7,465,594  
Tax Rate per thousand of assessed valuation: \$43.83  
Increase \$25.50 on a \$50,000 assessed valuation and on a \$100,000 assessed valuation \$51.00.  
Tax Rate increase rate: 1.18%  
Revenues: \$4,284,784  
Appropriated Fund Balance: \$100,000**

**The Street Maintenance Asphalt line A.5110.4000 has been changed since the last meeting from \$400,000.00 to \$300,000.00. There are four (4) major paving projects:**

- High Street, Crotty Court, Cooper Drive, Nelson Road, and Owen Drive**
- Still Road (West Bound Lane)**
- North Main Street (South Bound Lane)**
- Village Hall**

**Trustee Karl stated due to the salary line for Mayor still being up there, he cannot support the budget. He feels the budget is a fair and equitable budget other than the salary line for the Mayor. "We are here to serve the public, not ourselves."**

**Trustee Behringer feels the 134% salary increase for the Mayor is irresponsible of the Board.**

**Trustee O'Connor says the increase for the Mayor salary is justified by the many hours committed into Village work.**

**Attorney Terhune explained to the Board that in cases of a tie, Village Law 4-400 states the Mayor must vote. Of course, you can't force him to do so. In the case he doesn't vote the budget fails and the tentative budget becomes the budget. Attorney Terhune suggested Mayor Dwyer vote since the vote was at two (2) to two (2). She felt that one line on this massive budget should not be the reason for a no vote if the rest of the budget seemed fair.**

**Mayor Dwyer chose to recuse himself from the vote and was very disappointed after all the time and hard work spent on the budget. He feels a no vote meant you did not support the budget. Mayor Dwyer did his homework and the Village of Monroe has the largest budget in Orange County. A municipality with half the amount in the budget has their Mayor salary marked for \$60,000.00. Mayor Dwyer says the budget has his new salary worked into it with no health benefits still keeping the tax rate down for Village residents.**

**The budget has failed. No action taken.**

**On a motion by Trustee O'Connor seconded by Trustee Ferraro**

**Ayes: Trustees Ferraro and O'Connor  
Nays: Trustees Behringer and Karl  
Recused: Mayor Dwyer**

**IMA TOWN OF MONROE – MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES LLC:**

(Minutes 4/3/2023, 4/18/2023)

The current IMA for grant writing services with Millennium is set to expire on April 30, 2023. In prior years, an IMA for the Town of Monroe Village of Harriman, and Village of Monroe has been in place with Millennium. The Town of Monroe was responsible for 50% of the costs, Village of Harriman for 25%, and Village of Monroe for 25%. Village of Harriman has decided they no longer wish to participate in the IMA. The total cost of this shared service with the Town of Monroe would be \$19,980.00 for the Village of Monroe.

A discussion was had amongst the Board. The Clerk was advised to contact the Town of Monroe to see if there was an opportunity to potentially participate monthly or a period of six (6) months. The Village has two outstanding grants with Millennium that the Village needs to be updated on. After contacting the Town of Monroe, we were advised that participating month to month or over a period of six (6) months is not an option with the terms of this agreement.

After a discussion, the Board agreed that working with Millennium Strategies is something that they may want to continue since the Village has received over one million dollars in grant money from applications submitted. Mayor Dwyer will have a conversation with Millennium Strategies LLC to address any shortcomings and will decide whether or not to proceed with the IMA at that point.

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes Mayor Dwyer in his discretion to sign the IMA with the Town of Monroe for grant writing services with Millennium Strategies LLC in an amount not to exceed \$19,980.00, allocated from budget line A.1989.4500, General Government Support Contractual.

On a motion by Trustee Behringer seconded by Trustee Ferraro

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor

Nays: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** # PRESENT 4 TIME: 6:00PM

Paulette Browne, Village resident, felt the Mayor salary should have been brought to the public to decide. She is not saying Mayor Dwyer hasn't done a good job. It's a big decision going part-time to full-time and shouldn't it be a referendum. Attorney Terhune explained that this is not subject to referendum. There is no part-time or full-time title for any elected official.

Peter Dawson, Chester resident, supports the salary increase for Mayor Dwyer. Mayor Dwyer is very dedicated to the Village. He is involved in community events, school events, and creating opportunities for the youth. Mr. Dawson has witnessed the many hours and commitment Mayor Dwyer puts into running the Village.

**OPEN SESSION:**

On a motion by Trustee Karl, seconded by Trustee O'Connor and carried, the Open Meeting resumed at 6:20PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Trustee Karl, seconded by Trustee O'Connor and carried, no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Zahra  
Village Clerk

To hear the entire text of this, please reference the audio on file in the Village Clerk's office or online at [villageofmonroe.org](http://villageofmonroe.org).