

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 22, 2013**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council President, Daniel P. Teefy** 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.: South Jersey 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. William Sebastian** led the Assembly in the Salute to Our Flag.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy	Present	
Mayor, Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Business Admin., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella	Present	
Dir. of Finance, Jeff Coles		Excused
Dir. of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	(Arrived 7:15PM)
Dir. of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None Scheduled

C.) PUBLIC PORTION

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

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D.) NEW BUSINESS

Cncl. William Sebastian referred to an article in today's newspaper where Assemblyman John Burzichelli is putting forward legislation dealing with amendments to the state's liquor laws regarding liquor licenses. One item is to have liquor licenses available through Smart Growth which would also include redevelopment zones. Woolwich Township has already put forward a resolution in support of this and he recommended that this Council move forward in doing the same. **Cncl. Sebastian** noted the Assembly Bill referred to was No. A3991. It was the consensus of council members to move forward in support of this Bill. The solicitor will review and prepare a Resolution to be scheduled on the Regular Meeting agenda for May 13th.

E.) OLD BUSINESS

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri spoke on a matter he brought up at a prior meeting and was not inclined to bring it up in the other room (*regular meeting*) as he would rather keep the discussion in work session because he did not intend to grandstand. As you are aware, we have been talking with the fire companies on the possibility of billing for fire calls, as the budget appears to be pretty tight and it has been a challenge to keep the budget tight. He gave the Mayor a lot of credit for holding the line on taxes to the extent that he can and managing our budget with fiscal responsibility. **Cncl. Caligiuri** continued noting we are one of the few townships that still provide health insurance benefits for elected officials who are part-timers. Washington Township, who has a budget that is significantly larger than ours does not provide health insurance benefits for their elected officials. In this township, we spend over \$100,000.00 per year to provide health insurance benefits for us. This is something that comes out of my pocket too. I know that Mr. DiLucia has been vocal about the governor's spending, that every time he uses an extra piece of toilet paper he is on his back, and so he should be, it is a good idea to be critical of people who are wasting money. At the same time, we shouldn't be wasting money. So, I am going to bring it up back here again because I don't wish to bring it up out there because it is not my intention to grandstand but I will as Jerry White will tell you I will do it, but I don't want to have to do it. I really think the time has come for us to stop health insurance benefits for elected officials.

Cncl. Walter Bryson wanted to emphasize that elected officials are not part-time employees. When the law was enacted all who collect insurance pay part of that premium now. Those who do not collect the insurance can also collect an amount of money each month (*opt-out*). He noted that you (*Caligiuri*) originally talked about your premium that you pay, but you don't pay it, when you collect that \$200.00 per month/\$2,500.00 per year. **Cncl. Bryson** stressed this was a benefit and I have no problem giving it up but I won't give it up for someone who has an axe to grind and only an axe to grind as that is the only reason he is bringing this up. **Cncl. Bryson** went on to note there are four or five council people that take benefits and he (*personally*) has taken them for eight years, questioning how come it has not bothered you, Frank for eight years. **Cncl. Caligiuri** responded that he had brought it up in the past and whether he has an axe to grind or not, as Cncl. Caligiuri was speaking **Cncl. Bryson** then interjected he was not finished and continued to say it is a benefit that is provided to us and a benefit that is provided to all public employees.

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E.) OLD BUSINESS (cont'd)

Specifically, when the benefit was addressed in Trenton it was addressed for elected officials and we will lose that if we are not elected, if we take a new position, or if any new council member comes on board. So, we are only taking the benefit because it was already there, it has been there for many, many years and the \$100,000.00 referred to earlier could be raised elsewhere and not affect the benefits of somebody who is working part-time. **Cncl. Bryson** stressed that we are not part-time employees, we are elected officials and protected so it is there for us to take advantage of, or not. He felt this was something of a personal issue and not an issue to save taxpayers money from the way Cncl. Caligiuri addressed this each and every time and his personal feelings about it.

Cncl. Caligiuri wished to point out that he stands to lose money in this mess, also. The only reason he was bringing it up at this point was it is part of the governor's best management practices and he did send this down as an edict, along with the elected officials in Washington Township who did, in fact, vote to eliminate their benefits. We have department heads and managers that don't get raises, as they should. We have ambulance body boxes we can't buy and we have to bond for and it is kind of an expensive proposition. I am willing to give up my little piece of it as long as everyone else is because my little piece is only \$2,000.00 everybody else is around \$20,000.00 and he didn't want to name any names or bring it up outside. He felt we really have to take a look at it because again Washington Township already took a look at it. You may say that I have a personal axe to grind but nobody in Washington Township has a personal axe to grind either, they decided to do it in cooperation with the governor's recommendation that came out the end of last year. The earliest we could have approached it would have been this year. **Cncl. Caligiuri** went on to say he just thought we ought to think about doing what Washington Township already did. They had the courage to do it as we all have the courage to call each other up and make sure that our best friends get placed on boards and things like that. Now it is time to have the courage to do something for the taxpayers that put us in office. We are not going to be here forever and our legacy will be about what we do here, while in office. As far as he was concerned, he has as much to lose as anybody else. I am not grinding an axe that I haven't taken the sharp end of myself.

Cncl. Walter Bryson then noted that Washington Township is Washington Township let them do their business as we do our business. If we did everything the way they did it would be a different place around here. He noted that Cncl. Caligiuri is accusing us of taking something that we don't deserve, when in fact we do deserve it. **Cncl. Bryson** stressed for the last nine (9) years these council members, including you (*Caligiuri*) and myself, have not taken one extra dime in a raise in pay. This is not a society that does not compensate people for their work. If you compensate someone in the way of benefits that is still compensation. If you compensate them in the way of pay or income that is another way. Our income is very low as far as this is concerned. **Cncl. Bryson** wished to be placed on the record as saying that he personally does not wish to give up his health insurance benefits because he believes they are a benefit that he is entitled to. He also believes he is entitled to an income for doing this job. It is not a part-time job, it is an elected officials job. We spend more than part-time hours and you Frank know that very, very well.

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Cncl. Caligiuri noted as far as the job goes he pretty much regards it as an honor and privilege. I am sensitive to the fact that there are people living in our community that are cutting pills in half to try to make ends meet. Of course, I took a look at all the foreclosure notices that come in our packet. He continued on noting we are here for four, eight, twelve years, not forever. After that period we are going to have to fend for ourselves just like every other American and buy our own health insurance. I honestly feel like we could take the lead of many other townships and the governor's recommendation, take the bull by the horn, and do what others do. Give up the benefits that benefits me as well, my portion may be a small part of it as I receive the stipend (*opt-out*). **Cncl. Caligiuri** added that he was taking \$2,500.00 out of his own pocket and if he was grinding an axe I am whacking my own self in the hand.

Cncl. Walter Bryson indicated as Cncl. Caligiuri well knows, I work for a small company and have paid for my own insurance before I started here. He like every other American is suffering also. He added he works on a 100% commission (*outside world*) and nothing comes easy. He questioned if Cncl. Caligiuri's company paid for his benefits. He responded, they do. Cncl. Bryson then continued questioning if there was something wrong with that as under the new law wouldn't it be nice to make your employees part-time and then you would not have to pay them anymore. There were some heated words exchanged with Cncl. Bryson adding that Cncl. Caligiuri was attacking the council members personally. You are taking away personal benefits from us so if you really want to attack us personally go right ahead. If something is to be done, let it be done. Cncl. Bryson went on to note it does not matter, it would have mattered a year or two ago but now it won't. It will still cost me more than what you get each month but if the taxpayers want to do it, we can start it next year. That will give me time to get it. Cncl. Bryson thanked Cncl. Caligiuri for his personal attack on him as well as the rest of council members who use it.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia made a point of clarification as well as a comment. First of all, he never criticized the governor for using too much toilet paper, it is a dramatization by Frank who is very dramatic. Cncl. DiLucia noted there was no doubt in his mind, this is an issue that if he brings it up as a sincere issue, I think he ought to bring it to the public because that is what he intends to do. However, he wants to do it in a sneaky way and pretend that he is not really putting it out there. Every day he is threatening people that he is going to expose them and do this and do that. Cncl. DiLucia spoke on the origin of this, that being, Frank did not get something that he wanted. All of us were taken off committees. However, none of us cried or moaned about it. Yet, he continues to use this as a fester to attack individuals. **Cncl. DiLucia** said, in all sincerity, when he ran for council he had no idea there was any type of compensation for the job. He did not know it paid any money or that there was insurance attached to it. He ran because he wanted to serve the public and he will continue to do it with or without insurance, with or without a pay. Cncl. DiLucia went on that he has heard Cncl. Caligiuri say many times that he is willing to take money out of his pocket and is willing to pay for things and yet he never saw him take a penny out of his pocket to pay for anything that he said he was going to. Cncl. DiLucia noted the truth of the matter was that he is close to filing ethics charges against Cncl. Caligiuri if he continues to do things because he (*Cncl. Caligiuri*) threatened a council man that unless he did something you were going to bring up this issue.

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Cncl. DiLucia indicated we have witnesses to this because one of the things that he should know is that when you do your emails and your speaking, sometimes you are speaking over a phone in a car and there are other people sitting in that car that can hear it.

Cncl. DiLucia continued and noted keep it up and he personally will go to the solicitor and ask him to file ethics charges against you (*Caligiuri*). This is not a sincere issue; this is something that you are festering because you were removed from a committee. Why don't you stand up like a man and say that? **Cncl. Caligiuri** then stood up and questioned if **Cncl. DiLucia** would like to take it out in the parking lot. **Cncl. DiLucia** responded, any time you like. At this point, there was much confusion with **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** attempting to restore order. **Cncl. DiLucia** then clarified what he meant was to stand up like a man on the issue and questioned **Cncl. Caligiuri**, did you or did you not go to a councilman and say unless he returned you to a committee that you were going to bring this up and expose everyone's insurance. **Cncl. Caligiuri** responded absolutely not. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted that he was a liar, a dam liar and requested this be placed on the record. He added he was sick and tired of your/this stuff and he said what he met, be a man, man up.

Cncl. William Sebastian noted that he understood Frank's complaint, and he understood his concerns. He also understands what **Cncl. DiLucia** is doing as he was the gentleman he (*Cncl. Caligiuri*) spoke to about getting him back on a committee or he was going to bring this forward. He was the person that had a carload of people when he said to him over the phone (*blue tooth*). **Cncl. Sebastian** was concerned with the issue of statements being made with respect to supplying insurance and the cost of over one hundred thousand dollars to do so. Those same part time employees/elected officials are the same ones that made the change from the JIF to a new insurance company that saved over three hundred thousand dollars for a period of time. **Cncl. Sebastian** advised this savings is three times what we are taking in insurance benefits and he noted he had no qualms with doing that as a benefit and taking whatever the salary is, this is not an issue for him. If push came to shove, most of us people are eligible for Medicare and we have that availability. The point being it is a benefit that is available to us. This could be coverage for our families, spouses or whatever the case may be, not for us individually. He explained that his wife goes through a lot of trouble with not having him around because he is doing a lot of running around for the municipality. That is part of the job and both he and his wife understand this. It is the same thing with everyone's family here and as long as he has that compensation that covers her, I am going to take it.

Cncl. Pres., Teefy posed a question with regard to the health benefits. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** noted in 1999 it was documented through ordinance (*Chapter 65-14*) *verbiage dealing with the "elected officials"* was removed and it was amended in 2001 then again 2012. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** advised **Cncl. Caligiuri** if he would like to discuss this matter further it could be brought to the ordinance committee for review. **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** advised as he said previously, I brought it up back here (*work session*) and did not really want to bring it up out there. I brought it up as a recommendation and just a suggestion. This is the second time I brought it up as a recommendation. I pointed out the reasons why and I pointed out the precedent that has

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been set by other townships. Cncl. Caligiuri then spoke on the way it is getting spun around with added other crap that is all hearsay and bologna. Nonetheless, it is what it is; it is a recommendation and just that.

Mayor Gabbianelli then spoke, for the record, indicating he did not have a nickel or dime in this or a horse in the race. He stated he does not take the benefits or the buy-out option.

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy spoke on a COAH matter where we had a situation regarding a property on Oak Street. He advised that Robyn Glocker-Hammond, Gloucester County Tax Assessor's Office sent an email out last week to all members of council with Block and Lot numbers consisting of approximately 55 properties which comprised the most recent COAH list on file with the county. Emails were exchanged back and forth between Robin Dunn of Kernan Engineers and Robyn Glocker-Hammond to look into this. There was a brief discussion regarding the list generated from the county versus the Project Summary Report generated by Kernan that included close to 400 properties. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** reported that a more updated list will be submitted once the review by the county and Kernan is complete. They are reviewing the properties one by one in order to get this correct. **Cncl. William Sebastian** spoke of another issue where you have a property such as Justin Commons where you have many units that are COAH units and listed under one Block and Lot. This may account for some of the difference in numbers from one report to the other. There was some discussion as to the amount of taxes being paid by Justin Commons with Mr. Heydel advising that the payment of taxes was in the amount of approximately \$58,000.00 (*partial for 2011-2012*). **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** noted the list of 55 properties submitted by the county really just incorporated Mimosa Ridge and the COAH units in Amberleigh with a few scattered properties throughout. **Cncl. Walter Bryson** noted what would have been helpful if submitted with the report was the amount of savings they were getting in the taxes because that would have been a clear indication whether or not the property was being served as COAH or not. Dan Kozak advised that our tax collector is trying to recoup, through the county, some monies (*county money back*). She compiles a list and makes every effort to recoup some of the county money. The mayor advised when it was our tax assessor's office it was one thing, now it is at the county level and we should have some kind of ability to recoup some monies because it is their people that are making mistakes, not ours. Discussion continued and Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted he would keep everyone updated on the matter. Once the list is finalized, Tim Kernan will be brought in to make sure we get this matter (*list*) corrected.

Mayor Gabbianelli requested some time to deliver a report on the budget and to make an appointment at the regular council meeting.

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy reported on the Public Safety Committee (*Teefy, Caligiuri, DiLucia*) meeting that took place last Wednesday, April 17th with both the Williamstown and Cecil Fire Companies. The meeting was to discuss their concerns with the proposed fire and rescue 3rd party billing. Each company voiced their objections and

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F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)

one area of concern was that of morale. They felt morale of the members would go down because now they are charging for a service they don't agree to charge for. Going forward they could possibly see their membership going down, they would not like to see this happen as they both currently have pretty viable volunteer memberships.

Cncl. Pres., Teefy reported that down the road it could cause, if this billing were to cause a loss in membership, the possibility of paying for fire staff. Another fear both companies have is that of people, because they feel they are getting billed for it through their insurance company, may not call the fire department right away and will attempt to extinguish the fire themselves to save money, thus causing a bigger problem. Also discussed was the possibility that insurance companies may not accept the billing moving forward. There was also verbiage included within the draft ordinance that caused some concerns. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** indicated the estimated revenue of approximately \$30,000.00 was insufficient, if the potential revenue reaches into the \$100,000.00 range then the fire companies may reconsider. Some fund raising measures may be hurt by this as well. At the conclusion of the meeting the committee felt moving forward with the draft ordinance would not be the right thing to do at this time. **Cncl. Richard DiLucia** reported that he contacted Mr. Heydel on this just to verify the monies involved. Mr. Heydel also advised him that many of the policies exclude the right to recover money. You would really have to have a rider on your insurance policy even to be able to collect through it. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted the potential revenue of approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 was not enough to counter the negatives this would create for the fire companies.

G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy advised a resolution was received late today with regard to a Community Development Block Grant Project Application. This would be for drainage improvements in the area of W. Lois Drive in the amount of \$50,000.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to move the resolution forward for approval at the regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marvin Dilks** and unanimously approved by the members of council.

It was noted, for the record this would be numbered Resolution **R:103-2013** Resolution Approving The 2013-2014 Gloucester County Community Development Block Grant Project Application For Drainage Improvements Near/On West Lois Drive In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey.

Cncl. Marvin Dilks spoke with regard to Resolution **R:98-2013** Resolution Appointing Member To The Monroe Township Board Of Health scheduled for approval at the regular council meeting. He advised that a member of the board had resigned and the board would like to have the alternate member (*Gerry Conte*) moved up into the vacant position.

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H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED - None

I.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for discussion, **Cncl. Walter Bryson** made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of April 22, 2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and was unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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 22, 2013 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 5/13/13
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____