

**MINUTES  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
APRIL 26, 2011**

**A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL**

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council President, Marvin G. Dilks, Jr.** at approximately 7:00 PM in the Conference Room on the first floor 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, Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice has been posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.

**SALUTE TO OUR FLAG** – **Solicitor, Charles Fiore** led the Assembly in the Salute to Our Flag.

**ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Marvin G. Dilks, Jr.	Present	
Mayor, Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Business Admin., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Eng., Dave Cella, ARH	Present	
Dir. of Finance, Jeff Coles	Present	
Dir. of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. of Community Affairs, Sandy Dilks		Excused
Twp Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks** referred to Resolution R:76-2011 (*Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of An Agreement Addendum With The State Of New Jersey Department Of Transportation Pertaining To The Installation And Maintenance Of The Redlight Photo Enforcement System (Rt. 42/322 And Sicklerville Road)*) which was Tabled at the April 12, 2011 Regular Council Meeting. **Solicitor, Charles Fiore** noted that a question had been posed on the language that was contained within the agreement where some liability would be imposed upon the township. **Mr. Fiore** gave some background as to a contract entered into between the Township of Monroe and American Traffic Solutions (ATS) in 2010, referring to Section 11 Indemnification and Insurance. *ATS shall comply with all laws, ordinances and regulations governing the use of photo enforcement systems applicable to this Agreement and shall comply with the maintenance procedures and*

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**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)**

*manufacture recommendations for operation of the Axisis equipment which affect this Agreement, and shall indemnify and save harmless the Customer against claims arising from the violations of the maintenance procedures and manufacturer recommendations for operation of the equipment as a result of the negligence of willful misconduct of ATS, its officers and directors, agents, attorneys, and employees, but excluding any employees or agenda of Customer.* He explained this verbiage is very specific that they will, in fact, indemnify and hold the township harmless in the event there is any occurrence, stating again we are indemnified through the company.

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** referred to a correspondence dated April 14, 2011 received from the Federal Communications Commission regarding compliance with the January 1, 2013 Narrowbanding Deadline. He questioned if this was relative to the police radios. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** noted the township is working to replace the radios in the police vehicles. **Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart** advised that any of the newer radios are already compatible; they would only require being quickly re-programmed. This basically only refers to radios eight (8) years old and up and most of the pagers are being slowly phased out for the alerting system.

**Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks** questioned the Mayor if he had been contacted by the Board of Education with regard to them looking into a new administration building. The Mayor advised there is a search committee being put into place and he will be serving on this committee. The Mayor expressed his concern with a \$700,000.00 dollar amount being placed in the school budget for such an acquisition. He advised there was some discussion on the possible purchase of a facility on Saybrook Avenue, which has been vacant for some ten (10) years (*remodeled but never occupied*). The Mayor did acknowledge that he spoke on the possibility of them taking over the old library facility. **Cncl. Pres., Dilks** noted that a committee from council could be put together to assist with the search so that council would be involved in the process. The Mayor went into some of the problems with the current facility (*Maple Grove*) one being; that it is not handicapped accessible. Another possibility was to put offices in the new library facility. **Solicitor Fiore** then noted they possibly may be facing what we are looking at with the county wide tax assessment and the possibility of regionalization of school boards. Down the road there may not be an administration in Monroe Township. This is not unlike what we may be facing with the ambulance building where the county agrees to take you in but you must assume all the debt service. The Mayor went on to explain that he probably would have went with the county two (2) years ago, the problem is we have still have ambulances that are viable and until they have to come off the road why should I give the county new ambulances. In addition, they are not going to pay anything for the ambulance building and right now, we are running our own service and paying our debt service. A brief discussion took place on the merits of building the facility to begin with and the affects down the road of county consolidation. **Cncl. Walt Bryson** noted that he felt a township the size of Monroe should have an option to choose to use our own services, instead of being dictated to with paying a portion to the county (*this should be a state law*).

**Solicitor, Charles Fiore** spoke on an article that appeared in a local newspaper dealing with the county budget/surplus. It seems they were saving money in the surplus

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**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)**

because of the tax appeals in West Deptford and another town and what they anticipate with tax appeals that have been going on for a number years. He felt, from a municipal standpoint, we should be concerned because we as tax payers will be paying 10.9% on a re-imbursement for a tax appeal that has been pending for five or six years, prior to us becoming part of the county wide program. Mr. Fiore added that a question on this was posed to Ed Burek and the response was that we would only be involved in the legal part of it prospectively but not for any re-imbursement for tax appeals that are retroactive.

**Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** posed a question to the solicitor as to why in the world would we not simply re-assess across the board a reduction of 15%. He realized that this would have zero impact on the tax base because it is unilateral but it will put an instantaneous stop on any tax appeals. The solicitor responded that, right now the statute would not allow this, as it would take state legislation to implement such a plan. **Cncl. Caligiuri** then noted that it prevents the inequality that occurs when a business in town takes the initiative to have their taxes reduced and puts that burden on the residents. This would eliminate all that instantaneously because all of a sudden everyone has an adjusted revaluation.

**Solicitor Fiore** stressed his concern from a legal standpoint that the township will be involved in reimbursing. Discussion continued on the newspaper article along with the affect shared services would have on the township.

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** spoke on Resolution R:88-2011 scheduled for approval on the regular council meeting agenda *A Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey In Support Of The New Jersey League Of Municipalities Resolution No. 2010-22 Calling Upon The State To End Diversion Of Municipal Revenues And Demanding Compliance With State Law*. He also spoke on the Supreme Court hearing arguments on Abbotts/Burke relative to adding \$1.6 billion dollars to their state aide for education. He questioned where this money would come if the Supreme Court agrees to this.

**C.) PUBLIC PORTION**

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**John Pratt, Aquarius Cab** posed questions with regard to the newly implemented taxi cab application process. He posed questions on the zoning documentation and just exactly what this entailed. The solicitor advised him on the proper procedure. Mr. Pratt spoke of his concern with trying to register additional cabs if and when one of his vehicles was to break down. The solicitor advised as the current ordinance exists there is no provision to allow an exception to register a new vehicle or add on/substitute a vehicle on the road (*emergency provision*). Mr. Pratt then posed a question on the insurance

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C.) PUBLIC PORTION

requirements with the solicitor explaining the limits contained within the new ordinance and are currently in place.

With no one else wishing to address council members **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) NEW BUSINESS

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** referred to the recent list generated by the Clerk's Office in conjunction with the Citizen Leadership Forms submitted as a result of the Call to Service seminar that took place on April 6th. He urged council members to review the information to see if we can get some of the vacancies on various boards filled.

E.) OLD BUSINESS

**Cncl. William Sebastian** posed a question with regard to the newly implemented bulk pick up schedule and if we have realized any savings. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** advised there was estimate of approximately \$15,000.00 that could possibly be realized.

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Cncl. William Sebastian** questioned the status of the Peddling & Soliciting ordinance. The solicitor indicated that he would have this ready for review at the next ordinance meeting.

G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - 4/26/11

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** questioned Resolution R:96-2011 *Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Participation In The South Jersey Power Co-Operative Program* and how much of a savings the township could anticipate. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** advised we have 32 accounts that are eligible with South Jersey Cooperative and to date 23 of those accounts have been confirmed. Over a six- month period, we are looking to save approximately \$40,000.00 right before the summer rates kick in. There was a brief discussion on other cost saving measures that could possibly be implemented with respect to energy conservation and utility costs for example, solar panels mounted on utility poles.

**Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** questioned the Business Administrator regarding the state approval on the budget. Mr. Heydel responded the budget was Introduced and it is scheduled

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**G.) QUESTIONS(cont'd)**

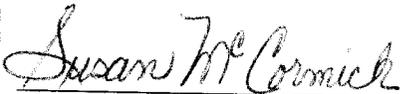
on the agenda for adoption at the regular council meeting. Auditor, Nick Petroni will be in attendance to give a brief explanation of the state's response.

**H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED – None**

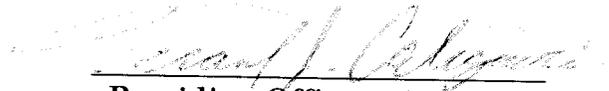
**I.) ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further for discussion, **Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of April 26, 2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and was unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Susan McCormick, RMC  
Municipal Clerk**



**Presiding Officer**

*These minutes were prepared from the tape-recorded proceedings and the hand written notes of the Council Work Session of April 26, 2011 and serves only as a synopsis of the proceedings. Portions of 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 Am Date 5/10/11  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_