

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

VILLAGE OF MONROE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026  
([www.villageofmonroe.org](http://www.villageofmonroe.org))

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, March 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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE – INDA STORA:**

Mayor Dwyer: It is with deep sadness that I share the passing of Inda Stora on February 11, 2026, serving more than 14 years on our Architectural Appearance Review Board (AARB). On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Village, we extend our condolences to her family. I would like to ask that we observe a moment of silence in her memory.

**MINUTE APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 17, 2026 BOARD MEETING:**

On a motion by Trustee Karl seconded by Trustee Ferraro, the Minutes of the February 17, 2026 Board Meeting were approved.

Ayes: Trustees Ferraro, Karl and O'Connor

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Behringer

**COMPLETION OF PROBATION – ROBERT WALLNER – BUILDING INSPECTOR III / CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**

RESOLVED, the following employee hereby completes their probationary period:

Robert Wallner, Building Inspector III / Code Enforcement Officer – effective March 5, 2025

The necessary MSD-426B will be submitted to OC Department of Human Resources.

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

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

Nays: None

**EVENT APPLICATION – MONROE LIONS CLUB - FISHING DERBY – JUNE 27, 2026:**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approves the event application submitted by the Monroe Lions Club to host a fishing derby on the south side of Crane Park on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 8AM to 1PM. A rain date has been scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2026. The application has been reviewed and approved by the Building Department, the DPW, and Police Department. The Monroe Police Department will monitor the area and provide assistance as needed at no additional cost. Monroe Fire District and Monroe Volunteer Ambulance will be notified.

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Karl

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

Nays: None

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees waives the event application fee due to the Lions Club being a non-profit organization.

On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Behringer

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

Nays: None

**AGREEMENT – RBT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, LLP:**

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees hereby approves the engagement of RBT Certified Public Accountants, LLP to provide accounting and/or consulting services for the Finance Department, to be allocated from budget line A.1320.4500, Auditor Contractual.

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

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

Nays: None

**PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION #6 – VAN KEUREN BOOSTER PUMP STATION PROJECT – ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION:**

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of Village Engineer, David Higgins P.E., and approves Payment No. 6 submitted by TAM Enterprises, Inc., for the Van Keuren Booster Pump Station project, electric construction, in the amount of \$7,085.10, 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

**PENALTY WAIVER REQUEST – WATER DEPARTMENT – VILLAGE WATER CUSTOMER #1024:**

Village water customer account #1024 has requested forgiveness of penalties totaling \$92.28. The original November water bill in the amount of \$307.57 was not paid when due. As a result of nonpayment, penalties accrued in the amount of \$92.28. At this time, no formal explanation or justification has been provided by the customer regarding why the bill was left unpaid.

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees denies the request of Village water customer #1024 for waiver of penalties totaling \$92.38.

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

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

Nays: None

**PENALTY WAIVER REQUEST – WATER DEPARTMENT – VILLAGE WATER CUSTOMER #1146:**

Customer account #1146 has requested a waiver of \$391.60 in penalty fees, stating that the account became delinquent following the July 30, 2025 final water read. The outstanding balance consists of charges from the July 30, 2025 final read, as well as the November 2025 and February 2026 billing cycles. The customer is asking that the accumulated penalty fees be removed.

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees denies the request of Village water customer #1146 for waiver of penalties totaling \$391.60.

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

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

Nays: None

**NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DHSES) – INITIAL RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTERS – OFFICER MAHONEY AND OFFICER GAYLER:**

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees approves the attendance of Officer Mahoney and Officer Gayler to the New York State Division of Homeland and Emergency Services for Initial Response to Active Shooters course on March 29 through March 31, 2026 in Oriskany, NY. This training is designed to place officers in reality-based scenarios to prepare for an initial response to active shooter events and other types of aggressive deadly behavior. There is no cost for the training and lodging.

**On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Ferraro**

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

**Nays: None**

**AGREEMENT HANSON VAN VLEET HYDROGEOLOGIC CONSULTANTS, PLLC — WELL 4:**

**RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement for professional services with Hanson Van Vleet Hydrogeologic Consultants, PLLC, to provide hydrogeologic consulting services in support of the investigation of elevated sodium and chloride concentrations in Well 4, including a desktop review of available data, information, and reports to identify potential contamination sources and evaluate the likelihood of impact to the Village's groundwater supply system in the amount of \$5,950.00 to be allocated from budget line F.8320.4500, Source Contractual.**

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

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

**Nays: None**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED AID TO MUNICIPALITIES AND STRENGTHENING NEW YORK'S STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP:**

**WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul released her 30-day amendments to the Executive Budget, which include an additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA) to be allocated in the same manner as in the past two years; and**

**WHEREAS, these additional investments reflect a recognition that New York's strength begins in its cities, villages, and towns, and that a strong state-local partnership is essential to delivering the services, infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life that residents expect and deserve; and**

**WHEREAS, local governments across New York continue to face mounting fiscal pressures driven by inflation, increased service demands, infrastructure needs, and rising operational costs, while striving to provide relief to taxpayers amid a rising cost of living; and**

**WHEREAS, NYCOM Executive Director Barbara Van Epps, along with mayors from across the State, testified at the Local Government Joint Budget Hearing in Albany, advocating for increased unrestricted aid and a strengthened state-local partnership; and**

**WHEREAS, the additional \$100 million in TMA will offer meaningful assistance to many municipalities statewide, helping to address fiscal challenges and maintain essential services for residents;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Monroe applauds Governor Hochul for recognizing the importance of investing in local governments and for reaffirming her commitment to strengthening New York's cities and villages; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Monroe urges the New York State Legislature to include, at a minimum, this additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance in the adopted state budget; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Monroe calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to develop a more permanent and predictable solution for unrestricted municipal aid to ensure long-term fiscal stability for New York's local governments; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the members of the State Legislature representing the Village of Monroe.**

**On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Ferraro**

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

**Nays: None**

**WAIVING PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION FEES – THE Q:**

**RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees waives the application fees as they were paid in full when the first application was accepted and this is considered a continuing application. Additionally, the Board has not**

waived any escrow required to continue reviewing this application. Any and all fees pertaining to professional statements will be paid in full prior to the signature of the Planning Board Chairman being affixed to the approved plans.

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

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

Nays: None

**CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FOR BUDGET ASSISTANCE – ANTHONY FELIZ:**

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the engagement of Anthony Feliz in a contractual capacity to assist the Village with the completion of the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget. Mr. Feliz shall be compensated at a rate of \$34.62 per hour.

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

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

Nays: None

**MAYOR & TRUSTEE'S REPORT:**

Mayor Dwyer recognized the DPW for all of their hard work. He shared that while walking around the Village, many residents complimented the Department of Public Works and expressed their appreciation for the job they have done.

Trustee Behringer said she is proud of the DPW. This has been a rough winter with all of the winter storms, and they have worked hard. She also expressed her appreciation for the Police Department. They are always patrolling and staying alert, and she is thankful to have them serving our Village.

Trustee Karl thanked the Clerk for her initiative in working with the USPS to have the unused green boxes removed and for getting the vendor notice out for the Village's Independence Day celebration, noting that vendor applications have already started coming in. He encouraged local not-for-profit organizations to participate.

He remarked that this will be a major celebration in honor of the nation's 250th birthday, featuring both a drone show and fireworks. He also thanked Trustee Ferraro for securing The Mighty Spectrum Band for the event.

Trustee Karl also requested an update on the double poles located throughout the Village. Additionally, he noted that due to a salt shortage, sand is being mixed in for use. He added that we are almost through the winter season and that spring is on the way.

Trustee O'Connor thanked the DPW for all of their hard work this season.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**# PRESENT 3**

**TIME: 7:20 PM**

Comments spoken and submitted by Carol Sotiropoulos, Public Comment, Monroe Village Board of Trustees, March 3, 2026:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, which I do on behalf of HandsOff Hudson Valley, a local non-partisan group advocating for civil rights. I respect this opportunity and am self-limiting my time to four minutes.

I am **not** here to speak on your potential adoption of resolutions supporting the MELT and New York For All Acts coming up in the state legislature. You made clear this discussion and potential vote would be delayed. Though disappointed, our group appreciated having clarity and remain hopeful that the Board will consider these resolutions, which would then be sent to our state legislators who will hopefully vote them into law. So please, relax. And please know that we are all grateful that you've developed and signed onto the document opposing the planned ICE detention center in Chester. And gratitude extends to all you do—as well as Police Chief Guzman and his staff---to protect vulnerable residents of the Village.

So why have I come again? Solely because a couple of things were said last I was here, on February second, that were misleading, or the result of misinformation. I thought long and hard about whether it was important enough to come and address these misunderstandings. But I think we all agree of the importance of bringing truth to light. And if I make misstatements, I for sure appreciate being shown that I've been misinformed or miseducated.

So in the name of continuing clarity, here are the two points I'd like to address:

**First**, on the issue of ICE agents in Monroe being clearly identified and not wearing masks: Mayor Dwyer indicated he had been shown photos of one resident's encounter with several ICE agents. None of those particular agents were masked. I would like to show photos of other encounters, taken by other residents, of masked and unidentifiable ICE agents. This is why support of the MELT Act, standing for Mandating End of Lawless Tactics, is important.

**Second**, on the issue of capturing, detaining and deporting criminals, another misunderstanding is that ICE agents have appeared in Monroe solely to eradicate criminals from our midst. How we wish this were so. I cannot divulge names or any other privileged information, but we have credible, verified reports of six families in Monroe from whom a father, brother, son was taken, a father/brother/son with no criminal record! One had a misdemeanor, a DUI, the other five nothing at all, no criminal record whatsoever.

But perhaps anyone hearing this may think, "Ah, but they must have been (quote-unquote) 'illegal!'" And so I ask whether everyone is aware that being here, on US soil, undocumented--- is not a **criminal** offense? That there is a difference between a criminal offense and a **civil** offense? Along with the desire to remove **criminals** from our midst, a value we all uphold and which was supposed to be ICEs mandate, I ask: do we really want peaceful, non-violent Monroe residents who've committed no "crime" to be taken away, for families to be broken up and lose breadwinners, for children to be traumatized?

Mayor Dwyer's account of his effort to reassure the young schoolchild that his parents would not be taken away was very moving. But I went home wondering whether and how we could truly protect all children from this frightening thought.

And so, lastly, I share with you an astounding statistic, and an article with all the evidence to substantiate it. The statistic: **77% of people who entered deportation proceedings for the first time in 2025 had no criminal conviction, exposing a stark gap between the administration's rhetoric and reality.** We wish we would all have the luxury to hold onto a belief that this is only true elsewhere and not here in Monroe.

#### **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 7:31 PM for discussion of litigation.**

#### **OPEN SESSION:**

**On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Karl, and carried, the Open Meeting resumed at 8:20 PM.**

#### **STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT – BE & YO REALTY, INC.:**

**RESOLVED, the Village of Monroe Board of Trustees authorizes Mayor Dwyer to execute a stipulation of settlement with defendant Be & Yo Realty, Inc., in the amount of \$125,000 to resolve the Village's trespass case against Be & Yo.**

**On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Behringer**

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

**Nays: None**

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**On a motion by Trustee Ferraro, seconded by Trustee Karl and carried, no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kimberly Zahra  
Village Clerk**