

**MINUTES  
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cody Miller at 7:03pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Patricia Adams, Anne Bracarello, Mary Brown, Patricia Covington, Shawn Gassler, Cody Miller, Colleen Reitz, Jeanette Remsen, Jared Valdez, Rebecca VanDexter, Ptl. Ryan Borkowski, Cncl. Rich DiLucia

Excused: Kelly Fleming, Tory Fleming

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jeanette Remsen made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of January 14, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance; abstain by Rebecca VanDexter, who was not in attendance of the January meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Chairperson Cody Miller mentioned that an email was sent to D.A.R.E. Officer Ptl. Ryan Borkowski about actions the Commission will take in reference to the D.A.R.E. budget and purchase orders. Cody noted that the process several years ago before he became a member of the Alliance was that D.A.R.E. would give invoices to the Commission and the Commission would process the purchase orders. The Commission has now recently deemed it necessary for this process to continue this way again; D.A.R.E. to no longer process purchase orders and have access to the budget. Cody said that Ptl. Borkowski has not responded to the email. Jared Valdez spoke and mentioned that D.A.R.E. has been ruled ineffective; the Surgeon General of 2001 said that they're ineffective, in 2004 the National Institute of Health did a study saying that it's ineffective, the Federal Government won't fund them, in 2007 D.A.R.E. was listed as a program that could possibly do harm to children. During this time, Ptl. Borkowski arrived to the meeting at 7:10pm. He said that he had received the email. Cody asked that he send a D.A.R.E. report to the Commission at least every three months, since he is not able to make the meetings. Ptl. Borkowski asked that Cody explain how it's now to be handled, since he had never handled the part of purchase orders and that Marcella in the Police Department does this. Cody and Jeanette Remsen explained that what Jeanette will need as Treasurer, are invoices of what D.A.R.E. is ordering, which would include information on the vendor and how much the invoice is; these can be faxed or emailed to Jeanette. Once the invoice is received, a requisition will be done by Jeanette and Marcella can continue with making the order. In reference to the over withdrawal of \$666.00, Ptl. Borkowski said he was explained to that there was enough money in the Cash Match line item to make the purchases. Jeanette and Aileen explained to him that each line item for each program has a certain amount available for Cash Match; Cash Match is not

“extra monies” to spend however pleased, it’s all accounted for already for each program and that this one line item is just a “pot” for the total amount allocated for all the program budget line items. Jeanette explained that there was \$4,800.00 available for D.A.R.E. with \$2,400.00 available from Cash Match to use for D.A.R.E. Jeanette also said that besides this mistake made, there was also around \$2,000.00 used by the Police Department from the Alliance’s budget that should not have been made. Mary Brown said she had spoken with Ptl. Borkowski before the meeting and she said he said he would try to make as many meetings as he could and would also provide reports to the Commission; this conversation had taken place before the sending of the email. Mary had said purchase orders weren’t discussed, only about attending meetings and having the Commission being kept up-to-date about D.A.R.E.

Ptl. Borkowski gave the D.A.R.E. report:

The first D.A.R.E. graduation was on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. There were about 270 middle school students that graduated. Another 250 students will start the program at the end of February. About 60 students from St. Mary’s School will be graduating from the program on or around February 25<sup>th</sup>. Ptl. Borkowski mentioned that it used to be a 17-week program and is now a 10-week program; this is the last year this program will be taught in the schools. D.A.R.E. New Jersey will be changing the program, which all the instructors will have to go to a one-day training for the new program; the curriculum will be changing entirely, no longer with the national program. D.A.R.E. New Jersey was using the national program, but now will be using a drug-awareness/anti-violence program, that D.A.R.E. Florida uses. Mary and members noted that there have been comments and studies on negative results from D.A.R.E. America, so maybe now with the new changes in the program, more positive results will show. Jeanette told Ptl. Borkowski to tell Marcella that she can call her with any questions she may have on the process that is now to take place. Anne Bracarello suggested that Marcella can get a quote of what items are wanted for purchase, the company provides the quote, and the requisition can then be made; an itemized list of the purchase and the total cost would be provided on the quote. Marcella and D.A.R.E. should no longer have access to these accounts through the financial system to do a purchase order. Jeanette explained that once the requisition is approved, Jeanette will let Marcella know it’s OK to place the order; once the purchase order is returned with a signature and it’s confirmed that the order has been received by the township, it will be submitted to Finance for a check to be sent to the vendor for payment. Ptl. Borkowski left the meeting at 7:25pm. Jared’s discussion before Ptl. Borkowski’s attendance was clarified after Ptl. Borkowski’s discussion about the change D.A.R.E. New Jersey is making.

Cody spoke with Mary Beth Monroe and was advised that Reggie Dabbs is seeking to do presentations in the South Jersey area, looking to come to Monroe Township; the program is around \$3,600.00. Cody believes that the cost would include all of the Monroe public schools and St. Mary’s School. Mary asked how many assemblies would be provided to each school, with some schools having too many students to hold only one assembly, needing two assemblies. Jeanette said in the 2012 budget, \$5,800.00 was available in the budget, with \$500.00 in Cash Match for the A.T.O.D. program budget. Jeanette mentioned that Mary also used 3Screens Productions for assemblies. Mary said that she would like to investigate further on this program that Reggie Dabbs provides, what he can do for us, how much it would cost; she has been looking for some alternative programs to mix it up a bit. She said 3Screens do provide a different program every year and does work with scheduling, but would like to check out this new program. The Committee to work on the school assemblies and programs with Mary includes Kelly Fleming, Anne Bracarello and Colleen Reitz. Cody asked who will take on the responsibility of contacting Reggie Dabbs; Colleen said she will. The program would be for 7 schools – the amount of programs needed at each school would be 2 at 3 elementary schools, 1 at 1 elementary school, 4 at the middle school, 2 at the high school and 2 at St. Mary’s School. Cody said that if it becomes too costly, maybe for this year, the middle school and high school gets done and next year the elementary schools get done. Anne asked about the budget line for Anti-Gang Program/with A.T.O.D. Component Middle School.

Jeanette explained how it's been used in the past. Anne wondered if it's possible to use these monies to help pay for the Middle School assemblies for Reggie Dabbs. Some discussion was made in reference to speaking with Mary Beth Monroe and Jimmy Collins. Mary said the Committee will later discuss in reference to who is speaking with Jimmy Collins, contacting Reggie Dabbs, etc.

Jeanette gave the Treasurer's Report:

Jeanette said that there are no monies available yet from the township. Jeanette asked Mary if she still had a catalog she showed Jeanette that had wrapped candies that promoted messages of being drug-free. She suggests that maybe instead of going to Sam's Club to get candy for the Haunted High School, that these candies be ordered promoting the Alliance's message and mission of being drug-free. Jeanette asked if Monroe Township's National Night Out will still be August 1, 2013; she mentioned Pat Adams was to speak to Monroe Township Braves Coach Greg Wolfe about the midget football team not starting their practice until August 2, 2013 so that the children and their families can attend the event. Pat said she spoke with Coach Wolfe and explained that last year's attendance was low and those who were in attendance for the event, such as the SWAT team, Police K-9's, did not have the children in attendance that should have been there for this community event, because a lot of people were at the midget football practice. Pat said that Coach Wolfe said that according to league rules, the players must have a certain amount of practices before the children can suit up and be in a game and other rules (*not specified*). Pat asked him to start one day late, that this event is for the children and the community and that the event needs the children to help make it a successful event for the community. Pat started to discuss what Coach Wolfe said he would like in reference to the playing fields, but was interrupted due to the subject having to do with the Parks & Recreation, not with the Municipal Alliance Commission. Cncl. Rich DiLucia commented, saying that he coached football for 25 years and part of his coaching, was teaching the children an extension of life; keep them off the streets, keep them drug-free, tell them the ills of getting involved with the wrong crowd. Cncl. DiLucia suggests contacting the Council Liaison of the Parks and Recreation Commission, to explain the importance of this community event, because he will definitely support the fact that they should not take precedence over an affair that will educate the children that one night. Pat said that Coach Wolfe said he will speak with the league and see what they can work out. Cncl. DiLucia said that the tax payers pay for the football facilities and should be allowed to join a community event and not have to miss out. Jeanette confirmed that the day of August 1, 2013 will still be printed on the National Night Out Banner to be hung over Main Street. Cody said he will call Coach Greg Wolfe. Jeanette mentioned Kelly's idea of having something for the teenagers to do at National Night Out; pony rides and bounce rides are all for young children, so she suggested the rental of a photo booth. Kelly is supposed to find out about prices from companies for the photo booth rentals. Aileen had contacted someone and the price for 3 hours is \$795.00 and price for 2 hours is \$695.00; due to it being a township event and being held during the week, it may be possible that the price will be a little bit lower. Jeanette spoke in reference to the budget for National Night Out and mentioned that the Philly Pretzel Factory offered donating soft pretzels, but instead the Commission paid for them; Jeanette will ask if they can donate this year. Jeanette believes they will have enough money to have the photo booth this year. The Commission will await prices and information that Kelly may have, also. Jeanette asked who would like to Chair the National Night Out event. Pat suggested that Jeanette continue to Chair National Night Out, because she does a good job. Jeanette noted that the letters that will be going to the vendors, who will be participating in the event, will ask them to arrive by 5:30pm to setup and to make sure they are ready by the time the event starts at 6:00pm. The members are to bring suggestions for kid-friendly contests for National Night Out to the next meeting. Jeanette asked if the Commission is having the Pony Rides. She said that last year was the first year the Commission was going to pay for the pony rides, because a resident used to always pay out of their own pocket. Though, Baby Paws Farm did not show up for pony rides for National Night Out last year. Cody suggested not having the pony rides

this year and finding something else to do with the couple of hundred dollars that would have normally gone to that. Anne asked if there was going to be anyone there for face painting, like in the past. Mary suggested everyone bring suggestions to the next meeting. Jeanette said that with the advertising of the banner on Main Street, more people may be attending this year, so more food will be needed, which means spending more money on that. Jeanette asked Anne if she would help her chair National Night Out with her; Anne will help with chairing the event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Cody Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Mary Brown made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of February 4, 2013. The motion was seconded by Colleen Reitz; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Monday, March 4, 2013 at 7:00pm.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of February 4, 2013 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

Approved as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_