

MONROE TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

— 05/05/2025

MONROE TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA (Monday, May 5, 2025)

Generated by Valerie Bitzer

Members present

Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

Town Counsel Brian Nugent

1. Call to Order

Discussion, Information, Procedural: 1.1 Pledge to the Flag

2. Motion to Open Town Board Meeting

Action (Resolution): 2.1 Motion to Open Town Board Meeting of May 5, 2025

2025-#199

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to Open the Town Board Meeting of May 5, 2025, at 7:01 PM.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Sal Scancarello.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

3. Community Announcements

Information: 3.1 Upcoming Classes at Smith's Clove Park (Teen Self Defense & Film Class)

Teen Self Defense Classes

Smith's Clove Park 133 Spring Street, Monroe, NY 10950

Thursdays May 8th - June 12th

5:00-6:00PM

\$25 for the 6-week class for Monroe residents

\$50 for non-residents

Register at activities@monroeny.org or call the Park Office at 845-783-9108

Monroe Film Class

Presented by Michael Jacoby & Smith's Clove Park

Starting May 7th every Wednesday 4:30-6PM

Filmmaking 101, Scriptwriting, Lighting Design, Acting, Directing, Monroe Film Festival
Sign up by calling Smith's Clove Park at 845-783-9108

\$10 for residents

\$20 for non-residents

To hear Councilwoman Houle RE Upcoming Classes at Smith's Clove Park (Teen Self Defense & Film Class), please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.1, 0:0:37.

Information: 3.2 Free Movie for Veterans, "Warfare"

Free Movie for Veterans

Free showing of the movie "Warfare"

Where: Flagshop Premium Cinemas, Monroe, NY

When: Wednesday, May 7th at 1PM or 6PM

Each guest will receive popcorn and a drink!

To reserve tickets for you and a guest, call 845-291-2470

To hear Councilwoman Houle RE Free Movie for Veterans, "Warfare", please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.2, 0:1:42.

Information: 3.3 C.A.R.E.S. Van Stop at Monroe Town Hall on May 15th

Congressman Pat Ryan C.A.R.E.S. Van (Constituent Advocacy Resources Empowerment Services) will be visiting Town Hall on Thursday, May 15, 2025, between 10am-12pm at Town Hall located at 1465 Orange Tpke., Monroe, NY. For more information or if you need assistance, but can't make the event, contact my office. Stay up to date by signing up for my weekly newsletter. (845) 443-2930 PatRyan.house.gov or scan the QR code attached to the flyer.

To hear councilwoman Houle RE C.A.R.E.S. Van Stop at Monroe Town Hall on May 15th, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.3, 0:2:17.

Information: 3.4 Disco Party at Monroe Free Library

Monroe Free Library Decades 70's Disco Party Friday May 16th 7-9pm, 44 Millpond Pkwy., Monroe, NY. Dancing, Karaoke, Video Games, Board Games, Candy Bar, Refreshments.

To hear Councilwoman Bingham RE Disco Party at Monroe Free Library, please go on-line to Board Docs Video Clip #3.3, 0:2:52.

Information: 3.5 Monroe Free Library Community Yard Sale, Saturday, May 17th

Spring 2025 Monroe Free Library Community Yard Sale 44 Millpond Pkwy., Monroe, NY. Saturday, May 17th 9am-4pm. Rain date May 31st. Vendors wanted!

To hear Councilwoman Bingham RE Monroe Free Library Community Yard Sale, Saturday, May 17th, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.5, 0:3:27.

Information: 3.6 The Playhouse at Museum Village Presents Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express

The Playhouse at Museum Village, Creative Theatre - Muddy Water Players presents Murder on the Orient Express. Adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig. Directed by Steve Davis. Get on board - it's a great ride! This is a murder mystery truly gone off the rails. Three weekends only!

Fridays, May 2, 9 & 16 at 7pm

Saturdays, May 3, 10 & 17 at 7pm

Sundays, May 4 & 18 at 2pm

Thursday, May 15 at 7pm

1010 Rt. 17M, Monroe, NY. 845-294-9465 Tickets & more details: www.AtThePlayhouse.org

Limited seating! Reservations suggested.

\$26 includes our signature dessert!

To hear Councilwoman Houle RE The Playhouse at Museum Village Presents Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.6, 0:3:58.

Information: 3.7 Free Rabies Clinic

FREE RABIES CLINIC MAY 17, 2025

9 am - 12 noon

Woodbury Community Center

3 Coach Wilson Trail, Highland Mills, NY 10930 ("The Rez")

Free Rabies Vaccinations for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets.

****Reservations Suggested**

Contact us at AnimalControl@WoodburyNY.US

Sponsored by The Pets I Love, Monroe, NY

DOG LICENSE APPLICATIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

For the towns of Woodbury and Monroe (Fee applies, cash only please)

Organized by The Town of Woodbury Animal Shelter

To hear Councilwoman Houle and Town Clerk Valerie Bitzer RE Free Rabies Clinic, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.7, 0:5:04.

Information: 3.8 Mobile DMV Update

All Mobile DMV visits to Municipalities for the month of May have been cancelled. Please continue to visit the Orange County Mobile DMV web page at <https://www.orangecountygov.com/2226/Mobile-DMV-Unit> for schedule updates for June.

To hear Councilwoman Houle RE Mobile DMV Update, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #3.8, 0:6:17.

4. Acceptance of Minutes

Action (Resolution): 4.1 Acceptance of April 21, 2025 Minutes

2025-#200

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to accept the April 21, 2025 Minutes.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Sal Scancarello.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle

Abstain: Maureen Richardson

5. Audit of Claims

Action (Resolution), Discussion: 5.1 General Fund Abstract

2025-#201

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe requests approval of Abstract #25-9 General Fund containing Check #36707 - 36761 totaling \$283,910.50.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Mary Bingham.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

Action (Resolution), Discussion: 5.2 Escrow Fund Abstract

2025-#202

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe requests approval of Abstract #25-06 Escrow Fund containing Check # 2209 & 2211 totaling \$50,762.60.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Mary Bingham.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

6. New Business

Action (Resolution), Discussion: 6.1 Justin Acevedo, Seasonal Laborer, Smith's Clove Park

2025-#203

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Resolution approving Justin Acevedo for the position of Seasonal Laborer, Smith's Clove Park for an employment period of May 12, 2025 - October 15, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$18. Justin has been preapproved for employment by Orange County Department of Human Resources and approved by resolution by the Monroe Joint Parks and Recreation Commission.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Sal Scancarello.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

Action (Resolution): 6.2 Conservation Commission Resignation RE Christopher Shaw

Conservation Commission Chairman Dennis Fordham thanked Christopher Shaw for his time on the Conservation Commission. He will be missed. The Town has advertised for the opening through all our contact points.

To hear Conservation Commission Chairman Dennis Fordham RE Conservation Commission Resignation RE Christopher Shaw, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #6.2, 0:9:17.

2025-#204

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion accepting the Resignation of Christopher Shaw, Conservation Commission effective April 30, 2025.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Mary Bingham.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

Action (Resolution), Discussion: 6.3 Return of Escrow

2025-#205

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to return Escrow for Ilona Bito's ZBA Application in the amount of \$1,054.01. Her ZBA application has been completed and variance granted. All invoices have been paid.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Mary Bingham.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

Action (Resolution), Discussion: 6.4 Training Approval Request, Assessor's Office

2025-#206

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Resolution approving Carla McNamara, Assessor, to attend the 2025 Cornell Seminar on Professional

Development from July 13, 2025 - July 18, 2025, at The Hotel Ithaca with a total estimated cost of \$1,679 (includes registration, travel, and accommodations).

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Sal Scancarello.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

7. Old Business

Discussion, Information: 7.1 Water Main Pipes, Bald Hill

****THIS MATTER HAS BEEN TABLED UNTIL MAY 19, 2025**

8. Motion From the Floor

Action (Resolution), Discussion, Information: 8.1 Home Rule RE: Hotel Tax

2025-#207

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ENACTMENT OF STATE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO ADOPT A HOTEL / MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX ALSO PERTAINING TO SHORT TERM RENTALS

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Monroe recognizes the financial benefit of establishing a hotel / motel occupancy tax to generate revenue for local services, infrastructure, and tourism-related expenses; and

WHEREAS, such a tax cannot be imposed by the Town without enabling legislation from the New York State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, State Senator James Skoufis has introduced a bill authorizing such legislation for similarly situated municipalities, including Monroe, and the Town of Monroe seeks to enact similar legislation tailored to its jurisdiction;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Town Board of the Town of Monroe hereby formally requests that the New York State Legislature enact legislation authorizing the Town of Monroe to impose a hotel or motel occupancy tax, consistent with the language introduced by Senator Skoufis at 5% into the general fund.
2. The Town Supervisor is authorized to transmit this request to Assemblyman Karl Brabenec and Senator James Skoufis for introduction of a "same as" bill in both houses of the Legislature.
3. Upon introduction of the bill and assignment of bill numbers, the Town Board shall consider a subsequent resolution to authorize the Supervisor and Town Clerk to execute the required home rule request forms pursuant to the New York State Constitution.

Motion by Maureen Richardson, second by Mary Bingham.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: Mary Bingham, Maureen Richardson

Nay: Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle

9. Public Comment

Information: 9.1 Rules for Public Comment

Discussion, Information: 9.2 Public Comment

The following spoke during Public Comment. To hear their comments, and Town Board members responses, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #9.2, 0:16:39.

- Carol Sotiropoulos: Pro-Democracy event, Hands Off America held on May 3rd in support of Civil Liberties and Human Rights. over 70 people attended. Will hold another one on May 17th. Monroe Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all came together as Americans to protest the ruthless cuts, the dismantling of important agencies under the current administration of our country and what was supposed to be the deportation of illegal immigrants and hence has instead turned out to be the illegal deportation of many legal immigrants. This is a safe space for all Americans of every political persuasion to join together and demand that the rule of law is upheld for each and every resident and citizen of our country which is a right granted to us by the 14th amendment. We asked the local Monroe Village Police if we needed a permit and the response was no. This is your constitutional right. We'd also like to remind our elderly residents, if at all possible, to get a 90-day refill on all prescription medicine medication. There are shortages coming because of the Trump tariffs of many day-to-day supplies and we want to protect the health and safety of our friends and neighbors in the Monroe community.

10. Community Announcement

Information: 10.1 Councilwoman Richardson Comments on Litigation

I just wanted to make a statement that contrary to what has been circulating on social media about a case that the Town of Monroe is involved with at the federal level, that I'm sitting right here at a public meeting and I have yet to be served for such a case. I am not dodging anything, and I find it inappropriate to use a case that is costing the Town you know quite a chunk of change in legal fees as political fodder and it is not in the Town's interest according to our legal advice to make any kind of statements especially for the opposition. So, I'm not being called in my official capacity by our legal team to support our argument. It is a complete, you know request from the other side. So, I'm sitting right here at a public meeting, and I'm yet to be served. So, that's all I wanted to say to clear up these ridiculous attacks on social media.

To hear Councilwoman Richardson's comments on Litigation, please go on-line to Board Doc's Video Clip #10.1, 0:19:22.

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

Action (Resolution), Information: 11.1 Enter into Executive Session

2025-#208

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe Made a Motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreements as they pertain to a particular employee.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Sal Scancarello.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

12. Return to Regular Meeting

Action (Resolution), Information: 12.1 Return to Regular Meeting

2025-#209

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe approves to return to regular session at 7:59 pm.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Sal Scancarello.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson

13. Adjournment

Action (Resolution): 13.1 Adjournment of Meeting

2025-#210

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Monroe adjourns the meeting of May 5, 2025, at 7:59 PM.

Motion by Dorey Houle, second by Maureen Richardson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: Mary Bingham, Sal Scancarello, Dorey Houle, Maureen Richardson