

**MINUTES
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cody Miller at 7:06pm in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Cody Miller led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

SWEARING IN

Before the meeting, Chairperson Cody Miller administered the oath of office to Jared Valdez with an unexpired term of December 31, 2014 and Rebecca VanDexter with a three-year term expiration of December 31, 2015.

ROLL CALL

Present: Patricia Adams, Mary Brown, Cody Miller, Colleen Reitz, Jeanette Remsen, Jared Valdez, Rebecca VanDexter, Cncl. Walter Bryson

Excused: Ptl. Ryan Borkowski

Unexcused: Kelly Fleming

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeanette Remsen made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of June 4, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and approved by all remaining members of the Commission in attendance, with an Abstain from Patricia Adams, who was not in attendance of the June meeting, and Jared Valdez and Rebecca VanDexter, who were not members.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Cody Miller spoke in reference to the low turnout of National Night Out and asked members if they had any ideas or suggestions for a better turnout in 2013. Due to the start of the football season with a local football team, a lot of the community was in attendance at another location during the same time as National Night Out. Mary Brown suggested maybe mentioning to the team and parents of players to ask if they can attend before the start of their practice/game. Jeanette Remsen suggested changing the date, not the first Thursday of August. Mary suggested waiting on the response of the football team to see if they can help back the event and also maybe the team won't be practicing/having a game the same time in 2013. Patricia Adams said that football season starts August 1st; she suggests asking them to forgo that night, so that the children/community can attend National Night Out. Colleen Reitz would like to contact Gloucester County Times newspaper to have them advertise the event and also to ask Gloucester County if it could be advertised in their summer edition of their newsletter. Cody mentioned the purchase of a banner to hang over Main Street to

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (*cont'd*)

advertise the event. The price of a banner that is 18'x3' with full color digital print, double sided with grommets and wind vents with a removal date is \$495.00. Cody also mentioned purchasing small yard signs, similar to what Parks & Recreation Commission uses for their events. Chairperson Cody Miller asked for a motion to purchase a banner for 2013 National Night Out from 2012 available funds. Mary Brown made a motion and seconded by Patricia Adams; all in favor. Jeanette said that they have approval from Mary Beth Monroe to purchase a banner. Jared asked how many people attended National Night Out; Jeanette said around 200 people attended and that there were probably about 400 people at Owens Field for football. Colleen suggested encouraging residents who cannot attend the event at Pfeiffer Community Center to sit out on their front step to show their support of National Night Out, sending the message out that their watching their neighborhood. Aileen suggested asking the vendors/guests to arrive by a certain time before the event to setup, so that they are not arriving at the start time, the same time as the residents who are arriving for the event. For the next year, the Commission will suggest that the vendors/guests setup their products/tables by 5:30pm, before the start time of 6:00pm. Also, outdoor lighting needs to be available, as it wasn't this year. Cody noted that Baby Paws Farms will no longer be contacted for the pony rides, due to problems with them not properly responding back; they did not arrive for the event this year.

Cody reported that he attended the Gloucester County Regional Coalition. The seminar spoke in reference to under-age drinking, prescription abuse, illegal drugs; the statistics provided were from cases in Gloucester County. Monroe Township has a fine fee that is charged against those who provide alcohol to under-age persons; Cody will find out about that fine. The Commission needs to obtain more educational pamphlets. Colleen agreed more information for both parents and children need to be more accessible.

Jeanette mentioned that the Alliance Summit in New Brunswick is having their summit on September 12th. They are picking one person from each county in the state as Volunteer of the Year for 2012. For Gloucester County, Monroe Township was chosen, with Jeanette Remsen as 2012 Volunteer of the Year. Jeanette will not be able to attend, but Mary Beth Monroe said that Camden County will pick up the award for Gloucester County. Cody made recognition of all of Jeanette's efforts with the Alliance.

Jeanette provided the Treasurer's Report:

D.A.R.E. is allotted \$7,200.00. Jeanette does not know the budget activity; the Police Department and Kevin Heydel, BA handle this account and process its purchase orders and Jeanette is not notified of processed purchase orders. Jared Valdez asked who provides D.A.R.E. with the monies; Cody and Jeanette explained that the County grants the money and the Township provides a cash match. The County provides \$4,800.00 and the Township matches \$2,400.00. Project Graduation is complete. Senior Awareness has \$1,875.00 in its account. National Night Out monies from County is used, but \$587.00 of the \$800.00 cash match is still available. The purchase of the banner can be used from these monies. Community Gathering has \$2,100.00 in its account. Purchase orders for school assemblies have been processed for \$2,480.00 for 3-Screens Productions for Anti-Bullying and there are still monies available. Jeanette asked that Mary let her know when all the assemblies are finished for the schools. \$800 is available for Haunted High School; Jeanette still has not heard from the person who runs the event, but Jeanette will contact her again. Red Ribbon Week has \$1,600.00 in its account. There is \$200.00 available from the Township for Promotional Items.

Jeanette spoke in reference to the Senior Luncheon. She said that money was not given to the Seniors Commission for the event and if one is held, it would have to be with the Alliance's Senior Awareness monies.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Jeanette said there will be no community gatherings; the Police Department and Ambulance are not having their Open House. She said that she asked Kevin Heydel if monies from Community Gatherings account could be used for the Senior Luncheon; he said to ask Mary Beth Monroe. In 2011, with the monies from Seniors Commission and from Municipal Alliance Commission, \$2,800.00 was spent on the event; \$1,875.00 is available for 2012. Jeanette suggested cutting out some things to bring down the cost this year, such as the food not being served by the caterers as was last year and also not having the wide variety of food as they had last year. The Alliance members will help serve the food this year. A date for the event needs to be decided on. After some discussion, the members will ask the caterers if November 10th would be a date that would be feasible. Jeanette and Cody are going to ask the County if the trays that are used for the senior lunches at the Pfeiffer Community Center everyday can be used for the event, and also if they can use the steam table. Colleen brought up her concern of the seniors grabbing their drinks while holding their food tray and trying to get back to their table. Jeanette would like the coffees poured by the workers at the tables this year, instead of people walking around with hot cups of coffees. Pat asked how the seniors will be able to carry back their food trays if they have walking canes; Jeanette said that there were six ROTC students that helped carry trays last year.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Cody Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Colleen Reitz made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of September 10, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Monday, October 1, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of October 1, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____