

Village of Monroe Board of Trustees Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, 2026

VILLAGE OF MONROE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026
(www.villageofmonroe.org)

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 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 Behringer, Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor
Also present: Attorney Terhune and Clerk Zahra

MINUTE APPROVAL – JANUARY 20, 2026 BOARD MEETING:

On a motion by Trustee Karl seconded by Trustee O'Connor, the Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting were approved.

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Ferraro, Karl and O'Connor
Nays: None

RESIGNATION – EDLYN PEREZ – P/T ASSISTANT BUILDING INSPECTOR III:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Edlyn Perez, Part-Time Assistant Building Inspector III, effective February 2, 2026. The Board wishes her well in her future endeavors.

On a motion by Trustee O'Connor, seconded by Trustee Behringer

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Ferraro, Karl and O'Connor
Nays: None

CONTINUED - AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN 2026 ACE TENT AMUSEMENT CORP AGREEMENT / VILLAGE OF MONROE SUMMER CARNIVAL 2026 – JULY 30, 2026 TO AUGUST 2, 2026:
(Meeting Minutes 1/20/2026)

Tabled for further review the cost of wristbands if all rides listed are not included.

Discussion: Rides to be provided for older youth include the Gondola Wheel, Zipper, Big Swing, Hurricane, Tornado, Zizzler, Roundup, and Skymaster. Rides for younger children include the Crazy Bus, Slide, Maze, Cars, Boat, Train, and Little Swing. Trustee Ferraro suggested that if these rides are not provided, the Village should be permitted to charge \$30.00 for wristbands.

The Board of Trustees has been presented with a contract from Ace Tent Amusement Corp., 59 W. Moreland Drive Yonkers, NY 10704, for the Village's annual 2026 Carnival. The dates of the event are Thursday, July 30, 2026 through Sunday, August 2, 2026. The agreement states that there will be 14-16 rides furnished by Ace Tent Amusement, with ticket prices ranging as follows: \$2.00 per ticket, 20 tickets for \$30.00, 45 tickets for \$60.00, \$35.00 per band per night for unlimited rides. Ace Tent Amusement will supply 50 posters promoting the event as well as 2 banners and 25 lawn stakes. Additionally, there will be \$100.00 per game donated to the Village of Monroe and Ace Tent Amusement will supply the Village of Monroe with 40% of gross receipts. Ace Tent Amusements will also provide an \$8 million insurance policy naming Village of Monroe as additionally insured as well as a copy of proof of workman's compensation. Ace Tent Amusements will also provide the portosans and dumpster, as well as contribute \$4,900.00 towards security for the event. This contract is a two-year contract for the years 2026 and 2027.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE – INVITATION TO BID – ORANGE TURNPIKE, PINE TREE ROAD, STILL ROAD, AND STAGE ROAD INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes a legal notice to be placed in the Times Herald Record advertising the Orange Turnpike, Pine Tree Road, and Stage Road Intersection Realignment Project provided by Barton & Loguidice, DPC, Albany, New York, with a bid opening scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 11:00AM at Village Hall, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, New York.

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Karl

Ayes: Trustees Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor

Nays: None

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE – INVITATION TO BID – ORANGE TURNPIKE, PINE TREE ROAD, STILL ROAD, AND STAGE ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATION:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes a legal notice to be placed in the Times Herald Record advertising the Orange Turnpike, Pine Tree Road, and Stage Road Traffic Signal Installation Project provided by Barton & Loguidice, DPC, Albany, New York, with a bid opening scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 11:30AM at Village Hall, 7 Stage Road, Monroe, New York.

On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Karl

Ayes: Trustees Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor

Nays: None

AUTHORIZATION FOR VILLAGE ATTORNEY – AGREEMENT OUTDOOR CAFÉ FOR SOMNI – VILLAGE OWNED GREEN ALLEY:

A discussion was held by the Board of Trustees, during which all members agreed that Luis Nauala of Somni presented an excellent idea to utilize outdoor space for an outdoor café from spring through fall. The Fire Department and Police Department have both reviewed the proposed location and have given their approval. The Board agreed that this outdoor café would be a positive addition and an attractive draw to the downtown area.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monroe hereby authorizes Village Attorney Terhune to draft an agreement allowing Somni, owned and operated by Luis Nauala, to use the Village of Monroe owned Green Alley for the operation of an outdoor café.

On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Karl

Ayes: Trustees Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor

Nays: None

PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION #4 – VAN KEUREN BOOSTER PUMP STATION PROJECT – GENERAL CONSTRUCTION:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of Village Engineer, David Higgins P.E., and approves Payment No. 4 submitted by TAM Enterprises, Inc., for the Van Keuren Booster Pump Station project, general construction, in the amount of \$33,149.29, to be allocated from budget line F.8340.4500, Distribution Contractual. All documentation has been reviewed and found complete. Mayor Dwyer is hereby authorized to sign the voucher for payment.

On a motion by Trustee Karl, seconded by Trustee O'Connor

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

Nays: None

EVENT APPLICATION – 2026 VILLAGE OF MONROE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the event application submitted by Mayor Dwyer for the 2026 Summer Concert Series, to be held at the north side of Lake Street between the Millponds on the following dates: June 13 & 27, July 3, 11, 18, & 25, August 8, 15, & 22. Concerts begin at 7pm and end at approximately 9pm, and in the case of rain, will be held the following day, Sunday, beginning at 7pm. The rain date for the Independence Day Celebration concert on July 3rd is July 10th. Emergency services and Marshall & Sterling will be copied on the approval letter. Sign-off on the event application has been made by the DPW, Building Department, and Police Department. The Police Department will provide police officers to shut down Lake Street and provide event security on each concert date.

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Karl

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

Nays: None

EVENT APPLICATION – INDEPENDENCE DAY 2026:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the event application submitted by Mayor Dwyer to host

the Village's annual Independence Day celebration on Friday, July 3, 2026 from 4PM to 11PM, with a rain date scheduled for Friday, July 10, 2026. Emergency Services along with Marshall & Sterling, the Village's insurance carrier will be notified. Sign-off on the event application has been made by the DPW, Building Department, and Police Department. The Police Department will provide police officers to shut down roadways, assist with traffic control points, and crowd control.

On a motion by Trustee Karl, seconded by Trustee Ferraro

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Ferraro, Karl and O'Connor
Nays: None

WEBSTER BANK – SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the change of signatories and the maintenance of online banking access for the Village's Webster Bank accounts, removing Anthony Feliz, Village Treasurer, effective February 2, 2026.

On a motion by Trustee O'Connor, seconded by Trustee Behringer

Ayes: Trustees Behringer, Ferraro, Karl and O'Connor
Nays: None

DISCUSSION - OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED ICE FACILITY – CHESTER, NY:

The Board discussed its reasons for opposing the proposed ICE facility in Chester, NY. The location is too close to the Village of Monroe, raising serious public safety concerns. Increased rallies and protests are expected, and these events have the potential to escalate and strain local police resources. Traffic impacts and sewer capacity are also major issues.

There is concern that the facility could lead to people roaming nearby streets, creating an uncomfortable and unsafe environment for residents. Under New York State Home Rule, each municipality has the authority to control zoning within its borders, and this location is not appropriate for any type of detention center.

The sewer system presents a significant problem. All sewage flows to the Moodna system, dumping into the manhole at Airplane Park, which already creates hydrogen sulfide odors. The community has received little to no assistance in addressing existing sewer smell issues, and there is serious concern about who will help once additional waste is introduced.

The proposed site is located within a commercial and industrial park, where this type of facility does not belong. Overall, the project is problematic and would negatively impact the tax roll and county revenues.

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monroe hereby authorizes Village Attorney Terhune to compile comments from the Board of Trustees in opposition to the proposed ICE facility in Chester, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Village Attorney Terhune is directed to draft a letter expressing such opposition for execution by Mayor Dwyer.

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Karl

Ayes: Trustees Ferraro, Karl, and O'Connor
Nays: None

MAYOR & TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

Mayor Dwyer, along with our Board of Trustees, thanked our Department of Public Works and Emergency Services for their hard work and continued cleanup efforts following the major snowstorm on Sunday, January 25.

Residents are asked to remain cautious around plow trucks and heavy equipment and to reduce speed when passing crews clearing snow. Please remember to clear snow from all sides of any fire hydrant in front of your home to ensure access for first responders.

This storm brought snowfall we have not seen in many years, and I appreciate the patience and cooperation of our residents during the cleanup process.

As a reminder, under Chapter 170 of the Village Code, snow and ice must be removed within 24 hours after a snowfall ends. Sidewalks in front of commercial properties and commercial parking lots must be kept clear between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Trustee Karl gave kudos to the DPW and Water Department for their hard work repairing a water main break on Archer Drive, working through the night. He also asked about 13 Lakes Road, a property that was previously the subject of a public hearing, as well as 99 Spring Street, which is currently pending in court.

Trustee Ferraro shared that he picked up two of the new “Welcome to the Village of Monroe” signs just before the recent snowstorm. The signs will be installed once the snow melts and the areas are accessible.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: # PRESENT 1 TIME: 7:45 PM

Carol Sotiropoulos, 24 Strauss Lane, Hands Off Hudson Valley, commented:

I’ve come to you today, again on behalf of the non-partisan Monroe-based group, HandsOff Hudson Valley, to follow up on the two resolutions presented to you on December 16th. In the mean time we hope you’ve noticed good reception of the Solidarity Signs by local shops and businesses that are displaying the signs in their windows. We are continuing to pound the pavements and sharing these with residents of neighboring towns who share our concerns.

With all that we have seen on our TV screens and read in every media outlet about the ongoing events in Minneapolis, Portland—both Oregon and Maine—Charlotte, etc., about the current overreach of ICE, I’m sure you feel the urgency to get something done to protect the rights of all of us. THINK of what these cities have been undergoing, of the incidents of ICE’s lawless overreach, of the murders of US citizens JUST SINCE your Dec. 16th meeting!

I remember mentioning here the \$75 billion in the budget dedicated to supplementing ICE’s base budget of \$10 billion. Well, just one piece of this happening now is the reported plan to invest 100 million in what ICE calls “wartime recruitment” of 10 thousand new agents, in addition to the 20 thousand already employed.

You’ve just spoken to your full awareness of the planned detention center for Chester—just one of many in the ICE plans nation-wide. (I have the list here, for anyone interested.) Community governing boards across our region are adopting resolutions opposing it, just as you discussed. The Chester Town Board passed such a resolution last week, we anticipate the Orange County Legislature passing one this Thursday, and the Monroe Town Board is developing its own document in opposition.

It’s excellent that you are joining that effort regarding the detention center. But today I’m here, as I said, to follow up on the resolutions regarding the MELT Act and the New York For All Act. Along with the resolution opposing the detention center, the Chester Board passed the resolution in support of the MELT Act resolution last Monday and have taken the resolution in support of the New York For All Act under consideration. Both resolutions have been well received by our Monroe Town Board and will hopefully be an agenda item on February 23rd. Further, residents in other neighboring towns are taking these up to their municipal boards.

We do not have time to lose.

We have all borne witness to what “overreach” means: yes, violations of our very constitutional rights. We have all borne witness to the murders of citizens who could be the sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers of any of us. Not only our immigrant neighbors, but WE ALL will benefit from the added protections provided by these bills before our legislature.

I began this discussion, via email, with Mayor Dwyer and Chief Guzman, in November. The draft resolutions were in packets of the Board of Trustees prior to the Dec. 16th Board meeting, when they were addressed during public comment. Weeks have passed, during which events have grown exponentially worse. Our good mayor has so much on his plate, I realize that it’s hard to respond to every email, that it is not intentional. But it feels like the can that just keeps getting kicked down the road. So, I come before you, to request a date, perhaps on the next meeting agenda? Please, it’s time to move on these resolutions so that our legislators hear unified voices and pass these pieces of legislation.

We hope you see your adoption of these resolutions, as we do, as a win-win for everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Karl, and carried, following a 5-minute recess, the Board convened in Executive Session at 8:10 PM for advice of counsel and personnel.

OPEN SESSION:

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee O'Connor, and carried, the Open Meeting resumed at 10:15 PM.

STIPEND – DONNA COMBEE – VILLAGE DEPUTY TREASURER:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a stipend in the amount of \$500.00 per payroll for Donna Combee, Village Deputy Treasurer, until such time as a Village Treasurer is appointed and trained.

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

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

Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee O'Connor and carried, no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Zahra
Village Clerk