

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 24, 2012**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:03 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri** in the Court Room of the Municipal Complex located at 125 Virginia Avenue, Williamstown, New Jersey.

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 thru 10:4-21). Notices were placed in the official publications for Monroe Township (i.e.: Gloucester County Times, the Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri stated the Clerk has placed a sign in sheet at the rear of the Court Room. If anyone would like to address Council during the Public Portion, please sign in and you will be asked to come forward to the microphone. Kindly state your name for the record.

SALUTE TO FLAG - INVOCATION

Cncl. Rich DiLucia led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Al Cosner**, from the Williamstown First United Methodist Church offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Mayor Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella	Present	
Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart		Excused
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

PRESENTATIONS

- **Tree City USA - Environmental Commission**

John Imperatore, a member of the Monroe Township Environmental Commission, noted under the leadership of Chairperson Dan Kozak, Council Liaison Frank Caligiuri, the Public Works Department and Business Administrator Kevin Heydel the Environmental Commission has been working hard on environmental initiatives. This hard work has culminated into Monroe Township being designated a "Tree City USA" for the year 2012 during a week that encompasses Earth Day and Arbor Day. This is a renewal type designation as Monroe Township was designed a Tree City USA between the years 1995 and 2001. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will hold a formal recognition ceremony at Crystal Lake Park in Haddon Township on Friday, April 28th and will be presenting the township with an award at that time. Mr. Imperatore presented the Mayor and Council with a Tree City USA flag from the Arbor Day Foundation and extended an invitation to residents to attend the Environmental Commission Meetings held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm on the second floor of the municipal building. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** extended his appreciation to John Imperatore, Dan Kozak and the other members of the Environmental Commission for their efforts in trying to secure grants to offset a small part of our tax burden.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve as submitted the minutes of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of April 10, 2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marvin Dilks** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Walter Bryson** who Abstained.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE - None

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled - Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to bracket Resolution R:98-2012 and R:100-2012 through R:105-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

CONSENT AGENDA
RESOLUTIONS R:98-2012, R:100-2012 THROUGH R:105-2012

R:98-2012 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Records

R:100-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A Shared Services Agreement Between The Gloucester County Improvement Authority And The Township Of Monroe Regarding Usage Of Certain Stage Units

R:101-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And Monroe Township Police Officers Association

R:102-2012 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records For Block 110.0301, Lot 34 And Block 110.0407, Lots 84 And 85

R:103-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Awarding Bid To The Rodgers Group, LLC For Consulting Services To Assist In Securing NJSACOP Accreditation Of The Monroe Township Police Department

R:104-2012 Resolution Waiving Six Month Disability Leave Requirement For Cathleen M. Murphy

R:105-2012 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of April 24, 2012

Cncl. Marvin Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:98-2012 and R:100-2012 through R:105-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:99-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Awarding Bid To Campbell Supply Company, LLC For One 2013 Rescue Engine With 1500 GPM, Two 2013 1500 GPM Pump Engines And One Stationary High Pressure Compressor And Purification System For The Monroe Township Department Of Public Safety

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:99-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marvin Dilks**.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:99-2012 - ALL AYES

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Resolution R:99-2012 was duly approved for adoption.

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D.) ORDINANCES - None

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Daniel Teefy reported the Music Festival will be held on, Saturday, June 2nd from 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM. This event will include Chelsea Musick singing country music, the Idol Kings performing John Mellencamp and Journey music, The Parrot Band, which is like the Jimmy Buffet Band, amusements, games, a 50/50 raffle, food court, indoor bingo, activities for college scholarships and a Phillies Baseball game will be shown on the large screen. This event is put on by the Parks and Rec Commission and is being sponsored by Parx Casino as well as many other local businesses including Wal-Mart, which has agreed to sponsor all the music events that night. Cncl. Teefy also reported the Sunshine Foundation is holding a Cinco de Mayo Dance on Friday, May 4th. Tickets are \$50.00 per person. He also reported the Police Department has been issuing tickets to speeders on Ames Road and the conditions residents complained about are improving. He reported the Police Department is being restructured and will be going to 12 hour shifts beginning May 6th. More police officers will be on each shift and out on the street, which will be beneficial to the township. Cncl. Teefy extended his appreciation to the Police Department for going to the 12 hour shifts and the Administration for working with them to come up with a very good contract. He also reported the School Budget Committee of Cncl. Garbowski, Cncl. Sebastian and himself will meet on Monday, April 30th to review the defeated school budget to see if any cuts should be made. The proposed budget included a 1.7% increase, which was one of the most minimal increases they have had. At the next Council Meeting an announcement will be made regarding any cuts made to the budget.

Cncl. William Sebastian reported the bid for the fire apparatus has been awarded to Campbell Supply. He extended his appreciation to the committee that reviewed the bids and made the recommendations and to the Clerk's Office for their efforts during the bid process. He reported Williamstown Fire Company # 1 will be hosting a ceremony dedicating their new Memorial Plaza located in front of the fire house on Main Street on Sunday, April 29th at 2:00 PM. All residents are invited to attend. Cncl. Sebastian reported Monroe Township has an active public safety group, as the ambulance squads have responded to 252 calls so far this month and the Police Department received, from March 27th to April 20th, reports of and are investigating 69 crimes and 199 alarm calls. He reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting on April 17th where approvals were granted on the Fieldstone Project located on Berlin-Cross Keys Road. This project includes a 205 unit high end apartment complex with a club house that will be built to the rear of the site and four commercial pad sites that will be located in the front. Cncl. Sebastian reported all residents are invited to attend Loyalty Day Ceremonies at VFW Post 1616 on Saturday, May 5th at 1:00 PM. He also congratulated Vanessa Vause, a freshman at Williamstown High School for winning the title of Junior Miss New Jersey National Teenager sponsored by the New Jersey National Scholarship Organization in a two day competition in Ocean City.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski extended his appreciation to the Boy Scouts, the Gloucester County Master Gardeners and other volunteers who participated in the Library Community Cleanup at the Library garden last Saturday. He reported the Library is purchasing an Early Literacy Station for kids and several laptops with funds from the Comcast grant and that the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission and the Gloucester County Economic Development Commission will be sponsoring a free small business seminar on Thursday, April 26th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Monroe Township Public Library. He also reported all current Monroe Township businesses should have received invitations in the mail to update their business information so that a Monroe Township Business Directory can be created and distributed.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia spoke of unemployment in New Jersey still being at 9%, of a newspaper article that stated two out of three 2010 college graduates are out of work or underemployed and of how everyone agrees New Jersey taxes need to be addressed, particularly the way real estate taxes are assessed. He noted there are misconceptions and a distinct difference between two pending bills regarding tax reduction. The one sponsored by the governor purports to give a 10% income tax reduction and has no cap on income. The bill sponsored by Senator Sweeney and other legislators is distinctly different as it proposes a minimum \$600.00 property tax reduction for people earning less than \$250,000.00 a year. He

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E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

explained with the governor's proposal the major portion of the money will go to the upper income levels while retirees, unemployed, underemployed and disabled people will receive a \$50.00 rebate. With the same amount of money the legislators are proposing a \$600.00 minimum rebate on real estate taxes, which will benefit the unemployed, underemployed, retired and disabled people who really need it. That can be done by eliminating the upper tier of people making more than \$250,000.00, as 10% of their income would take up a major portion of the pot. He noted the bill proposing the real estate rebate is a much better bill but he questioned where the money is coming from to fund it. He expressed his concerns that wages, employment and revenues are down and the State is proposing a 10% tax reduction while having issues balancing the budget. Cncl. DiLucia noted that money will come from somewhere and if it comes from social programs, the municipalities or the school systems it will place a greater strain on taxpayers, as taxes will go up to cover the cost of services the municipalities are still required to provide. He noted if people think that will not happen they should read the newspaper article regarding Medford's referendum to increase taxes above the 2% cap. Medford taxpayers were told if they did not approve the proposed 25% increase in municipal taxes the township would eliminate trash pickup and they will need to hire a private contractor to perform those services. Cncl. DiLucia noted this comes from the municipalities getting less money from every direction while still being required to produce services such as trash collection, maintenance of roads, police, fire and ambulance services that residents expect. Now the governor is saying he is lowering our taxes and people believe that but taxes will go up because townships are getting less and less money to operate. Cncl. DiLucia urged residents to open their eyes to see where the money is coming from and the best way to disburse it. He noted if money is available we need to be sure it is not coming out of things we pay for directly or indirectly and that the State passes it through as a real estate tax reduction not as an income tax reduction, as that would not help working people in this town; it would hurt them.

Cncl. **Marvin Dilks** reported the Monroe Township Senior Commission is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound Theatre on July 19th to see "Jonah". The price is \$80.00 per person and includes lunch at Hershey Farms Restaurant and the show. For more information residents should contact Jeanette Remsen. Cncl. Dilks reported a new business Town Vision located at 38 Washington Avenue will hold an open House on May 12th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The open house will include food, music, face painting and balloons. Cncl. Dilks noted the township looks forward to new businesses and he urged residents to come out and support this one.

Cncl. **Walter Bryson** encouraged residents to step up the recycling program in support of the Environmental Commission and the Public Works Department, as it saves tax dollars by reducing landfill costs.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli reported the Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, March 31st turned out to be successful even though the weather was not perfect and that he delivered a proclamation on behalf of Council to Frank Semola in recognition of his 107th birthday. The Mayor extended his appreciation to the over 300 kids/adults, the Road Department, the program coordinators and police officers who participated in the Clean Communities event held on Saturday, April 21st. He also reported the township has received \$184,000.00 in grants to repave Winslow Road from the area of the Preserves up to and no further than Buckhorn. The area between Buckhorn and Kimberly West will not be repaved at this time because new developments have been approved for that area and we don't want to improve the roadway and then have it torn up during construction of those homes. If any money is left over from the project it will be utilized to make repairs to the Kimberly West area. The engineers are working on the plans and when completed the project will go out to bid. The Mayor reported the Joan Miller Chapter of the Sunshine Foundation will hold a Cinco de Mayo Dance on Friday, May 4th at the Knights of Columbus. The Mayor noted his wife is very active in this organization and he was surprised during this economy at the items that have been donated to be raffled off during the Chinese Auction. The Mayor reported Holly Glen School will be receiving a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Rowan University for their participation in the Mayor's Book Club Program, which required the children to read 1,000 books in a one

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E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

month period. The money will be utilized to purchase more books for the school library. The Mayor spoke of participating in this program by reading the book "Mr. George Baker" to first grade classes in each of the elementary schools. He congratulated the students of Holly Glen School and noted he would be in attendance when they receive their check.

Director of Finance, Jeff Coles reported a refunding of the outstanding 2003 Series Bond was approved. He explained those bonds did not achieve the 3% savings required by the Division of Local Government Services until two weeks ago when we were able to achieve a 4.2% savings when they were sold at market. The savings on the sale of those bonds will be a little over \$245,000.00 over the next six years. Mr. Coles noted it was a really good sale and we actually had multiple offers, which was very good. The Mayor added we received an AA+ rating and our Standard and Poor's review was positive, which is a compliment to the Council and Administration who worked hard to maintain that rating in these economic times. Mr. Coles noted maintaining the AA rating was a key factor in the sale of those bonds.

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday, April 12th where resolutions from the prior meeting were memorialized. He also congratulated the Williamstown Middle School Environmental Club for winning the Environmental Community Service Award in the amount of \$5,000.00 sponsored by WAWA, NBC-10 and the Environmental Law Firm of Manko, Glod, Katcher and Fox, LLC. The Environmental Club at the Middle School includes 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who devote themselves into learning about the environment through a hands on approach. The project the students won the award for is a vegetable garden of corn, beans and pumpkins that will be grown on school grounds and the harvest will be donated to senior citizens in our community. The garden has been dedicated in memory of Cassandra Dilks for her untiring volunteer efforts to the community. Mrs. Dilks served as Monroe Township Director of Community Affairs and developed and managed the food bank to provide for the less fortunate in the township. Mrs. Dilks was also the wife of Cncl. Marvin Dilks. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri expressed special accolades to Janet Mead, 7th grade science teacher and leader of the Williamstown Middle School Environmental Club, Sandy Kean a volunteer and master gardener and member of the Monroe Township Environmental Commission, Principal Dana Mericle, teachers Marci Pizzo, Ashley Nottis, Paul VanHouten, Juliana Dimter, Peter Denton, Mark Blair, Jamey Coradetti, Michael Kelsey and librarians Jennifer Bochman and Maureen Cuello for their direction and supervision. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted he wanted to recognize the students for winning this award as students in our school district never fail to make everyone proud.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Patricia Covington, a resident of Glen Eyre approached Council regarding the vandalism of rocks being hurled through windows in the development. She noted she had reported to the Police Department that another neighbor has pictures of a person hitting stones into windows with a baseball bat and she was not sure of the outcome of that. Mrs. Covington noted no incidences have occurred since the last time she came before Council a month ago and she felt that was because Councilmen have driven through the development and the Police Department have stepped up patrols and have been speaking to neighbors to get the message out that this is not funny. At this point, she and her neighbors are happy and feel more comfortable in their homes and are hoping the vandalism will not pickup during the warmer months. She noted she finally fixed the broken windows and is thankful the residents were taken seriously when they came before Council. Mrs. Covington extended appreciation on behalf of the Glen Eyre residents to the Mayor and Council for listening and becoming involved in this situation.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

Ed Knorr, 1053 N. Tuckahoe Road, approached Council to express his concerns that members of Council make negative comments to residents when they bring issues before them. He spoke of it happening a few months ago when Chris Cugini came before Council regarding a newspaper article and how it happened to him over the years when he brought up important issues dealing with water and the traffic light at Nationwide. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted in the newspaper article that Mr. Cugini spoke of a police officer had reported smelling cigarette smoke in the Police Department and the resident made the assumption and accusation that a certain employee was causing that smoke. Cncl. Pres. Caligiuri noted the nature of his response to Mr. Cugini was to inform him that the officer was mistaken, as there are two different HVAC systems in the building and it was impossible for those systems to interact with one another. Mr. Knorr noted over the years people have made jokes about him when he brought issues to Council and Cncl. Caligiuri should know that because he wrote nasty letters about him to the Inquirer, the Plain Dealer and the Gloucester County Times. Mr. Knorr noted Cncl. Bryson has urged residents to attend council meetings and he questioned why Council would expect anyone to come out or even join commissions when everything becomes a joke. He noted when he joined the Environmental Commission he tried to help this township but for three years until he was booted off there were nothing but hassles. Mr. Knorr went on to speak of events in Trenton that affect the township, how he predicted the recession in 2007, how residents have very little representation from legislators and how people are getting fed up that nothing is getting done. Mr. Knorr also posed questions regarding how businesses such as Wal-Mart are rated in the township according to tax relief. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri explained the overall assessment of properties share the total tax bill so if the overall real estate value is ten billion dollars and we have a thirty million dollar budget that budget would be divided equally among the assessed value. The property Wal-Mart is located on had value as an undeveloped piece of property and now as it is developed it will be reassessed to what its retail value would potentially be so when the tax burden is divided, it will be divided up against the entire evaluation of all the real estate in the township. The value of that particular parcel increased dramatically and the new revenue stream will offset real estate taxes. The budget will not increase as it is capped at 2% but there is a new revenue stream pumping in potentially \$475,000.00 in newly found tax revenue. Mr. Knorr questioned if there would be a tax reduction in the township. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri explained the new revenue will offset the overall tax burden, which covers the cost of operating expenses for the township, school district and the other entities depending upon real estate taxes. Property taxes are divided up with 25% going to operate the township for police, EMS services, trash collection and administrative services, 50% goes to fund the school district and the remaining 25% goes to Gloucester County. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri gave the example that if the overall increase was \$475,000.00 from one year to the next and we developed a new revenue stream equal to that, the tax increase would then be zero. Mr. Knorr questioned if we get too many rateables like Cherry Hill would it go the other way so that taxes would still be sky high. Cncl. Pres. Caligiuri explained there is a balance threshold that some experts believe to be approximately 18% tax revenue from rateables and at that point the net increase would follow the CPI from one year to the next so that would supposedly stabilize the taxes. He noted the last time he looked a couple of years ago we were around 11% rateables, which is far below that threshold. He noted the overall increase that happens from one year to the next deals with salaries mandated either through unions or Civil Service and all the other increases we have no control over such as the price of gas and health insurance. Cuts to personnel and services or if we are able to take advantage of shared services are what could potentially reduce the property tax burden for the taxpayers. Cncl. Daniel Teefy responded to Mr. Knorr's comments. He noted Council has been listening to him (Mr. Knorr) for years and usually he does a pretty good job but tonight he attacked Council with his comments and now he's saying he's afraid of too many rateables in a town that has been starved for rateables for many years. Cncl. Teefy noted it's good that Wal-Mart and Williamstown Square are coming here because before this we couldn't even shop for a man's shirt in Williamstown. He noted taxes hardly ever get lowered, but they do go up from the State, county, schools and municipality raising them and a big box store like Wal-Mart helps to stabilize taxes so there are no large spikes. The State has placed a 2% cap on municipalities so the Wal-Mart and other stores will help to stabilize taxes in order to provide more services such as additional police officers. Mr. Knorr noted certain rateables are good but we must take a long term look at them and he questioned whether Wal-Mart coming here will close other stores. Cncl. Teefy noted we have no other stores except Shop Rite. Cncl. William Sebastian

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

referred to Mr. Knorr's concerns about the traffic light at Nationwide and noted Wal-Mart paid to have the traffic light at Malaga Road and Corkery Lane installed and a traffic control light at their entrance on Malaga Road. The new Williamstown Square is involved in the widening of the Black Horse Pike and the installation of a traffic signal at Charm Road, which currently is a paper street, as another way of controlling the traffic flow along the pike. He explained when the Planning Board reviews plans for rateables they look at the whole township and how we can get the rateable organization to help the municipality in either roadwork, traffic light situations or by donating to Parks and Rec. Cncl. Sebastian noted Wal-Mart never asked for tax relief, which they could have but they are paying the full freight. He noted he has never heard of a Wal-Mart closing but has seen additional ones go up in a nearby community when a store has a large volume of customers to satisfy the flow such as Deptford Township, which has three stores and plans for a fourth to be constructed on Rt. 41. Cncl. Sebastian noted over the last few years we have had an increase in rooftops, which is why businesses are starting to come here but according to demographic studies that have been done the township does not have enough rooftops to support a large number of rateables. He explained it will get to a point where no more rateables will come in because we don't have the rooftops and we'll be out trying to increase population in order to get more rateables. Mr. Knorr noted Cncl. Teefy took offense to his comments about Council and he wanted to let them know that he was not speaking about this Council; he was speaking about the ones in years past. Mr. Knorr went on to express his concerns about the way Governor Christie talks to people and the freedom of speech being different in this State for private citizens. He also spoke of a new State law regarding well contamination that recently affected a nursery owner on the Black Horse Pike and could affect many other small businesses. The DEP said the nursery owner had to get a new environmental assessment of his well to see if he had contaminated it himself and that could cost him approximately \$10,000.00. Mr. Knorr noted the DEP should know the history of private wells in Monroe Township or anywhere in the State and he expressed concern that no one will report contaminated wells anymore because they will not be able to afford \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to have someone perform various types of testing and sampling. Mr. Knorr sent a letter to the governor requesting the law be changed because that is not the way it was supposed to be implemented and now the State is treating victims of contaminated wells as criminals and that is wrong. To date the governor has not responded to his letter. Mr. Knorr prepared a report for the nursery owner and the issue was resolved after the State reviewed all the information included in the report. A new well must be drilled but he does not need to get an environmental assessment. Mr. Knorr went on to speak of the State being ten billion dollars in the hole when the governor took over, of the State's high taxes, of the 2% cap placed on municipalities, of how 50,000 State employees were laid off and of statistics for unemployment being lower than what they actually are because people who stopped looking for work are not included in those numbers. Mr. Knorr questioned how many red light cameras the township had. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** advised there are four cameras located at the intersection of the Black Horse Pike and Sicklerville Road and that if Council decides to allocate the money additional ones could be installed at another intersection. Mr. Knorr questioned if the township gets all the proceeds from the cameras since they are located on a state highway and whether tickets are issued when the light turns red or yellow. Mr. Heydel explained the proceeds are distributed between the township, state, county and the vendor. Tickets are issued when a vehicle goes through the red light. If it stops but triggers the sensor a picture will be taken but upon review will be thrown out. The vendor evaluates the pictures, throws out ones that are not true violations and then they send them to the Police Department where they are reviewed a second time and a determination is made on whether that vehicle actually went through the light. Mr. Knorr passed around samples of mold and spoke of mold he found growing in the heating vents in 100 of the 113 dormitory units at Rowan University. The university basically told him to keep quiet and let it go but he couldn't do that because over 500 kids were being exposed to mold. Rowan has now banned him from their campus. Mr. Knorr noted there is no law in place to protect students from environmental hazards so he contacted Senator Sweeney requesting legislation be written. The mold was found November 1st and Rowan just began the cleanup last week so all that time students were being exposed and the concern is what will happen because of that exposure. Mr. Knorr will be posting information and video's about this on his website within the next couple of weeks unless he is advised by his lawyer not to.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

With no one else wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia noted he didn't want the public to think that just because Wal-Mart was coming here that was enough to balance the budget for a zero increase. One of the things people do not think about and should be explained is the inordinate amount of tax appeals caused by the drop in real estate values. He made it clear that he was not saying people should not appeal their taxes but just that it results in a tremendous drop in revenue to the township. In addition to that, there are increases in wages, gas, electricity and insurance and all those things well exceed the governor's 2% cap. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted the governor should place a 2% cap on insurance increases or gasoline increases, as it is very difficult to balance a budget within the 2% cap when those costs cannot be controlled plus we have tax appeals that decreased revenue. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** noted tax appeals decreased taxable value by a net amount of \$20 million last year and the year before, which amounted to over \$200,000.00 in decreased revenue. **Cncl. DiLucia** explained that more than offsets what the township will get in revenue from Wal-Mart. He added he did not want residents to think the township spent the Wal-Mart revenue and then increased taxes. He noted consumers know how the cost of gas, electricity and insurance has gone up and to keep the budget under 2%, which this township did is a tremendous accomplishment.

Cncl. Walter Bryson noted when a Wal-Mart decides they want to build a store in a town they are the ones that actually attract other businesses to the town, they do not drive business away and we see that happening with Williamstown Square. He noted it is a real plus to have Wal-Mart here because they are also helping the township in different beneficial ways. **Cncl. Bryson** noted Cherry Hill has less population than Monroe but they have two types of rateables that we do not have. They have retail rateables as well as industrial rateables that have gone down in the past ten years, which could be what Mr. Knorr was talking about.

Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted he is familiar with the negative press about Wal-Mart so he contacted the Washington Township Police Chief to get an idea of how many police calls Wal-Mart generates and found overall the net impact was positive for the township. He noted Wal-Mart may not be the selection everyone wanted but the township cannot discriminate against a retailer from occupying a site when an area has been deemed suitable for retail development. We cannot pick and choose which retailer occupies a given area. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** also noted while he was listening to Mr. Knorr speak he recalled that he did have a little tiff with him about twelve years ago, but forgot about it because he thought he had apologized for it a long time ago. He noted he wanted to apologize to Mr. Knorr again in front of the town's 30,000 because he did not want to do anything to offend him.

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of April 24, 2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan McCormick, RMC
Municipal Clerk


Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri
Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of April 24, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings. The official tape may be heard in the Office of the Township Clerk upon proper notification pursuant to the Open Public Records Law.

Approved as submitted SW
Approved as corrected _____

Date 5/8/12
Date _____