

Town of Monroe  
Town Board Meeting  
April 4, 2024

Those in attendance at tonight's meeting are Mike Geels, David Bard, Josh Geerken, Rachel Tague, Justin Shaffer, Steve Bailey, Kris Burkhart, Craig Marcum with Baker Tilly and both newspaper journalists and town resident Dana Bowman.

Monthly expenses were approved.

March minutes were approved.

**New Business:**

Nothing new to report.

**Police Department:**

AJ was present at tonight's meeting. AJ stated that he and Clayton Lengerich have been working on a policy handbook for the PD. This will go over the updated policies and procedures that have gone through some changes with the state and the town. Once it has been updated and completed, AJ and Clayton will discuss with council and provide the updated handbook.

AJ spoke of the upcoming eclipse on April 8, 2024. He said he will have the town covered and will work with other law enforcement agencies to keep things running smooth. He wants the public to be aware that there could be a lot of traffic and requests residents and public to be patient as they work through this new event.

**Town Superintendent:**

Justin was present at tonight's meeting. He stated heavy trash pickup is going well.

Justin plans to block off the water tower for the eclipse event to keep people from parking in that area. He is also going to block the compost site to keep people from parking. He plans to put signs up as well.

Justin plans to do some hydrant flushing and valve turning between April 29th and May 10. He is asking people to hold off on doing laundry in the morning to prevent rust from staining clothes.

Justin stated that the mower the town owns is getting up there in age. He would like to purchase a new mower from Nussbaum Mechanical. They are offering a trade in value on the old mower of \$2000.00. A new 60" with trade in will be roughly \$9900.00. The cost of a used mower is about the same price as a new mower. Josh made a motion to approve this purchase. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Josh made a comment about Bret Grover inquiring about spraying the Fire Department lawn with weed killer. Josh told him he'd bring it up at a council meeting to see what Justin usually does about the lawn. Justin said he has spoken with Grover in the past but nothing ever came of it. Justin is leaving that decision up to council.

**Fire Department:**

Kris Burkhart was available at tonight's meeting. He started with discussing the estimates for adding a payment window in the clerk's office to allow for people to come in and pay their bills and to prevent people from coming into the clerk's office. This is a safety measure for the clerk and deputy clerk. Kris received 2 estimates. One from Schwartz Contracting in the amount of \$8,860.00 but it did not include the price for the bullet proof window. The other estimate is from Hackenjos Construction in the amount of \$2,500 but this was only for the labor, not the materials.

Mike would like to table the window estimates until next month because it seems as though the estimates received don't include everything. Justin will contact Schwartz's and Hackenjos to get complete estimates for the town and have them available at next month's meeting.

Kris also obtained a quote from Innovative Concepts for a new camera in the vestibule to watch over the payment window. All offices will have access to view these cameras. The estimated cost is \$2,071.64. The Fire Department will cover \$800.00 of this cost and the town will need to pick up the rest. David made a motion to accept this. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Kris would also like to get a quote for painting the inside of the fire department. He said the building is 10 years old and needs freshened up.

Kris mentioned to council that they've got a volunteer fireman that also owns a landscaping company, Fred Fennig. He usually takes care of the landscaping and spraying of weeds at cost to the fire department. He will mention something to Fennig and see what Fennig can do.

One last thing Kris wanted to mention is at the forefront of the eclipse event on Monday, he and his team will have emergency vehicles stationed at the fire department and will be ready for anything that comes up.

**Clerk-Treasurer:**

Rachel is present at tonight's meeting. She has nothing to discuss with council but introduced Craig Marcum with Baker Tilly. Craig is present tonight to go over the steps it will take to re-establish the CCD Fund. It currently sits at .04 cents but Craig is asking council if they'd like to re-establish the rate to .05 which is the state max. This will increase taxes by about \$600 per year which is a very minimal increase according to Craig. Craig said this increase will be penny's and may not even be noticeable.

If council moves forward the deadline to submit is May 31. A public hearing will need to be scheduled followed by the adoption of the ordinance. We'll need to print 2 notices on April 19th and the 26th in both newspapers in order to let the public know of this increase. Once the notices go out, all we'll need to do is have the public hearing for the proposed increase, adjourn the meeting and then open up a new meeting for the approval and signing of the re-establishing of the CCD Fund. Craig said this is pretty simple and straight forward. Josh made a motion to move forward with re-establishing the CCD Fund. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Town Attorney:**

Clayton was not present at tonight's meeting.

**Other Business:**

Dana Bowman was present at tonight's meeting. He lives over on W Andrews and wants to let council know of the flooding going on the west end of Andrews St. The water was never an issue for him until the new housing addition was put in some years back. He believes something is not hooked up correctly. There is a retention pond in the housing addition that doesn't collect any water. Justin spoke up and said

the issue is the pipes that are coming from the housing addition are larger than the pipes that are on the Walnut St and W Andrews St side so, with the size difference it's pushing the water and it's got nowhere to go.

Justin asked Dana if he would be opposed to a Stormwater Fee on the monthly utility bills. He said he would not oppose this fee if it will help to fix the problem.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting is adjourned.

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Town Board President

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Clerk-Treasurer