

**TOWN OF MONROE ORDINANCE  
CREATING FIRE PROTECTION RESPONSE FEE**

WHEREAS, Wis. Statutes Section 60.55(2)(b). authorizes Towns to charge real property owners a portion or all the cost of fire protection;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the Town of Monroe to charge the cost of such protection to property owners;

WHEREAS, charging for fire calls is **not double taxation**. Every taxpayer is responsible for his share of the costs of having a Fire Dept. fully equipped, maintained by trained personnel and ready to roll. That is paid for by the property tax. If a fire call is actually made, the property owner whose property is on fire is receiving a benefit over and above having a Fire Dept. ready to provide protection. It is this special & direct benefit for which these fire protection charges are made.

WHEREAS, fire protection for the Town of Monroe is provided by the Monroe Rural Fire District. The full actual costs are being billed to the Township by the Monroe Rural Fire District.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Monroe, Green Co., Wis. does ordain as follows:

**Section 1 Statutory Authority**

Pursuant to Section 60.55, 60.555 & 60.557 of Wis. Statutes, the Town of Monroe, Green Co., Wis. hereby establishes the following policy and procedure for the payment of unpaid fire protection response fees charged by the Monroe Rural Fire District, operating under agreement with the Town.

**Section 2 Liability for Fire Protection Costs**

(A) The property owners of real estate within the Town of Monroe for which fire protection is provided, shall be responsible for the cost of the fire call made to their property based upon the billings from the Monroe Rural Fire District. The Property Owners shall be billed by the Twp. Clerk for the full cost of the fires on their property. This cost must be paid by the property owner or their insurance company. If not paid within 90 days of the first billing, the Twp. may assess an interest charge at the rate of one and one-half percent interest per month from the date of the first bill.

(B) The Town Board would expect Town Residents to call the Sheriffs Dept. before lighting a controlled burn. If a Town Resident lights a fire, they are responsible for all costs, if the fire is allowed to escape.

(C) All real and personal property, including motor vehicle accidents, shall be subject to the Fire Protection Response Fee, even if the real or personal property is exempt from general taxation from the Town of Monroe.

(D) Any variances of the above requirements, will need the approval of the Monroe Town Board.

**Section 3 Billing Procedures**

(A) Those bills remaining outstanding including interest, not paid by Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> of the current year, shall become a lien against the real estate for which the fire protection was provided and shall be placed on the tax roll as a special assessment for the year pursuant to Section 66.60(16) of Wisconsin Statutes.

(B) As an alternative to and in addition to the provisions of paragraph 3(a) above, the Town

of Monroe may commence legal proceedings for collection of unpaid Fire Protection Fees from real or personal property owners.

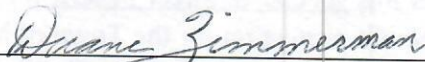
**Section 4 Severability of Provisions**


Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

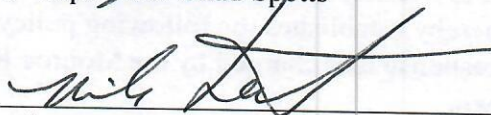
**Section 5 Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and posting as provided by law.

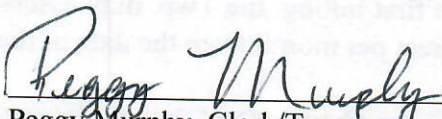
This ordinance was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Monroe, at a regular meeting on the 19th day of August 2021 by a vote of 2 aye and 0 nay.

  
Chairman Duane Zimmerman

  
1<sup>st</sup> Supervisor Chad Spotts

  
2<sup>nd</sup> Supervisor Mike Lambert

This ordinance was filed in the office of the Town Clerk and properly posted as required by law on the 9th day of September 2021.

  
Peggy Murphy, Clerk/Treasurer

Adopted this 19th day of August 2021.