

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 24, 2012**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council President, Frank J. Caligiuri** at approximately 7:05 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 – Cncl. **Richard DiLucia** led the Assembly in the Salute to Our Flag.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC 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 J. Caligiuri	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		Excused
Dir. of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

• **Defeated School Budget**

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri noted the voters, at the annual school election, held on April 17th defeated the school budget for the Monroe Township School District and as a result the entire budget comes to the council (*governing body*) for their review. The deadline for completion of the review with the municipal body's decision must be no later than **Monday, May 21, 2012**. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted that each council member had received both a copy of the budget and the required supporting documentation. He indicated historically, this process begins with the matter being sent to the School Budget

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 24, 2012

B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Review Committee for their review and recommendation. **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski, Committee Chairman** indicated he started his review, as have both **Cncl. William Sebastian** and **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** who serve on this committee. **Cncl. William Sebastian** noted in his initial review he found the tax levy is up 1.78% with the total expenditures being up 2.38% and the cost per student is up \$317.00 which is 2.23%, this is using his formula, not the schools formula. He noted we (*council members*) had discussed this in the past with using the total amount spent divided by the number of students that is the cost per student. He also indicated that he felt everything seems to be tight in the budget. The Mayor posed a question in regard to extra funding the schools had received. **Cncl. Sebastian** indicated yes, the schools did receive extra funding but that is the difference in the bump, between the 1.78% and the 2.23%. If you went by their formulas, they show an increase of \$644.00 per student. **Cncl. Richard DiLucia** questioned what the actual cost per student was. **Cncl. Sebastian** noted for 2012 the figure was \$14,953.00 per student. The information received from the schools indicated that in 2011 the figure was \$14,636.00. In using their formula this shows a difference of \$644.00. There was some discussion in contacting the Board of Education on this and it was decided that the committee from council would meet Monday, April 30th at 7:30PM to review the documentation and that **Cncl. Garbowski, Chairman of the Committee** would reach out to the board. The committee will get back to council with their recommendations so that a draft resolution may be able to be tentatively scheduled for the Tuesday, May 8th regular council meeting.

• **Land Sale & Valuation Request – Block 9206, Lot 9**

Solicitor, Charles Fiore referred to a response dated April 6th received from Director of Real Estate, Charlie Abel in regard to a matter involving a Friendly Village property and another that was transferred from an estate. At the last meeting there was a question as to the value of that property and whether it should be sold at a land sale. Mr. Fiore advised a letter was sent to Mr. Abel as to whether or not a land sale would be appropriate at this point in time. Mr. Fiore then went on to discuss the content of Mr. Abel's letter referring to the part where it stated based upon economic conditions it may not be a good idea to hold a land sale at this time. Mr. Fiore then explained what council needs to realize is we are still being assessed county taxes on those properties so even though we are not collecting municipal taxes we are still required to pay our fair share to the county for those properties. Mr. Fiore noted if this was to be sold at a land sale you would have to establish a minimum value and it goes to public bid. A question was posed on if there was a clear value established. Mr. Fiore noted Mr. Abel did not give a value because, in fact, he has a personal conflict as he owns the property next to this. He added you can negotiate with a contiguous property owner. Mr. Fiore noted this property is located near the mobile home park and there was an offer of twenty-five and he came back at thirty-five as the value. There was brief discussion dealing with other properties to be included on a land sale and Council felt all properties should be sold at the same time. Council authorized Mr. Fiore to contact Mr. Able to request values be placed on all properties he was recommending to be sold during the land sale.

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 24, 2012

C.) PUBLIC PORTION

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

D.) NEW BUSINESS - None

E.) OLD BUSINESS - None

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTION SCHEDULED - 4/24/12

Cncl. Walter Bryson referred to R:101-2012 (*Police Contract*) and noted he just received it and had questions about the changes that were made, what the increase is and how it will affect negotiations for the other contracts. He indicated he would like to have a little more time to get more information about it. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** explained he needs to get this approved because the police are going from 10 hour shifts to 12 hour shifts effective Monday, May 6th. **Mayor Gabbianelli** explained with the 12 hour shifts there will be more men on the street and less shifts, which alleviates the need to hire more than the three officers that are in the process of being hired to replace retiring officers. The position of corporal is being done away with, more steps have been added and the starting salary was lowered. Cncl. Bryson questioned what the overall salary increase will be. Mr. Heydel explained the way the contract is structured a step increase will be effective July 1st 2012, July 1st 2013 and September 2014. This year it amounts to 1.1%, next year 2.5% and the third year 1.6%, which averages within the 2% cap. The longevity increases are also included in those numbers. Cncl. Bryson questioned how much this will impact the township dollar wise next year. Mr. Heydel explained police officers are not being added to the department, the new ones are just replacing retiring officers. Money will be saved as the new officers salaries will be much lower than those of the retiring ones. **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** questioned whether this contract requires retirees to now be on Medicare instead of the township insurance and be paid for the cost of part B. Mr. Heydel explained he wants all contracts to clarify that upon reaching the age of 65 people are required to file for Medicare B because in the past we ran into situations where people did file for that and it didn't matter when we were self insured but now it does under the new plan. The township does not have an ordinance or policy that states upon reaching the age of 65 an employee/retiree is required to file for Medicare Part B but we do have a 1982 resolution that says the township will reimburse for Medicare Part B premiums. The HIF premium payment was the same for active employees as well as retirees over 65 because the money was pooled and it all came from the same pot. Now, we are with Blue Cross, a commercial company and they require people to go on Medicare at age 65 and the

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 24, 2012

G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTION SCHEDULED – 4/24/12

premiums for those people have been reduced. Mr. Heydel noted we have former employees who have Medicare Part A but not Part B and those people are now getting bills so a mass mailing was sent to them advising that they are required to file for Part B and we will reimburse them for the premium they pay. Mr. Heydel explained township insurance will then be their secondary insurance and Medicare will be their primary. Cncl. DiLucia questioned if the overall cost of this contract, excluding health benefits was less than 2%. Mr. Heydel advised that it was. **Cncl. William Sebastian** noted when dealing with Social Security if a person has insurance they are only required to take Medicare Part A. If the insurance runs out a person has 85 days in which to file for Part B no matter what your age is. Cncl. Sebastian noted there could be an issue with Medicare being the primary because if the township has over 200 employees between active and retired people Medicare should be the secondary insurance. He suggested that issue be looked into just to be on the safe side. Cncl. DiLucia explained if a person over 65 comes to work here they will be covered by our insurance as well as Medicare and our insurance will be primary because they are an active employee covered by an employer. When a person retires they are covered under a retirement insurance plan and once they are no longer an active employee Medicare is primary. Cncl. DiLucia noted our insurance costs should be less than first anticipated because the proposed cost was based upon everyone covered under the HIF. Mr. Heydel explained it was not less because the insurance agent had our census when he gave the proposal based on the gross premium rather than per participant. The agreement includes a clause that states the number of participants cannot drop below a certain percentage or the township will be penalized. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri asked if council wanted to keep Resolution R:101-2012 on the Regular Meeting agenda or remove it. It was the consensus of Council to keep the resolution on the agenda.

Cncl. William Sebastian questioned whether Resolution R:104-2012 was similar to the resolutions extending disability benefits that had been approved in the past. Mr. Heydel advised that it was.

Solicitor Fiore requested Resolution R:106-2012 authorizing a Closed Session to discuss the Blaze Mill litigation be removed from the Regular Council Meeting agenda, as the agreement was not sent to him until yesterday and council has not had time to review it. He advised removing this from the agenda and holding it until May 8th will not affect the court proceeding.

H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED – 4/24/12 - None

Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted he is unable to attend the open house for Meadowview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Care on Thursday, April 26th and he questioned whether Vice-Pres., Teefy would be able to attend, as that is the normal protocol. Cncl. Teefy advised that he would not be able to attend. Cncl. Sebastian and Cncl. DiLucia advised that they would be in attendance representing Council.

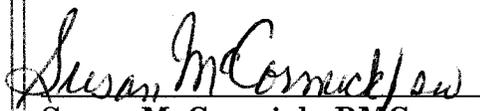
MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 24, 2012

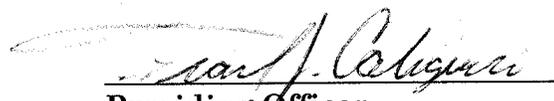
Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted also on Thursday evening the Economic Development Commission is sponsoring a seminar for business owners at 6:30 PM and they would like an elected official to open the proceedings at that time and due to a Planning Board meeting he is unable to attend. Cncl. Garbowski or Cncl. Sebastian indicated one of them would be available to do that.

I.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for discussion, Cncl. Richard DiLucia made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of April 24, 2012. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson 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 24, 2012 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 AW Date 5/8/12
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____