

Town of Monroe
Town Board Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
(www.townofmonroeny.gov)

Generated by Valerie Bitzer

Members Present

Tony Cardone, Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson
Town Counsel - Brian Nugent

*Public Hearings transcribed by Deputy Town Clerk Barbara Singer

DRAFT

Call to Order

1.1. Pledge to the Flag

The Supervisor led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Motion to Open Town Board Meeting

2.1. Motion to Open Town Board Meeting of October 20, 2025

2025-#436

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Open the Town Board Meeting of October 20, 2025, at 7:02 PM.

On a motion by Town Councilmember Scancarello, seconded by Town Councilmember Houle

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Community Announcements

3.1. Siddharth Ranganathan, Eagle Scout

Siddharth Ranganathan earned his rank of Eagle Scout last week. His project was the Town of Monroe sign located at Mombasha Park. He thanked everyone for their assistance.

3.2. Food Truck Festival Recap

October 18, 2025, Food Truck Festival was a great day, with great weather. Thank you to the Highway Department, Ann Marie Morris, Sheriff's Department, Village of Monroe Police Department and State Police.

3.3. Early Voting

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2025 – polls are open from 6am to 9pm.
- Early Voting will take place from October 25th – November 2nd at 8 locations in the County. (see attached for schedule)
- The last day to file a New Voter Registration at the Board to vote – October 25th (change of address due by October 20th)
- Absentee Voting – last day to submit an application to the Board for an absentee ballot – October 28th (last day to apply in person – November 3rd) *New Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Applications must either be personally delivered or mailed to your appropriate Board of Elections (see attached for addresses)

Orange County Board of Elections 2025 Early Voting Information Early Voting Sites for General Election

Orange County will have eight sites available for Early Voting and sites are open to all eligible enrolled voters throughout the County. All early voting sites are accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

City of Middletown - Middletown Senior Center — 62-80 W Main St., Middletown, NY

City of Newburgh - Newburgh Activity Center - 401 Washington St, Newburgh, NY

City of Port Jervis – Howard Wheat Engine Co – 34 Owen St, Port Jervis, NY

Town of Goshen - Caroline Building, 23 Hatfield Lane, Goshen, NY

Town of Montgomery - Village of Montgomery Senior Center – 36 Bridge St., Montgomery, NY

Town of Monroe - Monroe Town Hall - 1465 Orange Tpke., Monroe, NY

Town of New Windsor – New Windsor Community Center – 555 Union Ave, New Windsor, NY

Town of Warwick - Warwick Senior Center - 132 Kings Hwy, Warwick, NY

Dates and Hours of Voting during Early Voting

The dates and hours for early voting are uniform for all eight sites during the General Election:

Saturday, October 25, 2025 9am to 5pm

Sunday, October 26, 2025 9am to 5pm

Monday, October 27, 2025 12 noon to 8pm

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 12 noon to 8pm

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 8am to 4pm

Thursday, October 30, 2025 8am to 4pm

Friday, October 31, 2025 7am to 3pm

Saturday, November 1, 2025 9am to 5pm

Sunday, November 2, 2025 9am to 5pm

3.4. Trunk or Treat

The Town of Monroe Trunk or Treat event will take place on Monday, October 27, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m. (Rain or Shine) at O&R Park located at 61 O&R Road. Parking will be available at Monroe Park & Ride Commuter Lot B. Access from 17M only. O&R Road will be closed for public safety. Guest transportation to and from the lot will be available via hayride or Dial-A-Ride. Participation is FREE. Sign up as a trunk participant is required. Setup will begin at 4:00 p.m. Candy, food, music and hayrides. Deadline to sign up is October 22. Register at <https://monroeny.org/community/trunk-or-treat>. *Please note: Political-themed trunks and/or campaigning are strictly prohibited at this event. Family-friendly themed trunks only.

*Dogs will NOT be permitted at this event.

Any questions, please contact Valerie Bitzer 845-783-1900 x203 or Angelina Olsen 845-783-1900 x137.

3.5. Smith's Clove Park Fall Festival

The Smith's Clove Park Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, November 1st from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Smith's Clove Park located at 133 Spring Street. Please see the event flyer for additional information.

3.6. Fall 2025 Compost Facility Schedule

TOWN OF MONROE COMPOST FACILITY Fall 2025 Schedule: This facility is open to residents of the unincorporated Town of Monroe (outside of the Villages). Village of Monroe and Village of Harriman residents should contact their respective Village for additional information on disposal options. OPENING DATES: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th

LOCATION: TOWN OF MONROE COMPOST FACILITY 813 LAKES ROAD MONROE, NY 10950

OPERATING HOURS: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

GUIDELINES: *DRIVER'S LICENSE / ID REQUIRED

*BRUSH MUST BE UNDER 4 FEET IN LENGTH AND NO LARGER THAN 5 INCHES IN DIAMETER.

*NO LOGS OR WOOD WILL BE ACCEPTED.

*NO COMMERCIAL OR BUSINESS WASTE PERMITTED.

PLEASE NOTE — THE COMPOST FACILITY WILL CLOSE FOLLOWING THESE DATES & REOPEN IN THE SPRING

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWN OF MONROE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AT 845-782-8583.

3.7. Town of Monroe Electronic/Textile Recycling, Shredding and Tire Recycling Day

The next Town of Monroe Electronic/Textile Recycling, Shredding and Tire Recycling Event will take place on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Town of Monroe Highway Garage parking lot located at 87 Mine Road, Monroe, NY. The event is open to Town of Monroe, Village of Monroe, Village of Harriman Residents Only (MUST SHOW VALID

ID).- PAPER SHREDDING: *NO BUSINESSES* Up to 4 boxes per resident will be accepted
- TIRE RECYCLING: Tires with rims will NOT be accepted
- ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: Items Accepted: Cellular Telephones, Computer, DVD Players, Terminals, Keyboards, Monitors, Printers, Scanners, Speakers, Stereos, Fax Machine, Televisions, VCRs, Radios, Modems, Typewriters, Batteries, CPUs & Laptops *HARD DRIVES WILL BE DESTROYED*
-TEXTILES RECYCLING:For re-wear, reuse, and recycling, we accept items in any condition for all ages and genders so long as they are clean, dry, and odorless. Everything should be kept dry in a closed, plastic bag. To view accepted items, click the following link:
<https://www.helpsy.com/what-we-accept>
Please note: Appliances will NOT be accepted For any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 845-783-1900 ext. 203.

3.8. Teenager Trends Event Hosted by Monroe-Woodbury Community Coalition

Monroe-Woodbury Community Coalition on November 20th for a Teenager Trends event including discussion on current teenage trends, how parents can support their child, and Narcan training.

Public Hearing

4.1. Motion to Open the Public Hearing RE the 2026 Town of Monroe Preliminary Budget

Supervisor Cardone reminded the audience of the expected behavior prior to opening the Public Hearing section of the meeting.

2025-#437

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Open the Public Hearing RE the 2026 Town of Monroe Preliminary Budget.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

The following residents signed up to speak during Public Comment on the Public Hearing RE the 2026 Town of Monroe Preliminary Budget:

- BJ Mendelson
- Liam Wisheart
- Luis Rivera

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: The residents who have signed up to speak, I'll call the first resident.
-Town Supervisor Cardone: Well, we're going to do the budget presentation first and then they can speak after.
-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Okay.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: So, this is a 2026 preliminary budget overview and the preliminary budget at a glance. The total preliminary budget is currently 19,705,392.75. What that translates to, right now, is a town tax rate that's only in the incorporated town of Monroe of 12.2444 per, \$1000 assessed value. That's a minus 4.5817 year-over-year decrease. In the village, the tax rate has gone up .21%. So, your total town tax rate increase since 2019, and I use that year because that was the first year

that myself, as a supervisor, had control over the budget. I was elected in 18. So, 2019 was the first year that we had, that I had, control of the budget. Next slide. So, I know this is a little small. So, I just I want to address the fact that at the last meeting when I submitted the summary sheet, the summary sheet was incorrect. The third column from the end, which is the column to the left of the red outline. What happened was when I moved the cells over, I did not save them. So, it translated into incorrect numbers and those numbers were actually higher with respect to the percentage increases. None of the numbers in the budget were changed. This summary sheet is an analysis of the budget and because I didn't save that, it showed incorrect numbers and I apologize for that. You have in the yellow there, you have four funds that we address in the budget. We have a general fund, which is the A fund, that's town wide, that includes both villages and the town. You have the general fund, which is a part town, the B fund that just includes the unincorporated town of Monroe, which is everything outside of the two villages. You then have the DA fund, which is the highway fund town wide, both villages and the town. And then you have the highway fund, the part town which is the DB fund which just includes the town of Monroe. You'll notice that in the red area the change over 2025 is like I said stated before, . 211% increase in the village and a minus 4.5817 in the town. I will tell you this, that number will change. It will go up. I would hope that it only goes up slightly. Because the only salaries that were included in this preliminary budget were any contractual salaries associated with the highway department. Right now, we don't have a contract for 2026 Dial A Ride, but we do have a contract for our highway workers. Zoomed in a little bit. So, for those of you that get your tax bill, your assessed value is your taxable value on your tax bill. So, for a home that is assessed at \$50,000, your increase from 25 to 26, if the budget stayed exactly like it is, in the village is 85 cents. In the town, it's minus \$29.40. For a \$75,000 assessed value home, your increase in the village would be \$1.28 and your increase in the town would be, I'm sorry, your decrease in the town would be \$44.10 comparable to 2025. And if you had a \$100,000 assessed value home, your increase would be \$1.70 and your reduction in the town would, that was in the village, and your reduction in the town would be \$58.79. I will say that, obviously, these numbers exist because of what's currently in the budget. And for a home that is in the village, 81% of the homes in the village, as per our assessor, are assessed at less than \$100,000. That's the assessed value. In the town, 71% of the homes that are assessed in the village are less. I'm sorry, in the in the town 71% of homes are assessed at \$100,000 or less. And if you don't believe that because I had someone say that to me last year, stop in our assessor's office. She could run the report for you pretty quickly. Okay, next up, what does a tax rate translate to on a town resident's tax bill? I've received so many questions regarding tax bills and my taxes have gone up thousands of dollars. That's not true. When you look at what the town of Monroe controls. We control four lines. We control the town tax. We control the highway tax, and we control the part town tax along with the Monroe town lighting. Those are items we have complete control over. The other items that are on your list are the fire district, which is controlled by the fire commission. You have the library which is essentially controlled by the voters in the town. You vote on that every year. You have the Monroe refuge. Now I will say that we do have a contract for that, but we don't completely control that because, usually in the middle to the end of November, there's an increase in tipping fees. So that cost is always adjusted for the last five years. I believe there's always been an increase and that's done through the county's tipping fees. You have county bonds and laterals and the tax bill up there is my tax bill. That's my tax bill from 24 and 25. So, the difference from 24 to 25 was a difference of a 10.73% increase was

\$125.28. That represents \$10 a month. And I do believe that we have enhanced our services for that small increase. Next slide. Next up is Councilwoman Houle's tax bill. This is a village resident. So, as a village resident.

-Councilwoman Richardson: These are real bills?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: These are real bills.

-Councilwoman Richardson: I'm on here, too.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Okay. So, her increase was \$52.70, which is about \$4.5 from 24 to 25. And in the village, you only have one line. You have a line that's just states town. For everyone that has complained on social media about the tax bill, these are the facts. There's no lying here. It comes directly from the county tax records. Okay. Next up, Councilwoman Bingham. So, Councilwoman Bingham from 24 to 25, has a difference of \$47.23. She's got four line items there. And then she does have at the bottom, she's got a sewer district, which is the Moodna district, which she is the chairman of. And I'm not saying that because there's anything for fagazy going on there. She does a wonderful job there. And this was her first year as chairperson. You have the water bond from water district 12 from all the improvements, and then you have the Monroe water, which is operating and maintenance. Now, the town does have input into those, but those final numbers are generated from the operating and maintenance costs for that year in the amount of water usage. If there's more water used, though, that tax bill line is going to be increased. Okay. And finally, oh no, I'm sorry. Councilman Scancarello. Councilman Scancarello has a difference of from 24 to 25 of \$121.82, which also amounts to about \$12, \$10 per month, just over it. And then Councilwoman Richardson's. So, she has a difference from 24 through 25 of \$34.05. Which you also have to take into consideration that her taxable value from 24 went from 765 down to 72. So, taking that into consideration, I would think her difference would have been about 38 or \$39, which is just about \$3 a month from that increase. You know, you heard the increase was everybody was rounding it up to 11%. The last thing we want to do up here is raise your taxes. But when you have a year like we had last year, when you had an adjustment, when we had years of minuses in 19 and 20, when we went through COVID with unfunded mandates, that all factors into it. So, simply to sum it up, a lot of you have seen these increases. We know that. And that's not what our goal is. Our goal is to control taxes. But I will tell you that this increase is minimal compared to the school, county, and the state taxes. And I think this board has done a fine job over the last seven years. Next slide. This is a glimpse of the fund balance history and what's actually behind the numbers. In 2019, we were at 2.2 million in change. In 2020, we went up to 7.3 million. In 2021, we remained stable. We had some unfunded mandates that came into play, and we were at 2 point, I'm sorry, 7.25, roughly in 21 and then 22. We were at 10.1 million. Now you're looking at this bar graph, and you're probably saying to yourself, Jesus, what the heck happened in 23 and 24? Well, we purchased the Rye Hill corridor. And when we purchased the Rye Hill corridor, we had bonds, which is a bond anticipation note. That bond anticipation note is due at the end of the year. So, I will let Roberta explain why that is.

-Roberta McBride: Okay. A ban, which is a bond anticipation note, is a short-term liability. So, the total amount is due in the year that it happened. So, the total amount of that purchase hit the bottom line for the town in 23 when we made the purchase and the ban was refinanced in 24 and in 25 it was converted to a bond. When it come becomes a bond, it's now a long-term liability. So, it's like when you get a mortgage for your house, and you pay for it over 20 or 30 years. So that's why it will the fund balance will go back up in 25 when that ban was converted to a bond.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Right? So, converted that ban to a bond. And through, remember this is through 10/15 of 2025. The current fund balance is 16.8 million. That's going to drop. I'm going to estimate it's going to drop by approximately \$3.5 to \$4 million. We're not in fiscal stress. It's been proven by the state. And if you go to the next slide, you'll see that we're fiscally stable. We've had three professional opinions. The first one is S&P, which has awarded us a double A

rating. You don't receive that unless your audits, tax returns are done properly. They gave us a favorable financial standing, and they said that our financial future is stable. The New York State controller, they gave the town a zero stress score which is the best score possible by New York State, and no designation in the fiscal stress monitoring system from New York State for the town of Monroe. PK O'Connor Davis, which is our auditor. In 2025, they provided an unmodified opinion, which is a clean opinion, and I'll have Roberta give you a definition of that regarding the town of Monroe's most recent audit. PKF advised us that this is the highest level of assurance any auditor can give you. I repeat, the town of Monroe is not in financial stress, is fiscally stable, and that has been validated by three independent opinions. And this should not surprise everyone because, back in June, we had our bonding company Munistat come up and state basically exactly the same. Okay, next slide please. Oh yeah, I'm sorry. Explain. Thank you. Explain the unmodified opinion definition.

-Roberta McBride: Okay. The definition unmodified opinion is that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This is the most favorable outcome, and it provides assurance that the financial information is reliable and free from material misstatement.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you. Okay, next up is our fund balance, and we've had multiple speakers come up and talk about us using fund balance, and you've depleted your fund balance by a million or a million and a half this year or that year. So, sometimes the fact that, and I don't hold this against anybody, but sometimes, if you don't understand fund accounting, this could be the misconception of why you believe that. So, in fund accounting you have to balance the budget. You have to balance your revenues and your expenses. So, what we do is we add fund balance in. And fund balance isn't a bad thing. Fund balance is a great thing because it protects the public from major tax increases and that's what we've always tried to do. So, if you look at the history from 20 to 24, we have appropriated in the budget 2.62 million in fund balance and we've only used \$803,278. So, that's approximately, I'd say, 23%. I didn't do the numbers, but it's approximately 23% of what was appropriated versus what we used. What we didn't use remained in the fund balance and a lot of those years we had surpluses, so we also added to that fund balance. Last year we had a big infusion in cash from two projects, from Bald Hill and from Forest Château. Forest Château is a project that was done without the town of Monroe knowing. Mr. Nugent and myself, along with a little assistance from Dorey, negotiated a payment from that builder, because they were in KJ, of \$450,000. That was found money. That was money that we got that year. We're not getting it this year. And in fairness, the expenses associated with that, which are 90% related to engineering, are going to be about 50 or \$60,000. So, the town benefited from that project even though they tried to run it through Kiryas Joel. So, I will say again, we are fiscally strong, stable. Next slide please. So, this is this year's numbers through October 15th. So, this is where our revenue is generated from. You have a lot of different parts of this where we generate revenue. 62% of it comes from property tax, and you could see the numbers all around. The lines that do not have numbers, if you combine them all, they represent 1% of revenue that we receive. And one has to remember that when we're doing a budget for 26, we have to all understand that we have to know where we came from, and we have to know what's going on in the current year in 2025. And is it a little bit of an estimation game? Yes, it is. and we try to base everything we do on numbers from the state, the county, and what we currently have. I will say that Dial A Ride, the building department, mortgage, sales tax, and franchise taxes are a big part, I'm sorry, and interest. We started investing in NY Class, which is an approved municipal investment firm out of Albany. They, I mean Roberta, can you give me the totals, the total of interest we've earned year to date?

-Roberta McBride: For this year. This year the total interest earned as of September 30th is \$628,000.

-Supervisor Cardone: That's just an interest.

-Roberta McBride: Just this year through September.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Through September. Prior to 2019, we were lucky if we made \$20,000 because there was not any shifting of money and reinvesting it in. We're not investing in funds. We're investing in interest-bearing accounts and with a lot of liquidity, and we could remove the money I believe in 72 hours is when we get it. So, that's where our revenue is generated from. And then we go to where we spend. Now, I apologize. I'm going to read off those values. I think what happened was when the Excel spreadsheet that generated these numbers was made, the column wasn't wide enough because these numbers are in the millions. So, the numbers you see up there, \$805,000 is principal. The \$814,000 is interest. The employee benefits, which is the piece of the pie below the \$805,000. So, employee benefits represent 1.467 million. Below that is home and community service. And home and community service represent clean sweep, recycling, refuge, and water and sewer. And that is 3.515 million. The orange piece of pie to the right is 2.41 million and that represents transportation which is Dial A Ride and our highway. And then the other large number, which is 1.8 million, represents general government support, which is our offices and our different departments. Am I missing something in that?

-Roberta McBride: (inaudible).

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Talk in to the mic.

-Roberta McBride: Thank you, George.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Okay.

-Roberta McBride: It's the offices in this building and the maintenance department, the justice court, that's all included in that one.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you. All right, next slide. Okay, these are the factors from the Monroe Theater. So, the theater was purchased in 15 and 2015,16,17 along with a portion of 18, which is when I came in as supervisor, that I inherited that and those four years represented a cost to the taxpayers of \$1.122 million. I'm going to say that again. \$1.122 million is what the taxpayers paid for that theater. Councilman McGinn came in, Mary Bingham came in, and what we did was we ended up negotiating a deal and Councilman Scancarello was here too, I believe, negotiating a deal with Flagship Cinemas. And you can see, moving forward from 19 through 25, the seven-year average that the theater cost us was just under \$16,000. So, that means if we would have kept going at the previous four-year level, we wouldn't have saved 1.851 million, which is what we did by not running the theater. Now the theater, since Covid, is in a financial struggle. I know that there's a payment that is normally due us. They haven't been able to make that. I was speaking with them about a week and a half ago because we have to make some roof repairs, and they're going to try to work out to get us some sort of payment. But in the interim, they've provided us with veteran's movies, they provided us with senior movies, and they've provided our YAK program at Smith Clove Park with movies at no cost. I don't know what that number is. Maybe in total, over the last couple of years, it's been 20 to \$22,000. I'm spit balling a number there. You've got to remember this building doesn't lend itself to many uses. There would be major renovations needed if we changed it from a theater to some sort of office building. And I think what we did in 2018 into 19 was stop the hemorrhaging of money. Next up, so some of the key cost increases associated going into this year, you got wages, which we think are going to be between 3 and 4%. You have supply chain issues and overall inflation, which represents 12.6%. You have highway parts, as an example, and materials they represent a large portion of the highway budget. I met with them last Wednesday or Thursday. There was one axle they were trying to get in, and I don't I remember, I think the axle cost was somewhere in the neighborhood of like 9 or \$10,000 and in the past that item was maybe 4 to 4500. Aside from the fact they're spending a lot of time and effort in trying to find parts for some of our older trucks and in addition, some of our newer trucks because they're computer-based have had some issues with their computer, and they've been in the shop too. And this is no fault to anybody but the production of these vehicles. They're doing

the best they can there, and it's taken them sometimes, at minimum, maybe two weeks at maximum two to two and a half months, to get a part. Health insurance premiums are another issue 9 to 12%. They're going up. Listen, it's what life is today. And then we have a lot of unfunded mandates. We have an example, is the MS4 which is the storm water and sewer drainage. It's going to cost us about 30 to \$40,000 this year to implement the new standards that come down from the state. They don't fund us for it. We have to do engineering, and we also have to have our highway department go through all those catch basins, log them, clean them out every year and so on. Next slide please. Okay. So, for six or seven years, we've been proactively seeking grants and funding opportunities to offset our cost. We've secured over \$4.1 million over those that term. We have got crest grant funding, which is the community resiliency economic sustainability and technology grant. A few weeks ago, less than a few weeks ago, we received an \$80,000 grant from Assemblyman Brabanick to purchase a new trailer leaf loader for the highway department. That is something that was, I believe, over 20 years old. The one there still and they're still working with it now, but I know last year they had to repair the main fan, and they actually built some parts because they couldn't get what they needed. We also got two grants from Senator Skoufis's office, a \$70,000 grant, which was used toward the purchase of generators at the senior center and, hopefully, the new highway department building. And then we received a \$75,000 commitment from Senator Skoufis's office to use to be used for the purchase of a generator for the water district 1 pump house renovation. CDBG, less than two weeks ago, we were awarded \$84,000 for the connectivity of Mombasha Park between the baseball field and the soccer field, and that will be construction of a pathway sidewalk. And there's obviously some engineering associated with that. And then we've recently applied for a WIAA grant, which is a water infrastructure improvement and intermission grant, which is funding for water district 1 and water district 14. Some recent park improvements for our residents. We recently installed lights at Mombasha Park pickleball court, and we did that after we installed the pickleball court last year. That was a great project. If you go up there on a Saturday, on a Sunday, at night after 4:00, it's mobbed. And the lights have been a blessing for a lot of people. Some of us seniors like to go to bed before the lights go on, but there are a number of people that use it. The new renovations on the Mombasha Park baseball field to accommodate a 50-foot and 70-foot base path that was just completed last Friday and both of these improvements were paid for by parkland fees and those parkland fees are paid to the town by developers. And finally, so moving forward, our priorities remain the same. Transparent government, fiscal responsibility, accountability, best practices for the benefits of the taxpayer, and the safety and well-being of our community and the residents through the possible securing of an IMA for police services in 2026. Thank you. Hope I didn't bore you. Just wanted to get as much information out as possible. Madame clerk, do you have any speakers?

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: So, for public comment, I'm going to read the first speaker's name followed by the second speaker so that you'll be prepared to come up. When you do come up to the mic, just please announce yourself, speak clearly into the mic, and please do not touch the microphone. You'll have five minutes to speak. First speaker is BJ Mendelson, followed by Liam Weishart.

-BJ Mendelson: Wow, what a dynamic speaker. I really enjoyed that campaign speech and I couldn't help but notice you have some of your friends here from United Monroe to speak out for you tonight. I'll be sure to point them out. I'd like to take everyone back to March 25th, 2022. On that date, in the archive of the Times Herald records, this way Mr. Cardone can't say it's made up, you can find a story reporting that Tony Cardone and Sal Scancarello are directly responsible for recruiting developer Neil Gold and his dinosaur theme park to the town of Monroe. Less than a month later, again, so we can't say it's being made up, the Photo News ran a similar story about Tony and Sal's enthusiasm of the dinosaur theme park. So, to be clear, Tony Cardone and Sal Scancarello are specifically responsible for costing this town up to \$30

million for the Rye Hill purchase you all just heard about. And as a result, Monroe taxpayers suffered a near 11% tax increase in 2025. And now there's another 4% increase proposed for 2026. Mr. Cardone, as you just saw, is going to tell you that he's lowering your taxes by 4%. But what he's not telling you is that your taxes are still up 14% overall since 2024 because of his T-Rex-sized blunder. Whether or not Mr. Cardone received any bribes from Mr. Gold is unknown. However, multiple real estate developers told him on Monroe Gazette that Mr. Cardone expects to receive bribes in order to move projects through the planning board. So, Mr. Cardone, since you don't respond to email requests for comments from the press, let me ask you now in front of all these people. Did you receive a bribe from Neil Gold as part of your enthusiastic campaign to promote that dinosaur theme park that cost the town \$30 million? You got nothing, huh? Good job. Now, on top of your taxes going up 14%, soon you will also all be hit with a bill for up to \$1,200 a year for the next 30 years to pay for a sewage plant that this town will not benefit from and that neither Mr. Cardone or Miss Houle have advocated against. And thank you, shout out to Peter Tuohey for ramming that bill down our throat. Now, if you follow these meetings, you'll note that with maybe one or two exceptions, most short-term rentals get approved. One of the very few to get rejected was located less than a mile from Tony's house. I'm sure that was just a coincidence, Mr. Cardone. I mentioned the short-term rentals because many of us are here to talk about the police. But you should know that code enforcement is also the purview of our understaffed and underfunded building department. Despite rubber-stamping short-term rentals, Mr. Cardone's 2026 budget does nothing to increase the funding for code enforcement officers. Instead, we're spending \$750,000 coming out of our reserve fund, by the way, to handle matters that very well could be handled by a properly staffed building department. I also want to point out that Mr. Cardone lied to everyone at the last meeting. He said the village police, I'm sorry, the village is the reason for the obstruction in progress of having the village PD patrol the town roads. The actual reason is that Mr. Cardone, Miss Houle, and Mr. Alex Melchiorre continue to insist that no independent study is needed to figure out what exactly the village police would need to protect everyone in the town. So, Mr. Cardone and Miss Houle, I hope you're paying attention and I hope you take good notes because I'm be requesting them tomorrow. I hope you both can answer this question. Would you like to explain during that dynamic presentation you just made, Tony, that no money has been allocated to pay for an independent study to help figure out what the village PD needs to protect the residents of Monroe? I'll see you real soon.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Next speaker.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Next speaker is Liam Wisehart, followed by Luis Rivera.

-Liam Wisehart: Liam Wisehart, Harriman Heights Road. I just had a few questions about the budget. My first question was that I noticed about half a million dollars listed under miscellaneous revenue with no explanation. So, I was actually just curious what that number was. If that is the windfall Mr. Cardone mentioned earlier or if that's something else. A bigger question was what the year-to-date totals are on some of these numbers. This was part of the budgeting process last year and would really help us know if the 2025 budget had been accurate. One thing I think I mentioned for the 2025 budget, so in 2024, was that the non-property sales tax was quadrupled for the A fund in that year. And I'd be curious if we're actually making that sales tax now and if it's appropriate to continue to project that amount of sales tax in the future. And the last thing is that I just I have my concern about the fact that of this \$1.5 million draw down from the fund balance. While it's one thing to say it's going to be a 4% tax decrease this year, that draw down is about 37% of the size of the entire town tax levy. That's the A, B, DA, DB funds all combined. So that's a pretty large number, and it seems to me unless something's done, and maybe there is something that's going to be done, that would result in a very large tax increase in the years down the line, and I'd like to know what the plan is to address that. Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Luis Rivera.

-Luis Rivera: Good evening, Town Board. Good evening, Mr. Supervisor. So, I just had a few

questions about the budget. The non-property sales tax distribution from Orange County is being allocated differently between A fund and the B fund. Just let everybody know, the A fund is a town and village. The B fund is a town only. In 2025, the A Fund non-property sales tax was \$1,080,000. And now in 2026, this non-property sales tax for the 2026 preliminary budget is \$994,080. It's down 86,000 or 8%. In 2025, the B fund non-property sales tax for town only was 280,887. But now, for the 2026 preliminary budget B fund is \$517,618 is up \$236,731. If you want to check, it's on page one and page nine. Why are the non-property sales tax disbursements changing in 2026 versus 2025? In total, the 2025 non-sales preliminary sales dollars are growing, but the slice distribution changed heavily, reducing A's share and boosting B's. Is this shift because of the \$750,000 sheriff contract? This revenue shift from the A fund to the B fund is resulting in the A fund tax rate increase of 0.21, yet the B fund homes are down almost 5%. Why? Then my next question is why are there only there are no COLA increases for town personnel and how can a preliminary budget be reviewed if it is not completed. Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: That's all for public comment.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Comments?

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: I'll be setting the timer for five minutes.

-Councilman Scancarello: Is it responding to comments or (inaudible)

-Councilwoman Richardson: That's what I was going to ask you. I feel like there was a 40-minute budget presentation from one member of the board and then the board didn't get to actually weigh in on any board level issues and I, as a board member, would now like to respond, but it just feels like do we get the opportunity to also present as board members or have board comments on the budget versus time allocated to appropriately responding to public hearing. Our rules don't actually designate public hearing.

-Town Attorney Nugent: For public hearing, they do. So, it's 5 minutes for you to respond to comments that were made, and it's 8 minutes for you, if you wish to, then give your own comments.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Okay.

-Town Attorney Nugent: So, that's why I was asking that question. So, if you want to respond first, you could do that. We could use a five-minute timer, and then you would have eight minutes if you have your own concerns you wish to address.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Mary, you want to just address the comments made first and then

-Councilwoman Bingham: Yeah. So, I know some of the speakers had definite line items and I did note that on my copy and when it comes to when the board is going to make comments on the budget, I have about 17 items and I only got to page eight. So, I will definitely need my eight minutes at that time. But yes, some of your comments I have noted in mine as well.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Want to respond to anything?

-Councilwoman Bingham: No, I'll let the board go through with just the comments to the audience before

-Councilwoman Richardson: Any other responses? You have anything first? Why do we do this? Let's just go down the line like we usually do.

-Councilwoman Houle: Okay.

-Councilwoman Richardson: I just wanted to address it seems like there's a confusion between the Rye Hill project, the 260 acres, or rather, it's actually 245 acres purchased as a result of the Rye Hill corridor lawsuit versus the Dinosaur Park, which is a different, already owned parcel that was 131 acres. It's off of Orange Turnpike, bordering basically Lake Mombasha, and it was traded in essentially a forever preservation agreement with the developers of Mansion Ridge in exchange for, back in the 90s, that was higher density. So, it's very similar to a lot of the planning board arrangements and requirements that we have, you know, attempting to preserve parcels as town-owned parkland permanently versus, you know, in exchange for concentrated density, which is Mansion Ridge. So, the dinosaur theme park and the Rye Hill lawsuit and

purchase are completely different. However, I also agree that we did not speak about the land purchase so much in this presentation and the debt ratio that is sort of unprecedented for the town. So, we purchased that 250, let's say 250 acres, as a result of the Rye Hill Corridor lawsuit, again for 19.5 million and then after bonding it and refinancing for 30 years, the total interest that we're calculating being paid by the town will fall somewhere around \$30 million. So, that's a separate and distinct issue. As a board member, I also have concerns about the year-to-date totals being missing. I also haven't received the department asks. One department just emailed me directly being concerned that they're not seeing, as Supervisor Cardone mentioned, that it's just contracted highway workers and there were no other salaries or other personnel services being addressed. So, as a board member, I mentioned this last time, essentially, we should have materials that we are negotiating right now on behalf of departments, checking columns, checking that the year-to-date totals are matching our projection figures for next time. And we do not have those materials in front of us right now and those deadlines have passed by a month. So, it is interesting that when we caught this mistake of using the wrong tax comparison figures when Supervisor Cardone published the budget first time around, late without 24 hours' notice to the public. Um and the board members on this board, at least myself and Councilwoman Bingham, did not receive that in what we felt was a respectful time period for a board member to review. We caught this mistake pretty quickly because things weren't adding up. It was an 11% tax raise because of a \$20 million land purchase. So, how were we raising total taxes again by approximately 10%. It didn't make sense. Especially with so many figures removed. So, that is what our function is as board members. We're supposed to catch these mistakes and have oversight and that's what the budgetary process is for. But I, after catching that, I'm surprised to see the same amount of draw down.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: One minute.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Sorry?

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: One minute.

-Councilwoman Richardson: From the fund balance. So instead of having these years during COVID where, you know, it was an unprecedented time in society. Towns might have thought the economy will even out. Let's give people a tax break. And in a lot of those towns that chose that financial scenario, they then had to financially correct over the course of the next several years. And, I think, we should have learned from that financial choice. And I personally think it was a mistake to try to lower taxes. I know that many families were struggling to make ends meet, but in the end, we're going to have to make that correction. So, to see a negative 4% and such a high drawdown again, I wouldn't recommend it. I would do forward projection and try to at least accommodate for some cushion and try to correct for those COVID era, like I don't think we covered everything as we're talking about costs, inflation, everything like that, that we're still seeing that.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Time.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yep.

-Councilwoman Houle: Okay. So, Mr. Mendelson, I took very good notes during your comments. I did notice that there weren't any issues that you wanted us to deal with as far as the town goes. There were a whole bunch of accusations, unfounded and baseless accusations, that you made against members of this board. Some of those have to deal with the police public hearing. So, I will address those in the following public hearing as this one was just for the budget. As far as the budget goes, we've been involved with doing budgets for many, many, many years. As a matter of fact, I dug out some notes that I have from the 2024 budget, the 2025 budget, and for those

of you who are new to the budget process, like Councilwoman Richardson, this is very much a process. So, the budget gets introduced and the very first thing that we have to decide for the budget are the elected official salaries. We have to pass a resolution for the elected official

salaries. That's the first thing we have to do. That's why it seems like in certain municipalities, though not this one, and I'm sorry Val. In certain municipalities, you'll see raises for only elected officials and nothing for anybody else. You won't see the COLA raises because we're not at that point of the budget discussions just yet. This is very much a process. So, in last year, for example, we received one copy of the budget, the preliminary budget on October 21st, 2024. And then we received a follow-up copy of the budget November 18th. The budget has to be adopted by November 20th. So, from that time, from the minute, for those of you who are unfamiliar with this process, from the minute that the budget gets presented to the board, we work on it in increments. So, we will, over the course of several meetings, we will add in raises for our employees. We will address needs of the town. Mr. Mendelson, this public hearing should have been used to address things that you'd like to see the budget address. This would have been

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Please refrain from shouting out.

-Councilwoman Houle: From the audience. This is the opportunity for residents to come up to the board and to say, "We'd really like for you to be able to invest money in the town of Monroe as it relates to X." That's what these are for. So, over the course of this process, Councilwoman Richardson, we will address many things and yes, those numbers will change. Supervisor Cardone said the same thing. That negative -4% change in the budget for town residents. That's going to change. That's no longer going to be negative 4%, that will move up. For the village residents, we are not going to only see a 21% increase in our taxes, that will go up, but it will go up over the course of the negotiations.

-Councilman Scancarello: Councilman Houle, that was well put, on point. I agree with everything you said. You know, Supervisor Cardone's done this budget as long as I've been on the board, and he's done a fiscally incredible job. He's been responsible. He's been attentive. You can always get a hold of him regarding the budget. He's accessible all the time. And I think the guy does a great job.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Can we use total budget concerns now?
(inaudible)

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Excuse me. Hold on.

-Councilwoman Bingham: (inaudible)

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Mary. Hold on one second. Let me add another timer.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Eight minutes.

-Town Attorney Nugent: Eight-minute comments now.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Yes.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Eight minutes?

-Town Attorney Nugent: That's for the board members' concerns. Your rules under the public hearing are five minutes for board members to respond and then, toward the end of the hearing, eight minutes to address your concerns.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Board comments specifically as a presentation.

-Town Attorney Nugent: These are your comments as a board member.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Oh, first of all, I am not a financial person and I thank Roberta McBride very much because she has sat with me and back when Helen Knickerbacker was also in the finance department, they spent some time with me to explain things and long time has passed. So, I still have some questions and I know they'll answer it or the supervisor will. So, I looked through only up to page eight in the budget and I still know I'm going to have more comments, but number one, where is the revenue from the O&R? substation? What line will that be found on?

-Roberta McBride: I don't know what you mean by the O&R substation.

-Councilwoman Bingham: The \$100 we're supposed to get.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: \$1,200 a month.

-Councilwoman Bingham: 1,200 a month

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Yeah. Sorry. 1,200 for the year.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Right. Okay.

-Councilwoman Richardson: O&R contracted with us to rent the land by Larkin Drive, and we have a contract negotiated with them for \$100 a month.

-Roberta McBride: Off the top of my head, I don't know where that money is in there.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Ok, that's just a question I have. Number two, line A0002421 lease payments. That would probably be page one.

-Roberta McBride: That is the rent from the trooper barracks from the state.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay, that's only the trooper barracks.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Wait, which line?

-Roberta McBride: A2421 lease payment collected. That's the rent from the trooper barracks.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Rent from the trooper barracks, right.

-Roberta McBride: Because there's a multi-year lease on that property. So, it has to be coded in that line.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay. So, that's trooper barracks. Next one is A0002610 fines and forfeited bail.

-Roberta McBride: Those are the fees from justice court.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Court. Okay. Now, I know we have the titles on our budget that I have here are saying 25 adopted, 24 adopted, but I don't know what year to date for 2025 is. So, I'd like actually for all the lines for, if I could, get the 2025 year to date.

-Roberta McBride: I, personally, I did not have time to update that in all of those budget lines.

-Councilwoman Bingham: I understand that, so that's something we can work on.

-Roberta McBride: Those numbers overall are in the presentation.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Right. But sometimes, like for fines and forfeited bail, we've had a lot of discussion about the courts.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Through, I will tell you this, Mary, through, I think the end of September, it was at about approximately \$165,000.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay? Because my comment, I remember last year was are we overestimating how much revenue the courts are going to bring in. So, that's where I'm going with this. Because back in 2024, we were at 535,000, and now we're at 302,000 for the tentative 2026. So that's my line of thinking. What are we as of year to date so I can see if this is a realistic projection or not? Okay, also would that include civil judgments or is that totally separate from the courts like something Mr. Nugent might handle? I don't know.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Civil judgments don't come to us.

-Town Attorney Nugent: They go to the party. Typically, whoever is getting awarded the judgment unless the town's.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Right, if the town had something.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: The only judgment I know of this year is the judgment against the village of Harriman and the village of Monroe regarding the lawsuits against the Rye Hill being put in the A fund.

-Town Attorney Nugent: But that's not your court. That's the Orange County Supreme.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No, I know. But we received reimbursement for that.

-Councilwoman Bingham: But that goes towards legal?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: That went into that went into legal. Yeah.

-Town Attorney Nugent: That was a reimbursement of attorney's fees is what was paid to the town as a sanction. So, they paid your attorney's fees.

-Councilwoman Richardson: So, I think Mary Bingham is referencing when something goes to court as say a criminal building code violation and then say Kevin reaches out with a settlement offer. Where do those civil settlements go?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: The building department.

-Councilwoman Richardson: If it emanates from the building department.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: It goes to the building department. Yeah.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Okay.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay. Kind of not on my list, but and I don't think I saw it that I remember. Does the building department, since it utilizes the prosecutor, do they share in the expenses for the prosecutor and the clerk? That's not on my list, but I'll ask that now.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: That's a cost associated with the town. It's not an expense for the building department.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Because they utilize it more than other areas, I would think.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Well, that's because, from what I understand, is one of the judges wouldn't allow Ben to go before the court. She required a prosecutor.

-Councilwoman Bingham: And I have a different remembrance of that, but I'm not going to look through five years of videos to find that. But anyway, let me continue. Cell phones. Are we, have we, looked into other providers to see if we can get our best bang for our buck, so to speak?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Provider of what?

-Councilwoman Bingham: Cell phone service.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Oh.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Because sometimes if you bundle things, you get a better rate. And I think we use AT&T, Verizon.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Verizon.

-Councilwoman Houle: Verizon.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Verizon.

-Councilwoman Bingham: But if we bundle it with somebody else, could we get a better rate?

-Roberta McBride: We've reduced the number of cellphones that the town has. Considerably.

-Councilwoman Bingham: But still all departments have one.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Like a family plan.

-Councilwoman Bingham: All the department heads have one basically.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Has anyone revisited and called Verizon? Like it's if you have elderly parents or if even if you just stop paying attention to your cell phone bill, you have kids, you're paying all these different cell phones, even if it's three or four people.

-Councilwoman Houle: Business accounts are operated a little differently.

-Roberta McBride: That's what I was going to say. It's a business account. And I think it was visited like maybe a little over a year ago.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: I think last August or September.

-Councilwoman Richardson: It was this last budget as well.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay, so that answers my question. It has been visited updated plans. Can I get copies of all the department worksheets? Because I'd kind of like to know what the departments are thinking as to some of the line items. That's just a question. I know they do turn it in. The next one is A000-1410-4120-00. It's the town clerk's records management. There's \$50,000 in there for, so I know Val got a great grant the other year and the records' office looks really nice. I was wondering, do we really need \$50,000?

-Roberta McBride: The other side of it is in the revenue. So, she has a grant for 50,000 and an expense for 50,000.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay.

-Roberta McBride: So, if she gets the money, she'll spend it. If she doesn't, she won't spend it.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay. If she doesn't get it, she won't spend it. That's easy to do. Okay. Again, with the prosecutor. A000-1421-1030-00 and A000-1421-4010-02

-Councilwoman Richardson: What page is this, Mary?

-Councilwoman Bingham: It's under prosecutor.

-Councilwoman Houle: It's under legal services.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Bingham: I didn't write page numbers down. I'm sorry. I didn't know I was going to be asked that way. Since we are seeing less items in the court, do we really need to spend as much money for the prosecutor and the clerk? I know the clerk used to be here more days out of the week, and now he's here basically one day and doing some phone check-in kind of stuff. So, do we really need as much to be expense for those services?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: I will tell you this, that the question surrounding that there was a reduction of a little over 5,000 in the clerk's part-time salary. But you also have to remember if we do retain the services of a law enforcement agency, they will be writing tickets in the town.

-Councilwoman Bingham: True.

-Councilwoman Richardson: So, then it doesn't currently correspond with.

-Councilwoman Bingham: So, then should we increase it instead of lowering it? You know, these are just things we have to discuss. We have to discuss it. That's all I'm asking.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No, and that's why I'm saying that to you. There's placeholders in there because we don't know what's going to happen with any municipal IMA for law enforcement services. I mean, if you tell me today to increase it and then nothing happens, then we're not being fiscally responsible.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Right. If anything happens, then we should decrease it even more. So, we'll have to wait and see where the next public hearing goes.

-Councilwoman Richardson: You are contracting with the agency. That's, you know, the goal of this agency is to contract with the uh stop gap police agency who I just got off the phone with today, and they said, "We're so happy to be working with you." So, it seems you've already made up your mind.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: There's no

-Councilwoman Houle: We haven't signed anything.

-Councilwoman Richardson: That's not the impression I got.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: There's no deal. There has never been a deal. In order for there to be a deal, this board has to approve me signing a deal.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yes. It doesn't become legal until we pass a resolution. But your goal is to have that stop occur. It's not like.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Can we let Councilwoman Bingham finish?

-Councilwoman Bingham:.. All right. We already addressed the theater. Yes. I would like to see the theater stay a theater, but we have to find some way to make it less expensive as a town which is incurring an expense basically to keep that building open.

Okay, the Monroe Woodbury school tax, the county, town, and village taxes. I'm assuming it said 34 Mill Pond Parkway. So that's all again with the theater. There are expenses because it's even though it's a municipal property, it's not being used as a municipal function. So, we have to pay the county taxes. So, we really have to really look into this theater. Line item A000-1989-4500-00 other general government sub. Yeah, I ran out of room on my sticky note.

-Councilwoman Houle: Well, so did the line because it actually ends that way.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Yeah, it does.

-Councilwoman Houle: Other general government, it would be support.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Okay, so that's what my question is. What is the other government support?

-Councilwoman Richardson: At outside aid?

-Councilwoman Bingham: Do you have a page number on that?

-Roberta McBride: It's on page five. I'll have to look that up and get back to you, Mary. -

Councilwoman Bingham: Okay, that's fine. The next one has to do with the ambulance A000-4540-4503-00. Ambulance advanced life support intercept. Wasn't that about what two or three years ago, Dorey, you had looked into the amount of intercept calls was?

-Councilwoman Houle: Yes.

-Councilwoman Bingham: So, I'd like to know if that number is staying constant or going up or

going down. That's so we can determine if that's really.

-Councilwoman Houle: If we need to leave that number at 32 or raise it or lower it?

-Councilwoman Bingham: Because I think wasn't it in the check signing, there were like three intercepts in the past two weeks?

-Councilwoman Houle: Yes, and the number of the ALS calls have been on a slight uptick based on my conversation with Greg Schmidt from the county's emergency services.

-Councilwoman Bingham: A Dial A Ride, think there are fuel and tires A000-5630-4304 and 4305. I know tires are expensive, and I know gas prices even though they've come down a little bit now. If we're providing the service and I think more people are using Dial A Ride now, maybe those lines should be increased. Next one is park and cemetery repair and maintenance A000-7110-4303-00.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Time.

-Councilwoman Richardson: I mean, do we really want to do this? It's a budget meeting and she has comments. Like if she has a list of comments.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Parks, it talks parks and cemetery repair and maintenance. -

Councilwoman Bingham: Right. Should that be increased?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No, because we got a new contractor in there too, which reduced the cost associated with maintenance of that.

-Councilwoman Bingham: And the parks as well?

-Roberta McBride: That line is just the cemetery.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: It's just a cemetery line. It's a little misleading.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Yes, because that was my question. It said park and cemetery. All right, I just have two more things. Meal on wheel mileage reimbursement. I hope we have more people volunteering for that. A000-7610-4189-00. So, I think that might need to be increased, and senior center equipment and furniture \$40,000 A000-7620-2000-00. I just wanted to know what the new furniture is.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: I believe she was buying new chairs and some new tables along with repairing some of the patio area. There's possibly new HVAC units in that too.

-Councilwoman Bingham: As I said, I only got to page eight, and thank you for giving me the extra two minutes.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No problem. As far as the meals on wheels mileage reimbursement, that number is based on what we have from this year and I know that there are volunteers that don't ask for the mileage reimbursement. That's kind of them. They should be getting the mileage reimbursement. In regard to Councilwoman Richardson's comment about changing the draw-down. I'm not going to change the drawdown before we come to the first public hearing. That's a point that could possibly be done, but I'm not going to do it until the public gets the opportunity to comment on it. You know, the comment regarding a bribe was just filled with ignorance. I don't accept bribes. I've never accepted a bribe. I won't accept a bribe. And that's, you know, pretty silly to actually come up here and accuse any of us doing. That's really all I have regarding the budget tonight. Okay.

-Councilwoman Houle: Maureen has her.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yeah, I wanted to reiterate my overall concerns of the budget. So, and answer some of the presentation. So, when we get complaints that taxes are rising from, you know, constituents at large, it's not just this tax, like obviously some people confuse the school tax, which can be, you know, crushing for residents and they, you know, argue with the assessed value of their house. And yes, by all means, please, you know, talk to the assessor and if you feel that your house is assessed value is inaccurate, there are really lovely people there who will work with you to get that down. I personally had to do that. And but they are also talking about, you know, their water, their sewer, their drainage districts and other things that aren't like in this necessarily budget talks. But in the benefit assessment rules that are also you

know being discussed if you live in a water district, if you live in a sewer district, those are all separate charges. And we have unfortunately a couple districts who are, you know, seeing what they thought was a million-dollar additional expense only on, what is it 75 households, Mary, in water district one.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Yes.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yes, 75. And now they're seeing that, you know, triple to \$3 million. So, don't take those comments as though that, you know, this is the only issue of budgeting equipment, planning ahead and maintaining and repairs that, you know, the town is responsible for. The budget presentation using our individual real properties rather than representative tax parcels from the actual, you know, town versus village half acre, quarter acre versus 1 acre. I don't understand that. I think it would have been better to address different lot sizes and what those individuals would actually see and then maybe also discuss the special districts. So, I don't understand that. That seemed like not valuable for the town's people's time. I want to also address the village versus town funds, and I've done this each time that I've been on the board. There's a municipal policy, and I wanted to ask you about this, Nugent. It was in my formal comments last time, that basically says you should allocate the county's sales revenue and everything that comes, the windfall that comes from the county, in a certain formula way distributing it primarily to the village, meeting a threshold and then moving on to the town. And it seems as one commenter mentioned that we're not meeting those standards, and we are desperately spreading those numbers, like a not evenly, more toward the town only. And I've discussed this with village officials, and they are also confused. They'd like a response on how that is formulaically determined. If it's a standard that's outlined, if it's specific numbers or if, you know, what's going on with that. So, that would be good to have that specific research done by your office because I've read some numbers, but obviously you have access, you know, legal services that I do not. And that was just a concern that even certain, you know, county revenue is not being evenly distributed. So, that like why is the town only taxed negative -4 while the, you know, inside village who are already desperately taxed, you know, inherently by being in a village, because the village also creates their own budget and their taxes are innately higher. We should, as a town, make every effort to give those individuals a break on our end and have a more evenly spread taxation. I mean between village and town. It's just common sense. If you're already in a completely distinct municipality than the town and your services are completely funded and provided in almost every way separate than ours by the village board, then I don't see why their town tax rate as assigned by us is higher. So, that's just my opinion. I think that we need to look at the way we are distributing across the A and B for certain revenues and let's see. Yes, so I mentioned this the first time that we were presented the budget and as much as you want to tout experience, and we've always done it this way. The reality is that the supervisor is supposed to adhere to a timeline line and respect the council members' ability and timeline to create then workshop meetings, and we have not, in the entire time I've been coming to town board meetings and been on the board had any kind of workshop meeting where we are not timed, where we are not in this formal sort of mode and every single other municipality has a workshop meeting where department heads used to, years ago, be invited in shifts to present their asks. We could then interact with them, ask them about our priorities, priorities of constituents who had approached us over the years. If Ann Marie were here, we could speak about, you know, programming for seniors, trips, whatever is going on. We could discuss openly with, you know, our town justices, what is happening with court revenue? Are they disallowing the building inspector from using, you know, representing themselves in court? And they could answer themselves. So, this is a very siloed, delayed, and lacking oversight and transparency in this process because, once again, department heads are mandated by September 20th to send their asks in writing, which, of course, can change and evolve throughout the budget process. And the preliminary budget presented to the town board. Like those asks were again September 20th. It was supposed to be presented to the board October 5th or earlier and workshop

meetings are not scheduled and this is the second time in a row. So, you know, I've been hearing from our departments and they're not happy. They feel that they are asking for something, and it's just swept away. And they are not having a high amount of say in what's going on in the process and neither are the town's folks. I mean, I wish people knew more about the budget process because they could come down and ask to see, you know, more fiscal investment towards activities, parks, etc. And I feel like people don't have that opportunity because we're not scheduling workshop meetings. As for the sheriff's department, I could mention this in the other hearing, but I'm concerned about insurance. As looking at the proposed contract, it has our liability as a town. If there was a police incident, if there was damage to a vehicle in the line of duty, God forbid, some officer was injured, everything that has to do with that actually falls fully on the town of Monroe and I tried to reach out to Emory and Webb to see if we would see any kind of increase in our insurance rates or if we had to account for that. And if you'll allow me 20 more seconds to relay a golden conversation, I basically reached out to the county attorney with concern that I felt that the town could be held harmless. As the county sheriffs already police Orange County innately, like why is the town responsible for police officers that they do not direct control in any way? And he asked us, you know, well, they'll be working in tandem with your police department. And I had to explain to Rick that we don't have a police department, and they will not be directed by our police department, and Rick said that, well, he's not going to modify the liability that he uses for every other town for us. So, we do need to, you know, look into associated costs if the investment in the sheriffs is where we're going with that. So, thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Both of those points regarding the sheriffs have already been addressed in discussions about two months ago. Can you also let me know, you don't have to tell me tonight, you can tell me or email me which departments are not happy? And finally, I stated last minute, last meeting, that the budget did not have to be presented to the board, not on October 5th, on October 6th.

-Councilwoman Richardson: That's wrong.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: You keep reiterating that because it's a state law. Why don't you ask Mr. Nugent, what's right and what's wrong? October 5th was a Sunday.

-Councilwoman Richardson: That's not how state law works. It was on or before October 5th. You were supposed to schedule a special meeting for the budget if October 5th by October 5th did not work. October 5th was a Sunday. You realize that we can schedule a town board meeting at any time. It's Sundays are not exempt from town board meeting schedules.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Council, can you please explain to her?

-Town Attorney Nugent: Yes. So, in New York State there's something called the general construction law and that provides that if a date that some act is due falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday that is therefore due the next business day.

-Councilwoman Richardson: So, including on or before?

-Town Attorney Nugent: That is correct. If it says on or before October 5th and that falls on a Sunday, then it's moved. If you recall, we send letters to the town every year explaining the budget dates and some of them fall on a Saturday or Sunday. So, we explain that that particular date gets moved. In this case, you're supposed to open your public hearing by November 15th under the law, under the town law, but because that's a weekend, it moved to November 17th this year. And that's quite common and pretty much every town does it. That's the law.

-Councilwoman Richardson: You want to split hairs over one day instead of addressing the higher order concern that board members are kept out of fiduciary oversight responsibility. That's on you. My point is that no person on this board or in this administration should be treated as a diminished member when every single one of those people in the audience is somebody I serve and I went around and was elected fairly just like everyone on this board and I'm here to serve each and every one of them. And I am not to be prevented from doing my financial oversight duties. You want to talk about experience and how I'm inexperienced. She doesn't even know

these deadlines

exist at all. She's talking about how we got a preliminary budget in the middle of October and that it was great and fixed by the end. Like how much do the board actually participate when our own departments are complaining that they don't even have a foothold? They're paid full-time salaries. It's their departments. We are literally hiring them to run and then we don't give them the resources or the leeway to do so and we don't even communicate with them. We're talking about preservation and parkland fees that are building our parks. We don't have a tree fee schedule. We worked on a tree fee law for three years and it was finalized and you don't have a tree fee schedule. He

can't even charge people to enforce tree cutting ordinances.

-Councilwoman Houle: We're getting away from the budget.

-Councilwoman Richardson: We're not getting away. Where is the money for the trees that are cut down illegally coming from? If you don't have a fee schedule?

-Councilwoman Houle: and that's on the agenda tonight.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Great. Three years too late. Thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you. I'll make a motion to keep open the public hearing for the budget until 700 p.m. or immediately thereafter on November 6, 2025.

4.2. Motion to Keep Open the Public Hearing RE the 2026 Town of Monroe Preliminary Budget

2025-#438

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Keep Open the Public Hearing RE the 2026 Town of Monroe Preliminary Budget until November 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM or soon there-after.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Houle

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4.3. Motion to Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE Police Services in the Town

2025-#439

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE Police services in the Town.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

The following residents signed up to speak during Public Comment RE the Continuation of the Public Hearing for Police Services in the Town:

- BJ Mendelson
- Carol Sotiropoulos
- Cori Robbins
- Maria May
- Chuck Sommerlad
- Rabbi Roger Lerner
- Dan Burke
- Michael Sussman (not present)
- Bruce R. Furbeck
- Peter Tuohy
- Kathryn Troiano
- Eddie Blanco

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Madame Clerk, before you begin, I just want to make one other statement. I want to stress this once again. Our goal, and it has been from the start, is to eventually retain the services of the Village of Monroe Police Department. We've stated this from the beginning. The reason being, state police is hindered from assisting us on code violations, nuisance issues, and patrolling our community on a consistent basis. We're looking to be proactive, and we don't want to receive a call that is reactive, and we need to remain proactive in the community. One of the biggest complaints is speed violations, which are jeopardizing the safety of many of our children. Prior to that goal being reached, meaning the IMA with the Village of Monroe, we are considering, and I repeat, considering the temporary services of other police agencies, the Orange County Sheriff's included. There is no done deal. There is no done deal. There's no deal that has been done. Anybody that understands municipal government knows that in order for me to sign an agreement has to be approved by this board, which I stated previously. Please refrain from believing the rumors, social media posts, and conversations many are making online. Thank you to those residents who called my office for clarification. Yes, there have been discussions with multiple agencies. Here are some facts generated from the last meeting. Why the sheriff's department? Because they are an established agency ready to begin. Unlike our great local police agencies, which unfortunately will need time and effort to increase their staff and equipment. The sheriff's department is a litmus test that will enable us to ultimately save money in the long run. And forward-thinking is why we're doing that. The Orange County Sheriff's Department is an agency that has had an agreement with the federal government to house criminals that are detained by ICE for many years, not just recently. Those prisoners are from various parts of our country. Some of them are placed here because they remain close to their families. Every single one of those inmates that are in Orange County Jail have had criminal records prior to going in there. First speaker?

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: The first speaker is BJ Mendelson, followed by Carol Sotiropoulos. Again, you'll have five minutes to speak. Please speak clearly. Please speak clearly into the mic. Give me just one second, Mr. Mendelson, please.

-BJ Mendelson: Oral langologist, go get one.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: I ask that the audience remain respectful to all the speakers. Thank you. You may begin.

-BJ Mendelson: Great. What you just said was BS, Tony. Most of the people held in OCJ are actually from New York City. There has been hunger strikes. There have been multiple lawsuits against OCJ, against the sheriff's department for mistreatment of the people there. And many of those people there don't necessarily have criminal convictions. So, thanks again for gaslighting us. Can't wait to hear what some of your United Monroe friends have to share later. Back in

2019, Tony Cardone informed the photo news that his biggest concern for the year was a new bail reform law. Despite Tony's racist fearmongering and Dory Houle's later racist fearmongering with her almost \$500,000 spent in campaign ads, Mr. Cardone never spoke to the village PD or state PD about increasing their presence in town. Never. So, for you to sit there and say, "Oh, it's gonna take years for that to get wrapped up." You have been in office, Sir, for almost a decade. What the hell have you been doing? Nothing. The Monroe Gazette had a chance to speak with a number of people associated with the state police. I can confirm that no point has Mr. Cardone ever, ever brought up resident concerns about the level of policing available in town. In fact, in 2022, Mr. Cardone told the photo news, this way you can't say that you didn't say it, Mr. Cardone told the photo news that everyone in Monroe was happy with their level of policing. So, I find it interesting that all of a sudden Mr. Cardone has \$750,000 spent, which, by the way, is a budget issue, to spend on the sheriff's department. Money he could have saved by having a simple conversation with the state police. That leaves the impression that this arrangement with the sheriff's department is a campaign stunt funded with your tax dollars, everyone in this room, just to have a couple of unpopular and deeply inept incumbents reelected. That brings us to Sheriff Paul Arteta. Despite what you just heard, just days after the October 6 town board meeting, where Tony and Dorey said nothing was decided, Mr. Arteta himself said to our first responders that the arrangement, and this is a quote, is a done deal. Good job, Dorey. You lied to everybody. Good job, Tony. You did it, too. And I'll remind you that the only person at the October 6th meeting who spoke in favor of the sheriff's presence just so happened to have a Cardone campaign sign on their lawn. 99.9% of the crowd is completely against it. We reached out to the sheriff's department. They said no deal is set. However, after Mr. Arteta's statement, residents sent us numerous photos of the sheriff's department all over the town. I also asked the sheriff's department if they would protect Monroe residents from ICE agents. News12 asked the same question. You know what the answer was? Nothing. And I'll remind the three of you cowards, you gutless weirdos that I asked each of you whether or not you support ICE enforcement in the town of Monroe and you refused to answer the question. This is very concerning given that recent reports from ProPublica state that over 170 American citizens have been arrested and detained by ICE this year. Of our brothers and sisters who are residents here in America, and I'll remind you, Dorey, especially tough on crime, Dorey Houle, that our residents, whether they are here legally or illegally, are guaranteed the right under the 14th amendment to equal protection and due process under the law. You do the crime, you do the time, right, Dorey? If the sheriff's department refuses to answer a simple question about whether or not they're going to protect us from ICE, then our tax dollars should not be given to them. Finally, I want to note that Dorey Houle again lied to everyone at the October 6th meeting since she can plainly be seen taking notes during that meeting. Dory also said on camera that she did so, but when the Monroe Gazette put in a FOIL request for Dory's notes, you know what both the town and the town attorney sitting right over there said? No such records exist, right, Brian?

-Town Attorney Nugent: For 2026, the date you put down.

-BJ Mendelson: Yes, that's very clever of you. But no such records exist.

-Town Attorney Nugent: I didn't write your foil request, Mr. Mendelson, you did.

-BJ Mendelson: Yes. Yes. Very good. You spend what cost about \$11,000 a month to town taxpayers, getting their money's worth, Brian. Ms. Houle, who so often says that if you want the truth, you should come to a town board meeting and who did not respond to email seeking comments. I'd like to ask you directly in front of all these people, why'd you lie to them about taking notes? Because the town says no notes don't exist. Was the fix already in? And by the way, Tony, if you've never taken a bribe, surely you'll have no problem releasing your tax returns for every year since you've been supervisor. Shouldn't be a problem, right, buddy? And last, but not least, that town employee, there is a recording saying that you called them quote a spic multiple times during the time.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Let's refrain from using that terminology.

-BJ Mendelson: That is a direct quote from the town employee. So why don't you go and talk to your employees, Mr. I'm so big on HR all of a sudden, and listen to what they have to say. You guys clearly do not care about the health and safety of the people of this town. You don't care about black and brown people. You both made that clear of your nonsense about bail reform and Dorey rules tough on crime routine.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Time.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Times up.

-BJ Mendelson: I'm coming for you next. Sal.

-Councilman Scancarello: Bring it.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Carol Sotiropoulos.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Supervisor Cardone, would you please enforce the rules of conduct on each speaker as it comes up?

-Carol Sotiropoulos: Good evening.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Did you guys need signatures? Come on. Come on up.

-Councilwoman Houle: I'm sorry, Carol.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Carol, hold on one sec.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: Okay.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Go ahead, Carol. Go ahead.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: Good evening. I came before this board in July to raise awareness about the ICE budget higher than the entire military budget of Italy. I talked about people's fears of going to work, of sending their children to school. No one knew what might happen right here on our local streets. Jump to today, to all that has transpired since then regarding ICE here. Add in the new old issue of policing the town. I could speak for an hour, but I have only five minutes. So, here's the key point. First, any conflict of interest, whether real or perceived, clears the way to avoid accountability. Now, you have heard and read, plain and clear, that the OC sheriff's office has contracted with ICE since 2008 for the OC jail to serve as a detention center. And now you have heard, plain and clear, that ICE agents have conducted repeated operations in Monroe since July, when I alerted you to potential tempting collaboration offers because money talks. Oh yes, money talks. It has yet to be explained to your constituents why you would contract with the sheriff's office and not our own local village. I understand it's supposed to be in progress negotiations, but yes, you sent the village an IMA. It must have had very different terms? Clearly, it turned out to be a hollow gesture, terms you knew the village could not and would not accept. Dead upon arrival, I have communicated with the village police chief. I will read you his words. But first, I want to say that the village police can be trusted to follow the protocols set out by the state attorney general with respect to ICE. I cannot say that about the sheriff's office. I want to say that the village police are community oriented with four bilingual officers and a Hispanic outreach initiative in place. The entire force is trained in local protection. This is not the same training that sheriff officers undergo. These are different types of policing and we deserve the local brand. Here are Chief Guzman's words. I do not object to my village board's discussions with the town regarding providing police services. The village board will be the decision-making authority to provide those services to the town after a comprehensive analysis. So, there's obviously no objection there. So, what is the objection here? What is the, why is it taking so long? Why have years been going by and now all of a sudden we're looking to the sheriff's office? We need an explanation. To reiterate, we, your constituents, deserve to be kept far from conflicts of interest, far from where money is doing the talking. The sheriff's office. Our county has profited handily from its jail connection with ICE. Enough is enough. Again, please explain, and please clarify agenda item 4.4, possible motion to keep open the continuation of the public hearing regarding police services in the town. I guess this is just going to be ongoing, but still, this is not the moment. This is not the time to bring in the sheriff's office. Even if it means expanding the state police, whatever, or a temporary agreement with the village police. If you can arrange a temporary agreement with the sheriff's office for six months, you can do that with

the village police, too. There's no objection there. There are all these reasons not to do this. And I don't see, really, any reason to go forward with this. And so, I appreciate your attention and I hope that you will follow through and do what's right for the citizenry here, the local citizens. And as we know, and I said this on in July also, and it's been repeated here, but many people are not aware, just not aware of the 14th amendment of our constitution. I quote, "No state shall make or enforce any law which will abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." Okay, there's for our citizens. Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. And we have seen this violated by ICE across our country and here in many towns in in Orange County. It's been reported in our local Times Herald, Times Union. It's all over the place.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Time.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you very much.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Next speaker is Corey Robbins, followed by Maria May.

-Cori Robbins: I've never done this.

-Councilwoman Houle: Take a deep breath.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Take a deep breath.

-Cori Robbins: Yeah. It takes a lot for me to do this.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Speak into the mic.

-Cori Robbins: Okay.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Can you just state your name again?

-Cori Robbins: Cori Robbins. So, it takes a lot for me to do this to be up here. So, this means a lot to me. I respectfully urge the board to reconsider the decision to contract with Orange County Sheriff's Department. While I understand the intention may be to strengthen public safety, I believe this change would have serious and lasting consequences for our community, particularly for our immigrant neighbors who are already live with fear and uncertainty. Over the years, the Monroe Police Department has built a beautiful and trusting relationship with the people it serves. That trust was not created overnight. It was earned through compassion, accountability, and a community presence. To now hand that responsibility over to the Orange County Sheriff's Department, a force with a more distant presence and a troubling history of unchecked abuse risks undoing years of bridge building and progress. Many residents already feel vulnerable. The prospect of being policed by a force not rooted in our community heightens that fear and creates a perception that actions, such as ICE raids or racial profiling, could occur without consequences. It also raises the fundamental question, who will police the police? True safety comes from not fear but from trust. Monroe's strength lies in its inclusivity and its commitment to protecting all who call it home. To outsource that trust is to weaken the very fabric of our community. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you very much. Well done.

-Councilwoman Houle: You did a good job.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Maria May, followed by Chuck Sommerlad. Maria May first, Chuck. First, Chuck.

-Marie May: Hello.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: State your name, please.

-Maria May: My name is Maria May. I live in Tuxedo, New York. I want to clarify something that Mr. Cardone said about Tuxedo at the last town board meeting. The town of Tuxedo never hired Orange County Sheriffs for policing the town. In 2015, when the town was under fiscal distress, Tuxedo had to reduce its full-time police staff and that eliminated most overnight coverage, relying on part-time officers and the New York State Police for backup. After years of budgetary austerity and good financial planning by our town boards, Town of Tuxedo was able to expand the police force to a full-time roster and once again provide 24-hour service. This happened in

2023 during my tenure as a council person in Tuxedo. I cannot overstate the importance of being able to identify and get to know our officers who are there on our roads, at town events, and in our schools. This makes residents feel safe and can help cut down on crime, since folks are more willing to contact police if they know them and trust them. I don't think the public can create this type of rapport with sheriff officers who are not part of the community. I cannot understand, and I understand that now that you are still working on this, but why this town board majority is not been able to work out an inter-municipal agreement with the village of Monroe to keep Monroe policing local. To end, I'd like to tell you a personal story. Two weeks ago, I accidentally crashed my phone on Route 17. iPhone sent a crash notification to Tuxedo Police and to my daughters in New York City, who, of course, were completely panicked. They called 911. They were passed through to Tuxedo Police and the civilian dispatchers were able to notify my daughter during the call that I was okay. Fortunately, this time was just a crashed phone and not a crashed car. But had that been a more serious emergency, the prompt service, and familiarity this officer had with me and my family would have been an even bigger difference. You lose that when officers responding to an emergency don't know the people they are serving or may not even be familiar with the area where the incident happened. I am grateful that we have a great local police force in Tuxedo, and I am glad that we were able to work out a contract that was beneficial for all stakeholders. I hope Monroe residents will also be able to enjoy the benefits of local policing, and I am glad that you are continuing to negotiate towards that end. So, thank you.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Chuck Sommerlad. Followed by Rabbi Roger Lerner.

-Chuck Sommerlad: Hello, Chuck Sommerlad. Aquarius Street, Monroe. I moved up to Monroe in 1974, when I was only six years old. I have been living in the town for all that time, except for about five years I was in Rockland County. I grew up in the village. My mom still lives in the village. My sister lives in the village. And we would always see village police driving around. And now I'm up in the town, up close to West Mombasha. And I haven't seen a state trooper probably one time, in probably seven or eight years. And I'm talking I run on the roads on West Mombasha. Some of you have probably tried to hit me, but I'm up there. I've never seen, in the last five years, one trooper up there through the development. Granted, it's pretty safe. I haven't seen a trooper, so we definitely need some more police support. I have confidence in the board that they will make the correct decision. I know they have been trying to get something along with the village. When it comes to the condescending speakers coming up here disrespecting the board, I take that as very disrespectful, just as a Monroe resident that we have people that come up here and talk like little children. Okay. I happen to have known the supervisor who basically helped us get a pickle ball court. I was there the first day we played pickle ball. There is a big group of people up there. We have a lot of people there playing soccer. I was the one who was up there when the picnic tables were destroyed. I believe it was another Eagle Scout and I actually was the one that reported it.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Oh, the Eagle Scout didn't destroy them.

-Chuck Sommerlad: I'm sorry. The other Eagle Scout (inaudible) and some other people destroyed it, and so we definitely need people up there. There's a lot more people up there playing the soccer. If you see what happens with these soccer games, they're parked all over the street. So, I have faith in the town board to make the right decision. The people that are accusing Tony Cardone of racist activity, a man that coached Pop Warner football for about 30 years in this town of people of all races, black, white, Hispanic, the boys that loved that man who played and who he developed them into the men that they are today, they would be in here, and they would be speaking on his behalf. It's pretty hard to prove a negative. If somebody calls you something, how do you prove you're not that? Okay, I can tell you he is not that. The man has done a lot. He's worked for Make-a-Wish Foundation. I know my niece had leukemia, and he

was one of the people that helped make her dream come true. Okay. So, I have full faith that he is going to make the right decision along with the board. When it comes to the sheriff, all this talk about ICE, what is ICE doing? They're upholding the law of the United States. These are federal laws. That's what they are doing. Okay? So, to get all riled up that they got somebody who is here illegally and everybody wants to talk about, oh, they got somebody maybe that was a citizen. They're getting the bad guys. Okay? That's the way it is. So, I believe the town board will do what is best for the town of Monroe and I think we need to respect their decision and, hopefully, they come to one in the near future. Thank you very much.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you,

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Rabbi Roger Lerner, followed by Dan Burke.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Rabbi.

-Rabbi Roger Lerner: Good evening. Thank you. I'm Rabbi Roger Lerner. I spoke up about two weeks ago, and I said I was here because someone asked me to, and I am here again because I have been asked to speak because people are afraid still to come out. I do that because I feel like I have no stake in it. I won't receive any benefit from what I'm asking and I'm hoping that my voice might be a little more powerful in that mind that I am not speaking for myself but for a community that is feeling afraid. You have heard a lot of people talk for most of them have been for in the sense of asking you to reconsider the idea of partnering with the Orange County Sheriff because of their commitment and contract with ICE, because it does give them, from what I have read, limited ability in which to question people's immigration status. That's why that's straightforward as that. And the reason why that's important, you know, today I wanted to thank Sergeant Grossman, who is an officer from the village of Monroe who's in the back who is doing what he is supposed to be doing. There's in talking with Chief Guzman, he had shared that his officers are not, are explicitly directed to, not ask about immigration status. That is a part of what they do as their policing effort. And he's been making rounds in the Hispanic community and, in general, to share that to make sure that they know that is not what they're going to do. They're just going to police the area. And that's an important distinction. Where if you have the sheriff's, they can because that's a part of the contract, part of their ability in which to do. Have if you were contracted and, instead of Sergeant Grossman, you had a sheriff in the back, what that means is that some of your citizens might be less likely to come. And that is an important thing to think about as you're deciding. And obviously you have hard decisions in front of you in which you're in which to make to keep the town of Monroe safe. And that's a consideration. You represent all of your town. Obviously, we have our affiliations that make, you know, how we get elected and how you get elected, how we get into our positions, but even still you serve everybody, and it's important to note that, whatever the percentage is, you know, that they have to be taken care of. Now, for statistics, I didn't come with numbers, but what I do know is that people in marginalized communities who are afraid of the police will not call them. And so, like, so say, for instance, for domestic violence, you know, if you have someone who's suffering in a domestic violence situation, but they're also maybe an immigrant, and we're saying legal, illegal, however we want to put it, they are less likely to call for help. That's just the facts of it. If they know that their town is coordinating with the sheriff's department, then that they might not be safe. And so, they would rather deal with the violence than necessarily call the police. And so, when I ask, I understand the difficulty and the need in which to have policing there, but you have citizens in town of Monroe who are Hispanic, who are afraid. And so, you also have to serve them as well. And so, my ask is that, and I know it's a hard ask. I know that there's a lot of passion from everyone here. And I hope we can see through the passion that people have that this is something going on in America. This isn't just about law and order. This goes deeper than that, it's nuanced. There is so much to it and so much more that you can do as a part of it. So, I appreciate your time and attention and, you know, maybe have a little bit of Bill Clinton's Teflon image going for when you're listening to everyone's and their

passions, because people feel deep deeply about this issue. As I said, I received no benefit from doing this and that's important to say that I would hope that you would reconsider the idea of partnering with the sheriff, county sheriff. Thank you.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you, Rabbi.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Dan Burke. Followed by Michael Sussman.

-Dan Burke: Go ahead. Dan Burke Road, (inaudible) Town of Monroe, Village of Monroe. I want to apologize in advance, but this proposal is going to kind of force me to go to clichés. The first cliché is that there's due diligence missing. Here is a New York State Police response to an independent inquiry. And they say the New York State Police value the partnership we share with the communities we serve. Residents of the town of Monroe who wish to provide feedback or file a complaint regarding police response times can contact the state police Middletown station at (845) 344-5300. All calls are logged in the order they are received. Incidents involving immediate threats to personal safety are given priority and every call is addressed appropriately. At times, this can lead to longer response periods when multiple emergencies occur simultaneously. The New York State Police maintain regular communication with town supervisor and local officials to ensure continued coordination, transparency, and high-quality service for the residents of Monroe. That's what we have right now, and it doesn't cost us a dime. And the cliché number one, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The second cliché, town debts in the millions. I know we've got a bill for 19 million that we got to pay off, not the town, but the town taxpayers, are going to have to pay for a sewer upgrade and that might cost them six to \$1,000 a year. The theater, we have financial responsibilities there but no income, and we're losing money on the solar farm. So, and, let's see, okay. The town would need new borrowing to pay off this contract. So, cliché number two is when you find yourself in a financial hole, stop digging. And then the third cliché, we all know the power of inertia. This temporary 3/4 of a million will be extended in May, and on and on, requiring new borrowing into the reading future. The first \$250,000 for November and December are not even in the 2025 budget. So, cliché number three is don't spend money you don't have. So, table this proposal and add a discussion of policing in the town outside the villages to the January agenda, where it could be done very carefully, and we'll give the due diligence on it too. Thank you very much.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Michael Sussman, followed by Bruce Furbeck.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Michael Susman is not here.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Okay. Bruce Furbeck followed by Peter Tuohy.

-Bruce Furbeck: Good evening. Bruce Furbeck, Orchard Street, Monroe. I just heard Dan Burke give the standard state police company line. I was here two weeks ago, and I spoke how I worked for the state police for 21 years. Been a resident of Monroe my entire life. I was the guy that told you 20 years, or 10 years, 20 years ago to keep the state police and I gave you the reasons why. I'm telling you today, either many people are uninformed or ignorant to it, that there are people across the unincorporated section of the town of Monroe that dial 911 for a serious emergency. We could be talking home invasions. We could be talking burglaries. And when they call, they expect a response. Either they're being told that the state police are unavailable or 911 tries to find contiguous police agency to respond to handle the call because the state police are tied up. Now, when you have an emergency, and you're not afraid to call the police, which are most of us, you expect a response. Now, I think there's members on this board that understand what I'm saying, because what I call it is a crisis of safety, and we need to do something before somebody gets hurt or killed because of a lack of police response, and we need to do it timely. Now, you talk about the Orange County Sheriff's Office, you talk about the Village Monroe Police, and you talk about the state police, three independent police agencies. They all are state accredited police agencies. They go through a vigorous inspection every couple years. They're all law enforcement officers, and they have policies and procedures that they have to follow to get this state accreditation from a Democratic governor. Now, with that, the sheriff's office, the village of Monroe police and the state police, they're law enforcement officers. They take an oath

to protect the people of the community. That means they're impartial to certain things, and they're here to protect and to save our lives. If we have an emergency, I don't live in a village. So, the village police use the state police as their secondary enforcement when they're unavailable. Every other town and village around use the state police as secondary enforcement. Well, guess what? Right now, the only enforcement we have is the state police. And when they can't come, we don't have anybody. So, if we can get the sheriff's office here and make sure we have people here, and then if they're unavailable because they're handling something else, we have the state police as our backup to respond and to keep our people safe. And that's what the government here should be focused on. Thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you, Bruce.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Peter Tuohy, followed by Katherine Triano.

-Peter Tuohy: Good evening, board members.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Good evening.

-Peter Tuohy: I just wanted, I have a few things to say with regard to the October 6 meeting. You know, things over the last several years have gotten like I've never seen before in the last couple years with the dialogue back and forth here in the town hall meetings. And, you know, with the childish things, the immature things that are said, the insults, and it's I did, oddly enough, find something to have to feel good about, you know, with everybody on different sides. And with this contentious behavior, you know what? We actually do have somewhat of a consensus among both sides. Everybody has spoken about look it, we definitely need police. State police are over overworked. I think it's just like the fire department where they have mutual aid, as Mr. Furbeck said, and they kind of cover each other. But the thing is that right now, the consensus is that from last meeting to this meeting, that everybody agreed, both sides we would like to do an IMA with, possibly the Village of Monroe, and that's consensus. It's, you know, I maybe I'm stretching, but I mean that's what it is. The big issue is with ICE, but the thing is that's, I look at that as, you know, you just stated tonight how you're still in the talks for the budget and that, you know, you still have things to work out. You got till November 18th or 20th or something. But the thing is that those talks are going on, and you're working, hopefully, with the Village to try to work something out and it's not easy. As someone said, oh, you just go do it. No, there's liability issues. Who's going to cover this? Who's paying for that? And the thing is that the sheriff's, if they have to come in, it's a temporary situation. It's a stop-gap measure to get us where we are to where we can have what everybody wants. A village of Monroe police department taking care of our needs here in the town of Monroe, the unincorporated part of the town of Monroe. And it's just, you know, we all have to turn down the rhetoric. It's just so crazy. And so, I was happy that I found a little bit of consensus in what what's going on. And with that, I respectfully wish you all good luck in your negotiations and may it happen sooner than later. Thank you. Good night.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Thank you.

-Councilman Scancarello: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thanks, Pete.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Katherine Troiano, followed by Eddie Blanco.

-Katherine Troiano: Kate Troiano, Village of Monroe. There are several extremely troubling aspects to this proposed IMA. First, was it even posted on the website? I was looking. I didn't find it. Maybe I wasn't careful enough. Second, it was signed on September 12th by the sheriff. How could it be signed even before the first public hearing? Third, it's for \$750,000 for six months and two sheriff's cars. Two. And the way it's worded, two might be generous. \$750,000 for two sheriff cars for six months. Are the officers getting \$375,000 each. If not, where is all this money going? Fourth, our taxes went up 11% last year. How much will they go up with this disastrous IMA? As Dan Burke said, you don't spend money you don't have. Fifth, Orange

County Sheriff's Office is contracted with ICE, which has become a domestic terrorist organization that throws people in the back of vans with no warrant. That's not an arrest. That's kidnapping. Make no mistake, there are people whose families have no idea where they are or even if they are still alive. Even if someone is undocumented, they are still human beings and still deserve human rights. I don't know about you, but I don't want Monroe turned into a police state. Sixth, this IMA seems to be a done deal in that the contract is already signed. Is that even legal? Are these public hearings just for show? Is the plan to have two public hearings and then go into an executive session and vote yes on this IMA, which is absolutely egregious financially and morally. Is this a stunt to get reelected? Is it a payoff to the sheriff's department? Because one thing I can tell you, this is not what is in the best interest of the town. Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Eddie Blanco.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you, Kate.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Eddie is the last speaker.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you. Good evening.

-Eddie Blanco: Good evening. So, I did have like a little speech written up that I'm not going to say to you just because of what I've been hearing tonight. First and foremost, I do respect all you, whether whatever problems I've been hearing up here, better than Netflix, let me tell you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Please announce your name.

-Eddie Blanco: Huh?

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Please announce your name.

-Eddie Blanco: Eddie Blanco. Sorry. And I respect everybody else's opinion, but people have to also see what's really going on. What you hear and what you see are two different things. I remember October 6th clearly and not just because of what we talked about but because I left here went to go see a game, that I can't remember who played, because after I went to get cigarettes. Sheriff passing by the gas station, almost broke his neck to see me, turned when he wasn't in the turning lane, I pulled my car into the gas station, grab my signature. Who's coming around the corner, slowly, on the light. I can see him staring at me. Why does that matter to me? Brought flashbacks. I've had a crazy adolescent, I understand, and I've had run with cops, but I can respectfully say they've all did their job how they're supposed to, and I respect every single officer anywhere, because any local PD goes above and beyond. They see you, they don't know you, they at least say hi to you to acknowledge you. I've never had a sheriff acknowledge me once in my life. Never. And the crazy thing is, I keep bringing back to the sheriff's is, I had a flashback that night. In 2010, I was in the car with my friend. He was driving. Yeah, he had a messed-up record. They pulled him out of the car. I was asked for my ID. I dropped my wallet. I swear on everything I love. The sound of hearing a gun unholstered and the noise it makes being point in the back of your head. Morbid. And I wish that on nobody's kids here. And let me tell you something. Under the wrongful lighting, after a long day that you got to remember, sheriffs deal with criminals all day. They're transporting people back and forth. So, that can get irritating. Under the wrongful lighting, anybody's kid can look Hispanic, can look like a threat, and that's the last thing you want to hear is your kids cry. You had to go through something like that. Because I didn't even have parents to cry to about that. That was the crazy part. Knowing my life could have ended. Scary. That's what I don't want to hear. I don't want to hear because I don't want nobody else whether the migrant community would suggest everybody knows I'm standing for that heavily. Apparently, everybody seen the video of me going against ICE agents and FBI because they didn't have no warrant. They weren't looking for nobody. They were just poking around making it look like they're looking for El Chapo in front of my business, ruining my clientele. But that's a whole separate thing. The fact that I got that flashback and I thought, "Holy crap, somebody else's kid can go through that." Makes me think of how much due diligence are you really doing? You guys said you reached out to somebody. Who? Honestly, it's just a simple question. Who? Honestly. Because if somebody said no to you, I think it would be nice to just send out a notification to the whole village and be like, "Hey, listen. Your rep said no, be ready

because there's going to be sheriffs policing where your kids drive through to go to McDonald's on the weekend, hang out. Come through, come back from a movie and hang out. You know how kids are loud music, acting rambunctious, feel above and beyond. You don't want them to have to deal with that one sheriff that deal with two idiots they transported for whatever murder, something that they they're reaggavated, and then they take it out of your kid. You guys got to see there's a bigger, more dangerous, scarier picture behind all of it. And I'm telling you from firsthand, that's not a great feeling at all. Not at all. And off of seeing that, I'm saying if you don't believe me, look at the police cameras. I know there's cameras on Cumberland Farm after 11:00, you can see it. My truck pull in, guys in the lane to go straight, automatically makes left turn, slowly. I come out, comes out. But this time, I smiled because, you know, at the end of the day, I got technology. They want to pull out the gun this time. I'm going to tell them to shoot it. go ahead because I did nothing wrong. If they want to make my family rich, go ahead, do it. But I'm not going to back down from nobody no more. Especially when they're not doing the right thing. And I ask you guys, I really, really ask you guys.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: One minute.

-Eddie Blanco: Do your best to try to get them pushed. If they don't want to say yes, tell the public. You know how many people going to be pissed off? How many people drive through the town of Monroe coming back from work late at night? You think they want to get harassed because they want to rush back to their sick child and the babysitter that wants to leave, and they don't want to leave the kid alone because they're single parent. You let the people know. I'm pretty sure they'll do the fighting for you. They'll annoy the right people you need to get annoyed to push this process a lot quicker. Thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you.

-Councilwoman Houle: Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: That's all for public comment.

-Town Attorney Nugent: Can I recommend you make a motion for a five-minute recess?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Sure. Make a motion for a five-minute recess before our comments.

4.4. Motion to Take Five Minute Recess

2025-#440

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to take a five-minute recess.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4.5. Motion to Return From Five Minute Recess

2025-#441

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to return from five-minute recess.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Houle

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4.6. Continuation of Public Hearing RE Police Services in the Town From Above

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Any comments from the Board?

-Councilwoman Houle: Yes. Where do we want to start?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: I'll start because I got a couple of quick comments. Maria May? Oh, there you are. Okay. I don't remember saying that Tuxedo hired the sheriffs. I know that it was state police because I was friendly with the chiefs back then.

-Councilwoman Houle: I said it. I said it.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Okay. All right.

(inaudible)

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Yeah, that's no problem. Nope. Okay.

(inaudible)

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No. Yeah, I didn't. I didn't think that. Just so everyone's aware, I speak with SP at least once a week. Whether it's via text, email, or phone. I had a text thread going today with one of the sergeants. So, please don't believe the fact that I don't do anything. It's ludicrous. You know, people talk about our debt. We also have assets and our assets almost doubled. Our assets currently are \$38 million. I think when I came in office they were like almost 20 million. So, you know with debt also comes assets and that's where you have to do the trade-off there. You know, okay, you got a little debt, but you got an asset. Just like when you buy a house, you have an asset in that home. Regarding Mr. Burke's comments about the solar farm losing money. I don't know that it's losing money. It is costing us money. But you got to remember, Mr. Burke, that was done under your reign on this board. That wasn't done under mine. You're the ones that signed the contracts. Please don't reframe out. Please.

-Councilwoman Houle: Please don't shout out.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Everyone was given respect. Please give it to the board.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: I was stating a fact.

(inaudible)

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Can you please have her removed, officer, please?

-Wow.

-Councilwoman Richardson: I would request that we don't resort to the police actually removing an audience member and just please request that the audience member not continue the behavior.

-Councilwoman Houle: And we did.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yes, but you didn't actually make a point of order and say that public conduct prohibits.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Yes, I did at the beginning of the meeting, if you would have listened.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Police measures taken, and you didn't ask her to leave of her own volition prior to asking that the police remove.

-Councilwoman Houle: You still have 3 minutes and 31 seconds.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: So, I will say that the only other issue is everybody keeps talking about the sheriff's being contracted. Thank you, Officer Grasso. I appreciate that. -

Councilwoman Houle: Sergeant.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Sergeant, I'm sorry, Sergeant, yes. The sheriffs are contracted with ICE to do what? I don't, I haven't seen a contract. Everybody talks about it. The only thing I'm aware of is that they're housing these inmates. And Rabbi Lerner stated that we reconsider something. Nothing's even considered. So, there's nothing to reconsider. We're in the process of considering. So, there's no reconsidering that needs to be done.

-Councilman Scancarello: That's why we have public hearings?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Yeah. That's all I have. Okay. Oh, wait, wait, wait. One other point. Robbie Furbeck, I know you stated when state police can't come that the village doesn't come. I know the village has responded on multiple occasions when state police were unavailable, and I believe it happened last week once. So, and I know it's happened in the past because I've been into town, and they've showed up at Round Lake Park.

-Rob Furbeck: Once or twice.

-Councilwoman Houle: Rob, why don't you come up because they can hear you from there.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Yeah. I don't want to get in the back and forth.

-Rob Furbeck: What the public sees and maybe what you see isn't the general norm of business. You may see the village police back up the come to the town on a town call. And if they can, and if they're willing to, that's great. I've seen the Town of Chester come. I've seen the Town of Blooming Grove, all the other PDs, but I've also seen people wait over the last couple years and no, nobody should wait or not get a response.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Right. And I'm not disagreeing with that, but I you stated that the Village PD doesn't come.

-Rob Furbeck: Well, I didn't, if I that's how I said it, that wasn't the inference that I made. The Village Police do a fine job, and I'm a big fan of the Monroe Village Police. I want them as my town police force, but until then I want something.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Okay. So, do we. Thank you. Okay. Go ahead, Councilwoman.

-Councilwoman Houle: So last week we had a very promising meeting with the Village of Monroe. Trusty Behringer was there. We met with the mayor. We met with the chief of police. We met with Trusty Behringer. I believe your labor attorney and I think also your village attorney was there.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No, village wasn't.

-Councilwoman Houle: That's right. Tony was there. I was there via phone call and Alex Melchiorre was there. We had a very promising meeting and discussions are heading in the right direction. So, I want everyone to know that. But I also want everyone to understand that even if, oh, and we have a meeting scheduled for next week. Even if at next week's meeting we manage to create an agreement between the two municipalities that we are able to agree wholeheartedly on, we cannot execute that agreement for quite some time. And the reason for that is this. In order for the Monroe Police Department to be successful at bringing services, expanding services into the town of Monroe, we will have to hire additional police officers. In order for us to do that, we have to do the whole interview process. We have to do the whole psych evaluation and the background check process. That takes a lot of time. Then we have to train them. Some of these officers will already be trained from other departments, like NYPD, in which case they will need to go to a short six or eight-week training with the county, or we'll have to train them start to finish, which is a much lengthier process. Okay. So, even if we agree tomorrow, it's still going to take us months to get actual police officers from the Monroe Police Department patrolling the town of Monroe. Now, as far as the study goes, we looked into getting a study, Mr. Mendelson. Alex Melchiorre reached out to several organizations and looked

into getting a study, and we were all told the same thing. They cannot do. Don't tell me no. I know what we did. I know that you want to say that we're lying. We are not lying. We cannot do a study because we have nothing to study. We have residents with no law enforcement. So, there's no law enforcement to study. The Village of Monroe could do a study and those are the ones who should do a study. They recently did a study. They have information from that. If they wanted to do another study, that would put us back a couple of weeks. The number one complaint that we get from residents, and this is a complaint that is increasing daily, is speeding. And that is not something that you can call the state troopers about and expect for them to react right away. You can't say somebody just sped down my road because it's going to take them some time. The New York State troopers are experiencing a significant decrease in manpower due to the fact that nobody's taking these exams. No, no one is taking the county exam. No one is taking the state exam. So, we need to think outside the box. So, in order for us to be able to provide for that protection on our roads, yes, we are talking to everyone who is capable of providing us services right now, which is why we're having discussions with the sheriff's office. We have not agreed to sign anything. We do have concerns over that portion of the contract where it states that we will be liable. That's a big part of the reason that we haven't signed anything. I have not made a motion. In every other town board meeting, when the supervisor has to say has to sign something, I'm the one who makes that motion. I have not made that motion yet. There is still so much that we need to study. There is still so much that we need to discuss that I think we should keep this public hearing open.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: One minute.

-Councilwoman Bingham: I want to add on to that. There are some records out there as to what the state troopers are doing in Monroe. There is actually I want to thank the photo news because they publish like, you know, the police calls. I was, through my diligence, I found out there's a nysspews.com that has the blotter reports. It only pulls up one week at a time and I pulled up one day. I just happened to pull up October 12th. There were only three calls for Monroe. I know we have county roads here. If the sheriff department can help us with just speeding on Lakes Road, West Mombasha, Harriman Heights Road, we don't need to pay for that. They should be doing that now.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: It's the village, George, he said stage road. He said talk to VPD,

-Councilwoman Bingham: Right. But there are certain things that I think we just need to have a better dialogue with these agencies. They need to be protecting us. And I really understand what the residents are saying if you are of color, whether you're Latino or Indian. I had a girlfriend who was Indian and, she was, always people were coming up and speaking Spanish to her because they thought she was a Latino. If you are afraid of your color for domestic violence, to call and get help, oh my gosh, that's a terrible position. I never want anybody, a man or a woman, to be in that position where they are afraid to call, and they're being abused by their spouse. So, I think this board has more work to do. I definitely agree this should stay open, and I just think if the sheriff's department could do the county roads, let's start there. Let's get a little bit of extra coverage for the town. If speeding is the main concern, I think that's one way to put us a foot in the right direction. And let's continue this dialogue. Let's continue the public hearing. And I'm glad to hear that things are going along more smoothly with the village because I think that really is the best. They know the area. They know the residents and I don't want, like I said, I don't want any resident ever be afraid to call for police help. -Councilwoman Houle: And you're right, Carol, the Monroe Police Department is a wonderful group, with a lot of outreach and the reason that we want to contract with them, but it will take some time. Up here.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: I understand the issue about speeding. It's very important, and I understand what you're saying about the sheriff's office, you know, count is a county service, you know, so county policing to watch out for speeding, but then they cannot. I mean is, can you, as the board, that would let's say contract for just that issue of speeding on county roads, I know it's probably unlikely, but anything that they could possibly hire to do, can you, as the authority that is

contracting with them, say that they cannot just as the village police do not ask for their documentation and of status here.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: We can't dictate.

-Councilwoman Houle: We can't dictate.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: That's the whole problem.

-Councilwoman Houle: But similar to what any other law enforcement officer would do if they come upon them, if they're driving, they're going to ask them for their driver's license.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: Yeah. Driver's license is one thing. But not for their immigration status. (inaudible)

-Councilwoman Houle: To my knowledge, the sheriff's office isn't asking that. I know ICE is asking that, but to my knowledge, they're not. But I will be happy to investigate that. Seriously, I will.

-Carol Sotiropoulos: Okay. That is a critical issue. Thank you.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you. Anything else, Mary?

-Councilwoman Bingham: No, that's my comments.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Councilman Scancarello?

-Councilman Scancarello: I'm all for keeping this public hearing open as well. There's a lot of comments out there. There's a lot of, you know, positive and not so positive comments.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: Speak into the mic, Sal.

-Councilman Scancarello: We're definitely going to do what's best for this town for sure. So, I'm all for keeping it open.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Thank you. Councilwoman Richardson?

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yes. I can only speak on, you know, what I've been involved in and informed of and, yeah, I want to answer a lot of points and thank everybody who was here and who remains here for coming down and voicing their opinion and this is why we hold these public hearings. And, as a board member, and as someone who sat in the audience knowing that things were basically a done deal, it's not ever a done deal because all of you have come and spoke positive, negative and every single person has a right to voice, you know, high-level policy issues while somebody else may be frustrated that they just want police coverage. And it's our job as a town board member to hear, you know, literally every single one of your concerns and then make that deliberation. And there is no such thing as official contracts, official coverage until this resolution, this public hearing is finalized. And I mean as somebody who has come in and completely changed again decisions that they were completely gung-ho on, this is why we invite every single person out in the town to come voice their opinion. I'll tell you what I was told, was that this, you know, was the directive of the board majority that the police consultant which myself and Councilwoman Bingham, have no memory of having a formal resolution to retain said consultant, and we have an issue with this because it doesn't feel to us that we had the ability to voice to the public that we would have chosen an independent consultant, probably six to eight months ago And we have concerns about procurement and open government. Because the same way that you are all here voicing your opinion on the potential contract with the sheriffs, we could have voiced that, you know, a political opponent of the current town board doesn't exactly bode well for, you know, good faith negotiations for an IMA with our village police. There were emails sent back and forth that were very thoughtful from the village that remain unanswered. There are things that I think our consultant lacks experience in, as much as he, you know, might be a dedicated officer and everything like that. He's, as far as I know, never consulted to build this kind of administration before. And I mean, I personally, am speaking with both state police, who report that they were not directed to roads that our residents are complaining of speeding issues. They were not directed to ticket residents and also speaking with the sheriff, who said, "I look forward to working with you", just today. "You should be happy. We're so trained. We're so excited to be working with you, and we are coming to the town of Monroe". That's a conversation I had today with the sheriff's office. I know it's not legal until this public hearing closes, but we

were told that this agreement was to happen and then six months, eight months down the line, there would be an attempt to, with a new village administration, negotiate a village IMA. And that is reality. And as we've heard people discuss, it takes time to hire and train police officers. So now it's been stated bipartisanly that it would take time to acquire and train officers, which are required to cover the additional almost double the land mass that we'd be asking the village police to now cover. So, our contract, this proposed contract, it's budgeted \$750,000 for six months ending in May.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: One minute.

-Councilwoman Richardson: And that is not good enough. If we intend, in any way, to contract with the sheriffs and intend to continue negotiating, in any way, with the village, that's just not enough time. Even if everything goes your way and you're betting on political maneuvering. Again, the state police, the sergeant, excuse me, that I spoke with, thanked me for allowing him the opportunity to defend himself. He did not show up, and I am disappointed that state PD did not take that opportunity because I would have loved to had a dialogue with state PD here tonight. So, I'm disappointed that we can't seem to get call data from the county. They haven't shared any of these call/wait time numbers, and they're actually asking us to FOIL for information that the sheriff I spoke to today claims that she has and informed the two officers listed in our negotiated contract her B&C line. If I could just have one more second. She has that call data and used it to inform that decision. But this agency there are ways to study call data. There are ways to study coverage needs and none of the board members were actually included on that. And I like to point a finger at the fact that we didn't procure or attempt to procure an independent outside police consultant who could have actually advised us on this a year ago. So now we're doing this like a month before budget. Thanks.

-Councilwoman Houle: I just have to defend Alex for just a moment.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Go ahead.

-Councilwoman Houle: He is a 40-year police veteran, and he has been chief of police of the Monroe Police Department twice. He has been chief of police of the Tuxedo Park Police Department, and he has been chief of police of Blooming Grove twice. He is a well decorated, very well-experienced and very well-respected member of law enforcement all across Orange County.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Which I said. I said he is a respected member of law enforcement that does not give you the innate ability to design and structure police forces, which is a literal profession that is held by non-police officers. So, thank you for your service, not the same thing, and we could have had the ability to discuss his merit alongside other candidates for review as we are technically, usually, required to do.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Let's move on. One other comment count Councilwoman Richardson when he was here at the podium, you did state that you were looking forward to working with him, and we did not need a resolution because

-Councilwoman Richardson: No, we did not.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Let me finish. Please don't interrupt me. We do not need a resolution because he's an adviser. He's not a paid consultant. And if you'd like to ask Mr. Nugent.

-Councilwoman Richardson: I did. I asked him three weeks ago and got no response.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: We do not need a resolution. Can you please answer that?

-Councilwoman Richardson: Free volunteer help that someone wants to come in and help us and inform our decision - making. I'm sure that's not the same thing as having him actually steer and represent the town of Monroe.

-Town Attorney Nugent: That would be, you asked about it whether there was a board resolution, which there wasn't because he's advisory. He's not being paid. Basically, anybody on this board could go find somebody to provide you free advice, and you can bring it back to the board. That's not, as long as it's not a paid position where you're giving a contract. That's my

understanding of the situation, is that he's not someone being paid. He's basically someone just providing advice without charge to the town board members individually.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Yes, but then we speak about him as though he is conducting and like advising that these studies can't be conducted. And I'm saying this is not a professional level consulting service that's dedicated to fulfilling this for the town of Monroe.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: It's better.

-Councilwoman Richardson: Excuse me?

-Town Supervisor Cardone: It's better.

-Councilwoman Houle: Let's keep it open. Let's keep the public hearing.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Okay. I'll make a motion to keep open the continuation of public hearing regarding the police services in the Town of Monroe for November 6th at 7pm immediately thereafter.

4.7. Motion to Keep Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE Police Services in the Town

2025-#442

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Keep Open the Public Hearing RE Continuation of the Public Hearing for Police Services in the Town until November 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM or soon there-after.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Bingham

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4.8. Motion to Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE: Local Law A-v1/2025 to Amend Article VI, Ch. 53 Concerning Material Used for Water Pipes in the Town of Monroe

2025-#443

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE Local Law A-v1/2025 to Amend Article VI, Ch. 53 Concerning Material Used for Water Pipes in the Town of Monroe.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Bingham

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

The following residents signed up to speak during Public Comment on the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE Local Law A-v1/2025 to Amend Article VI, Ch. 53 Concerning Material Used for Water Pipes in the Town of Monroe.

*NO PUBLIC COMMENT AT THIS TIME

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Open the continuation of a public hearing regarding local law A-V1 2025 to amend article 6, chapter 53 concerning material used for water pipes in the town of Monroe. Thank you.

-Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer: No public comment.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: No public comment. Brian, I know that you are still awaiting one item from the engineers, I believe.

-Town Attorney Nugent: And actually, during the break, Councilwoman Bingham and I spoke about this, and she had spoken to the engineer. So, we think the document, even though it's not in final form with accepted changes, is pretty much final. So, my recommendation was that we finalize the draft local law with changes accepted, and then we'll forward that to the board and to Mr. Fritz just to have a last look. I think you could put it on for November for adoption if there are no changes.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: We can close the public hearing tonight

-Town Attorney Nugent: I would continue it just in case there are changes that end up being material between now and then, and we'll close it at that meeting, and then we can adopt the same night.

-Town Supervisor Cardone: Okay.

-Councilwoman Bingham: Then I have one other question. The public notice, I believe, says only chapter 53. We're also doing chapter 54. Would we have to re-notice it?

-Town Attorney Nugent: You could do that. Just let me look at that issue. But if we're actually making a change to chapter 54 and the notice didn't include it, then I would suggest we just republish with the reference to chapter 54 for the continuation. So, this way, there's an opportunity if anyone right feels like they want to comment on 54 specifically.

-Councilwoman Bingham: So you'll be in contact with the Town Clerk, Val, at some point.

-Town Attorney Nugent: Yes.

- Councilwoman Bingham: Okay.

4.9. Motion to Keep Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE: Local Law A-v1/2025 to Amend Article VI, Ch. 53 Concerning Material Used for Water Pipes in the Town of Monroe

2025-#444

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Keep Open the Continuation of the Public Hearing RE Local Law A-v1/2025 to Amend Article VI, Ch. 53 Concerning Material Used for Water Pipes in the Town of Monroe until November 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM or soon there-after.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Bingham

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Acceptance of Minutes

5.1. Acceptance of October 6, 2025, Minutes

2025-#445

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to accept the October 6, 2025, Minutes.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Audit of Claims**6.1. General Fund Abstract****2025-#446**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe requests approval of Abstract #25-18 General Fund containing Check # 37408-37467 totaling \$605,667.11.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

6.2. Escrow Abstract**2025-#447**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe requests approval of Abstract #25-14 Escrow Fund containing Check #2252-2253 totaling \$2,014.50.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Bingham

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

New Business**7.1. Junie Jean, Resignation, Dial-A-Ride**

2025-#448

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to accept the resignation of Junie Jean, Full-time Bus Driver, Dial-A-Ride, effective October 7, 2025.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Houle

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

7.2. Amendment to Engineering Professional Services Agreement, 2026

2025-#449

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Approve Amendment to Engineering Professional Services Agreement, 2026 in a final form approved by Counsel.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Bingham

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

7.3. Tom Lawrence, 2025 NYSACC [Conference on the Environment](#)

2025-#450

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Approve Tom Lawrence, Monroe Conservation Commission, to attend the 2025 NYSACC (New York State Association of Conservation Commissions) Conference on the Environment on October 24 and 25, 2025 in Kingston, New York at the following cost:

Conference Registration - \$109

Hotel 2 nights — \$420 (approx)

Total up to \$100 in mileage *Meals would be reimbursable if not included

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Houle

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

7.4. Reis Group Investigation

The Reis Group Investigation was approved by the Board regarding Councilwoman

Richardson's complaints. 11 complaints were filed involving Town Officials which the Reis Group was hired to investigate. 0 were determined to be founded. 10 were determined to be unfounded and 1 was determined to be unsubstantiated. The Town expended 15K and when the final billing comes in it will be around 20K.

Old Business

8.1. Short Term Rental Application, 95 Walton Terrace (SBL# 18-4-50.2)

2025-#451

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made the following resolution by Supervisor Cardone and seconded by Councilman Scancarello:

RESOLUTION APPROVING SHORT-TERM RENTAL AT 95 WALTON TERRACE APPLICANT:

MICHAEL DY WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Monroe, New York ("Town Board") received an application on or about May 22, 2025, from Michael Dy ("Applicant") for approval of a Short-Term Rental at 95 Walton Terrace (S/B/L 18-4-50.2) (the "Application") in the Town of Monroe ("Town"); and WHEREAS, the Town Building Inspector provided a report dated October 2, 2025, regarding the Application and determined that the property was in substantial compliance with the Residential and Fire Code of New York State based on an inspection of the premises on August 13, 2025, and October 1, 2025; and WHEREAS, no objections were received to such application; and WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to approve the Application for a Short-Term Rental at 95 Walton Terrace pursuant to Chapter 40 of the Town Code. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that: Section 1. The above "WHEREAS" clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in full. Section 2. Pursuant to Town Code § 40-8(F), the Town Board hereby determines that:

Adequate parking facilities are provided to meet the parking requirement of four off-street parking spaces which are provided in a manner that does not impact the residential character of the neighborhood.

No new construction or expansion is proposed relating to the Short-Term Rental.

The structure and lot are conforming to the requirements of Chapter 40 of the Town Code and that the lot and structure are not considered existing nonconforming uses or buildings. Adjoining residences and their yards are generally afforded a reasonable degree of privacy from view by occupants of the proposed vacation residence or partial vacation residence by the imposition of landscaping and privacy fencing.

The number of permitted short-term rentals surrounding the proposed property are not excessive in number so as to result in adverse character impacts to principal residences in the neighborhood. Section 3. The Town Board hereby approves the Short-Term Rental Application for 95 Walton Terrace, subject to the following conditions:

Continued compliance with the provisions of the Town Code, Chapter 40 and NYS Residential and Fire Code with respect to the rental location; and

Continued maintenance of the existing screening of the property and parking area; and The approval of this Application ("Permit") shall expire three (3) years from the date of this resolution pursuant to Town Code § 40-9; and

That, if the Applicant intends to renew the Permit after the three (3) year period, the

Applicant submits a renewal application at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the Permit; and
 The Permit may not be transferred, except as indicated in Town Code § 40-16; and
 Applicant must report any proposed change in circumstances to the Building Department that would alter the analysis of the factors set forth in Town Code § 40-8(F) relevant to the approval of the Short-Term Rental Permit, except that the Applicant shall not be required to report any change in the number of short-term rentals surrounding the property (Town Code § 40-8(F)(5)).

Section 4. The Town Supervisor, and any other officer or employee as directed by the Town Supervisor, is hereby authorized to take any and all necessary actions to carry out the provisions of this Resolution. Section 5. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

		Yea	Nay	Abstain
Absent				
Anthony Cardone, Supervisor	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Dorey Houle, Councilperson	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Mary Bingham, Councilperson	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Sal Scancarello, Councilperson	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Maureen Richardson, Councilperson	[X]	[]	[]	[]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

- 8.2. Amendment to Town of Monroe Fee Schedule, RE: Tree Removal Permit Fees and Mitigation Fees
- 2025-#452**
- BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to approve updating the Fee Schedule to reflect a fee of \$750/unit RE Tree Removal Permit Fee. Councilwoman Houle will work with Max on Tree Removal Notice form.
- On a motion by Town Councilmember Houle, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello**

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle

Nays: Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Richardson

Abstain: None

8.3. Village of Monroe Tax Exemption Request, Items 3 and 4, Town Highway Budget

2025-#453

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Table the Matter RE: Village of Monroe Tax Exemption Request, Items 3 and 4, Town Highway Budget until November 6, 2025.

On a motion by Town Councilmember Houle, seconded by Town Supervisor Cardone

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

8.4. Village of Harriman Tax Exemption Request, Items 3 and 4, Town Highway Budget

2025-#454

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Table the Matter RE: Village of Harriman Tax Exemption Request, Items 3 and 4, Town Highway Budget until November 6, 2025.

On a motion by Town Councilmember Houle, seconded by Town Supervisor Cardone

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

8.5. Road Improvement Petition, Seven Springs Road Realignment

2025-#455

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Declare the Town of Monroe Lead Agency in the Road Improvement Petition, Seven Springs Road Realignment. *No cost to the Town.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Houle

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

8.6. Engineering Agreement, Water District 14 Improvements

2025-#456

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion Authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Engineering Agreement, Water District 14 Improvements, subject to Attorney Review.

On a motion by Town Councilmember Houle, seconded by Town Councilmember Bingham

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

8.7. Registrar Appointment RE: Barbara Singer

2025-#457

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Appoint Barbara Singer as Sub Registrar. Term to expire 12/31/2025. (10-6-2025 meeting appointed her as Deputy Registrar).

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Public Comment

9.1. Rules for Public Comment

9.2. Public Comment

The following residents signed up to speak during Public Comment:

- BJ Mendelson
- Dan Burke
- Carmen Timmons
- Carol Hawxhurst
- Debbie Behringer

- BJ Mendelson: Questioned Board Members on various topics and was reminded that there

is no back and forth during Public Comment. Spoke about IMA and a sewage/drainage problem with the Woodbury Animal Shelter. Addressed the Jennings Creek Fire and touched on the Budget in regard to an emergency plan for notifying Town residents during an emergency. Ended his comments by saying, "The three of you suck." "Sal, I'll see you soon."

- Dan Burke: Commented on the numbers of the theater. Took in \$527,000 this year so far. Talked about five events that the Town has. Food Truck Festival, International Food Festival, Monroe's Got Talent. People want to be excited to revisit these events year after year.
- Carmen Timmons: (signed up but not present)
- Carol Hawxhurst: Commented on the Purchase of Rye Hill Corridor. Talked about how she doesn't like coming to meetings due to certain people coming up to speak aggressively and attacking the Board. Appreciated the comment made at the beginning of the meeting by Supervisor Cardone, who addressed this.
- Debbie Behringer: Commented on the fact that it's hard being on a Board and being attacked. It's very rude. Upset as a Monroe Resident for over 50 years, hearing all this tonight. Talked about having unity.

Board Members' Comments:

- Councilwoman Bingham: Talked about looking at the Budget to redo the Comprehensive Plan. Was reminded about the Solar Farm. Talked about WD 12 and letting Blooming Grove use it. Wants Supervisor to see if they want to keep it. If so, need to decide on a fair price and surplus. Thanked everyone for their comments. People need to show respect.
- Councilman Scancarello: Agreed with resident Debbie Behringer. Commented on the incident at the June 2024 Food Truck Festival. The case was thrown out of court in two seconds because there was no evidence. This Board is politically divided. Talked about working with prior Democrats on the Board and how it was a productive Board. Never had a problem.
- Councilwoman Houle: Addressed Mr. Mendelson's comments as far as not alerting the residents about the Jennings Creek Fire. The Town of Monroe has Monroe Connect, Constant Contact, the Town Website, Facebook. Need to sign up for notifications. Wasn't looking for credit. Passed on the information, so the residents could have the information. Commented on how she's tired of Mr. Mendelson filling everyone's heads with lies, and she's tired of it.
- Councilwoman Richardson: Comments made tonight were inappropriate. Should be an environment where everyone feels safe to voice issue-based criticisms. Residents are tired of the lies. Disappointed in partisan politics, and it should be put aside.
- Supervisor Cardone: WD 14 was worked on for probably six years. Councilwoman Houle, and Bingham and Supervisor Cardone got it done. Councilwoman Richardson was asked to be part of their team. She had nothing to do with it.

Possible motion to adjourn to Executive and or/ Attorney Client Session

10.1. Enter into Executive Session

*NO ACTION AT THIS TIME

Return to Regular Meeting

11.1. Return to Regular Meeting

*NO ACTION AT THIS TIME

Adjournment

12.1. Adjournment of Meeting

2025-#458

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe adjourns the meeting of October 20, 2025, at 10:42 PM.

On a motion by Town Supervisor Cardone, seconded by Town Councilmember Scancarello

Ayes: Town Supervisor Cardone, Town Councilmember Bingham, Town Councilmember Scancarello, Town Councilmember Houle, Town Councilmember Richardson

Nays: None

Abstain: None