

MONROE MATTERS

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Monroe School Board
School Administrative Unit 77

December 20, 2023

Dear Community,

As we enter the season where school and town budget proposals become finalized, we wanted to provide an update on the status of our proposed renovation project. We are aware that there has been a lot of frustration and concern among our fellow taxpayers upon receipt of the most recent tax bills, and in light of this, we have made the difficult decision to postpone proposing the renovation project until 2025. This is not because we have lost faith in this project. We remain very passionate about the need for this renovation. The decision was made simply out of respect of the needs of Monroe taxpayers at the current time. It was not easy for us to make this choice, but we feel it is the best path forward to provide the project its highest chance of success.

The ADA compliance updates and secure entryway are important and necessary updates to our school, and we will use this additional time to continue pursuing grants and other financial opportunities as we already have been. We are committed to providing you with the best and most affordable proposal possible for this project and we look forward to presenting it to you in 2025.

If you have any questions, we always welcome members of the public at our board meetings, the dates of which are posted on the school's website.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Ward
James Lang
Bob Regis
Michael Jones
Electra Poulsen

knit DEMOCRACY
together

***Representing All Voices:
Gerrymandering and Ranked
Choice Voting***

**Thursday, March 7th at 5:30 pm
At the Town Hall**

For more information or to
register visit nhhumanities.org

Knit Democracy Together is a project created by artist and former election lawyer Eve Jacobs-Carnahan. At each of the six events being held around the state, she will give a nonpartisan presentation and lead a discussion about the electoral system with a focus on New Hampshire's election laws. More than a lecture or discussion session, attendees will contribute to a collaborative sculpture of the New Hampshire State House made of knitted and crocheted pieces stitched at each event. In June, the completed sculpture will be unveiled at the NH State Library, alongside participants' stories about voting and participating in the electoral process.

Materials will be provided. No prior knitting or crocheting experience needed. **You do not have to stitch to attend.**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

Budget Hearing is Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall in the dining room. The school hearing will be first, followed by the town.

Town Meeting will be March 12th. Voting downstairs during the day and meeting upstairs at night with the school meeting first. More details to follow.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, you can call the Town Office at 603-638-2644 or email us at monroeselectmen@monroenh.org

2023 Reassessment and Tax Rate

This is meant to be a brief explanation of why some of the residents of Monroe received an increase in property Taxes; for more detailed information or questions, please attend a selectmen's meeting, which occurs every Tuesday night at 7:00, or Budget hearing currently scheduled for February 6th, 2024.

Every year the town receives an equalization report from the state, the report compares market sales to the assessed values of each non-utility property that sold. In 2020, the report showed properties were assessed at 90.1% of their market value, in 2021 the report showed properties were assessed at 82.4% of their Market Value, and in 2022, the report showed properties were assessed at 61.2% of their market value. This steady decline in assessment to sales ratio was due to a steady increase in the market during the pandemic, when the real estate market saw properties often sell overnight for more than list price.

In 2023, the Town's 5-year town-wide reassessment was completed as required by the State of NH; in which towns are required to conduct a reassessment based on current market sales. Given our equalization report in 2022, which showed we were assessed at 61.2% of sales performing a reassessment in 2023 was less than ideal but the year in which it was due. Our contracted assessor worked thru the summer reassessing all non-utility properties in Monroe and concluded his work in late fall, at which time everyone was sent the reassessed value of their property with information regarding scheduling an appointment with the assessor to review the new assessment, if desired. A couple weeks later we received our Utility reassessment which we conduct every year. The new valuations for both utility and non-utility properties were sent to the State of NH DRA who sets the tax rate for the town. The tax rate is based on property values, expenditures voted on at Town meeting, for both the Municipal and local school, along with the towns portion of the state education and county expenses.

In 2021 the Tax rate set by DRA was \$13.11, in 2022 \$12.19 and in 2023 the tax rate was set at \$9.73. Below are some of the contributing factors to the change in tax rate from 2022 to 2023.

- The Municipal tax effort increased by \$84,994 in 2023 over 2022
- The County tax effort increased by \$5761 in 2023 over 2022
- The local school tax effort increased by \$202,773 in 2023 over 2022
- The State education tax effort increased by \$50,985 in 2023 over 2022

This increased spending coincided with our reassessment year, which saw non-utility assessments increase by 63% and utility assessments increase by 28%. In 2022, the valuation of Monroe was 80% utility based. In 2023 with non-utility properties having a larger percentage increase in valuation than utility properties, the town shifted to being only 76% utility based. This 4% reduction moved approximately \$200,000 worth of tax burden from the utilities to the non-utility properties.

In conclusion, there was a variety of factors that contributed to some properties seeing an increase in property taxes in 2023; the increased spending was voted on at the town meeting and was not a result of budgets being overspent. It is important when calculating your yearly taxes to not double one bill, you need to take the total valuation of your property and divide by 1,000, then multiply by the tax rate. The first tax bill you receive each year is estimated at 50% of your yearly taxes. On reassessment years, the estimation can be off, giving you a larger second tax bill.



THE MONROE BUMPER HUMPER SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Second Annual Vintage Snowmobile Ride-in

Sunday, February 25th
12:30 pm @ 60 Fairfield Drive

Enjoy hot food around a campfire,
antique snowmobiles on display, super raffle,
and 50/50 raffle drawings

Lunch is free for landowners
who allow trails on their property

Dedicated to the memory of Irv Lang

OUTDOOR BURNING

For anyone that has a brush pile that is 50' or more from a structure, now is a great time to burn it. No permit is required with snow cover and you won't have to worry about burning the woods down. Just give our dispatch a courtesy call at 787-2111 when you are burning so the fire department won't have to come visit you. Any questions you can call Russ Brown, Fire Chief at (802) 274-6314.

MONROE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



February 14th at 7:00 pm
at the Monroe village church

CROCHETED CHRISTMAS TREE

A group of community members met recently to plan Monroe's granny square tree. If you would like to make squares to contribute, they must measure 6 inches and have a green outer ring (other colors are your choice.)



Drop off
completed
squares at
the library

On Saturday, February 10th at 3pm, stop by the library for a quick lesson or refresher on how to make a granny square.

Printed patterns will be available.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Newsletters are published monthly.

Email 03771plans@gmail.com by February 19th with submissions for the March issue.

★ PRESENTS ★

MONROE TALENT SHOW

★ AUDITIONS ★

DANCERS
COMEDIANS
ARTISTS
MAGICIANS

ACTORS
MUSICIANS
ENTERTAINERS
ETC

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4TH

HOSTED BY YOUR FRIENDS LACY LAPETE,
JESSIE TONEY, JUDY MARTIN
AND FRAN SCHROER

AGES 2-99

DOORS OPEN
4 PM

SAVE YOUR SPOT
603-991-5201
LACYLAPETE@GMAIL.COM

LOCATION
TOWN HALL

★ ★ ★ MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 23RD SHOW ★ ★ ★

SUPER BOWL PIZZAS

Sunday February 11th
Pick up at the town hall
11am-2pm

\$10 for a cheese pizza and 50 cents for each topping added. Pizzas won't cost more than \$12 each; a bargain considering you can choose from a wide array of toppings including hamburger, pepperoni, sausage, ham, onions, green peppers, mushrooms, and pineapple,

You can choose to have it cooked & ready to eat or uncooked so you can pop it in the oven to enjoy later.

If you do not receive a phone call to order, please call Barbara Farr (603-638-8011) or contact anyone connected with the Monroe Community Church to place your order.

FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

DOG LICENSES

NH State law states that all dogs must be licensed by April 30th. There is a penalty for late registration. Please provide updated proof of Rabies Vaccine and proof of Spay/Neuter if it's been done since last registration.

Fees

\$10.00 for unaltered

\$7.50 for spayed/neutered

\$2.00 (if owner is 65 or older; first dog only)



Renewals for dog registrations (as well as vehicle registrations) may be done online at monroenh.org

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
Monroe Public Library
PO Box 67
Monroe, NH 03771

STANDARD RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 3
MONROE NH
03771

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL TRIVIA

Trivia Question 4:
Monroe holds its town
meeting on what
traditional day?

POSTAL PATRON
Monroe, NH 03771