

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JANUARY 27, 2014

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:00 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Ronald Garbowski** in the Court Room 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, the Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.

Cncl. Pres., Ronald Garbowski stated the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet at the rear of the Court Room. If anyone would like to address Council during the Public Portion, please sign in and you will be asked to come forward to the microphone. Kindly state your name for the record.

SALUTE TO FLAG - INVOCATION

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Mayor Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella	Present	
Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles		Excused
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz		Excused
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Township Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

PRESENTATION

• **Spotlight on Business - Rush Fitness and All Pro Baseball Academy**

Joe D'Alessandro, owner of **Rush Fitness and All Pro Baseball Academy** located at 1155 South Black Horse Pike (Old Jamesway Building) was in attendance to speak about what his business had to offer the community. He gave a brief history of himself noting he attended the College of New Jersey and was drafted in his junior year to play baseball for the New York Mets. He played baseball for three years but was injured and in 2008 opened the All Pro Baseball Academy at its former location on Route 322 across from the Monroe Township Public Works Department. Mr. D'Alessandro explained the academy's baseball instructors have professional experience with teams that include the New York Mets, the Washington Nationals, Kansas City Royals, the Cardinals, the Brewers, the New York Yankees, the Indians and various independent teams such as the Camden River Sharks. The experience of the instructors helped the business grow and a larger space was needed so it was moved to the old Jamesway building and a grand opening at the new location was held on December 1, 2013. The facility now has a 15,000 square foot gym that has thirty plus cardio machines, selectorized weight equipment, Cross Fit with nationally certified personal trainers, locker rooms, physical therapy with licensed doctors specializing in sports medicine and is comparatively priced at \$14.95 per month. Classes at Rush have the ability to use the turf at the baseball academy for running,

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PRESENTATION (cont'd)

sprints and agility work. The baseball academy is 15,000 square feet and includes eleven batting cages and seven pitching mounds and the open turf space has been used by charities to hold events that included inflatable's and volleyball tournaments. The idea for the gym came about because parents were sitting around waiting for their kids at the baseball academy and a gym would give them something to do during that hour. It was brought to his attention that people were going to fitness facilities outside the township so now Rush Fitness is bringing them back to town. There are only a few facilities in the State that offer turf, the gym and in-house physical therapy and he is proud to bring that to South Jersey. **Mayor Gabbianelli** apologized to Mr. D'Alessandro and explained that he did not attend the Grand Opening ceremonies due to attending the funeral of his close friend, Sandy Agresta. He spoke of being very impressed when he walked through the facility and wished Mr. D'Alessandro best of luck. Council questioned whether Rush Fitness had a registration or membership fee, the hours the facility is open, whether there were showers and whether pitching was taught. Mr. D'Alessandro explained there is a \$29.95 registration fee, no contracts are involved but they do ask for first and last month up front. The gym has locker rooms with 35 lockers and two showers in each and is open from 5:00 AM to 11:00 PM Monday through Friday and 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on the weekends. The baseball academy starts at 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM because it deals with after school programs and runs until 10:00 PM. Private lessons for pitching, hitting and fielding are available for kids ages six through college age. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski noted the businesses in the area are happy Rush Fitness came because it has generated traffic to the area. Mr. D'Alessandro agreed and noted this summer the façade of the building and the parking lot will have a new look, as it is going to be redone. Cncl. Teefy spoke of knowing Mr. D'Alessandro from the baseball academy, as his son goes there all the time and loves it. Younger kids use the batting cages and other facilities for a minimal fee and high school kids use the facilities to get ready for their season. Mr. D'Alessandro noted the South Jersey Braves Traveling Team was the first to use the facility and now thirteen other traveling teams come in as well as teams from Washington Township, Erial and Vineland. Cncl. Teefy questioned whether the Girl's softball team used the facility. Mr. D'Alessandro replied no but a new softball instructor just started working at the facility and he is going to reach out to Williamstown High School players. Council congratulated and wished Mr. D'Alessandro the best of luck in his new facility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve as submitted the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 23, 2013, the Reorganization Meeting of January 6, 2014, the Special Council Meeting of January 8, 2014, the Closed Executive Session of January 8, 2014 and the Special Council Meeting of January 14, 2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Bryson and approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of Cncl. Caligiuri who **Abstained** on the minutes of January 8th and January 14th, as he was not in attendance at those meetings due to being away on business. Cncl. Dilks also **Abstained** on the January 8th Special Council Meeting and Executive Session minutes.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE

- Junkyard License - Williamstown Auto & Truck Salvage

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve a Junkyard License for Williamstown Auto & Truck Sales. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled - Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to close the Resolutions Scheduled - Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Teefy and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

R:26-2014 Emergency Temporary Resolution Prior To Adoption Of The Budget Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:26-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:27-2014 Resolution Awarding A Contract For Professional Services To The Municipal Engineer For Landfill Compliance Monitoring For The Township Of Monroe, County of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey For The Year 2014

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:27-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:28-2014 Resolution Awarding A Contract For Professional Services to QC, Inc. For Groundwater Analyses And Reporting Associated With The Monroe Township Landfill For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey, For The Year 2014

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:28-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:29-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey Authorizing Submission Of The Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:29-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:30-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Execute A Grant Application On Behalf Of The Municipal Alliance Program For The Grant Year 2014 (Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)

Cncl. Teefy made a motion to approve Resolution R:30-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:31-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement For Use Of Community Development Block Grant Funds Between Gloucester County, New Jersey And The Township Of Monroe In The Amount Of \$50,000.00 For Installation Of Drainage Relief (West Lois Drive Area) Within The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:31-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:32-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Donation Of A 2004 Maroon Chevy Impala Sedan

Solicitor Fiore noted as discussed in the Work Session Meeting paragraph three refers to this as being an auction and that language will be modified to take auction out of that paragraph.

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:32-2014 with the changes noted by the Solicitor. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:33-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Township Of Monroe To Enter Into A Contract With The Township Engineer Of The Township Of Monroe For A Period Of Three Years From January 1, 2014 To December 31, 2016

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:33-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

R:34-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract For A Public Defender Of The Municipal Court Of The Township Of Monroe For The Year 2014

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:34-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:35-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Township Of Monroe To Enter Into A Contract With The Solicitor Of The Township Of Monroe For The Year 2014

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:35-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:36-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Township Of Monroe To Enter Into A Contract With The Substitute Public Defender For The Monroe Township Municipal Court For The Year 2014

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:36-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:37-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract With Brown & Connery, LLP As Special Labor Counsel For The Township Of Monroe For The Year 2014

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:37-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** who **Abstained**.

R:38-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Waiver Of Liability, Hold Harmless And Indemnification Agreement For Use Of City Of Vineland Property For The Monroe Township Police Department

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:38-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:39-2014 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of January 27, 2014

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:39-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:40-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Appointment Of Conflicts Prosecutor Of The Municipal Court Of The Township Of Monroe For The Year 2014

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:40-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:41-2014 Resolution Awarding A Contract For Professional Services To A Municipal Bond Counsel For The Township Of Monroe For The Year 2014

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:41-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:42-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Notice Of Approval Letter For The Former ATS Property For The Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund Grant From The New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:42-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

R:43-2014 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:43-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:44-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Amendment To The Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And County Of Gloucester For The Participation Of The Township Of Monroe In The Alliance To Prevent Alcoholism And Drug Abuse

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:44-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:45-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, Authorizing The Execution Of A Commodity Resale Agreement With The County Of Gloucester

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:45-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:46-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Appropriation Reserves In The 2013 Budget

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:46-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Sebastian**.

O:01-2014 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Appropriating A Sum Not To Exceed \$400,000.00 For The Purchase And Installation Of Lighting And Other Parks And Recreation Facility Improvements

First Reading: A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

Cncl. Teefy made a motion to approve Ordinance O:01-2014 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:02-2014 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 267 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Vehicles And Traffic"

First Reading: A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Ordinance O:02-2014 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Bryson spoke of how China increased employee wages 15% last year and between 13% to 15% each year over the next five years and how manufacturing companies will no longer have dormitory housing. China is changing the lifestyles of employees and will be looking more towards social issues so with those changes we now have an opportunity to rebuild

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E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

manufacturing in our Country. We need to emphasize to our legislators that we, as Americans, have the best quality, have the best manufacturing facilities and the best educational facilities and intend to do something about that. Cncl. Bryson felt New Jersey can also get stronger and become a manufacturing capital like it was in the past when transistors, the telephone and television were invented here. He felt we also need to attract more vocational schools to train factory workers and look at the senior labor force, those people over 50 looking for jobs that have technical or manufacturing backgrounds that could train young people in vocational schools. He noted the percentage of American workers has reached the lowest monthly level in nearly thirty-six years. Less people are working because there are fewer jobs and this is the opportunity to create jobs by working with local, State and Federal governments. Cncl. Bryson noted he intends to write letters to legislators to see what they can do to help businesses and corporations, as the places that will fill China's void will be Vietnam, Cambodia, India and Mexico if we don't step in. We have to ask federal officials to change some laws dealing with tax incentives for corporations going off shore and we need to take those incentives and put them to work here in the United States to help people get back to work. Cncl. Bryson spoke of ridiculous things going on in Washington DC on both sides of the aisle and of the bill they are proposing to extend unemployment benefits that has attached an amendment which would allow 125,000 more immigrants to come to this county to take jobs. He noted that makes no sense. Citizens of the United States need to be put first and that opportunity is there right now because of what China is doing. Municipalities all over are trying to draw retail into their towns but that is not what they should be doing. Retail, such as Sears and JC Penney are in trouble due to people purchasing from the internet. Cncl. Bryson noted we need to get technical and vocational schools, colleges and companies to locate their manufacturing facilities here and throughout the State and he urged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on January 23rd where two items of business were heard; an application for 1309 Sykes Lane combining four lots into two lots and a proposed amendment to the COAH fee ordinance in order to meet recent changes in State regulations. He noted over the last year he has spoken of an email he sent on December 12, 2012 to Jerry White, the Gloucester County Deputy Administrator, requesting information regarding a proposed county communications tower that was to be located in the southern part of Monroe Township. He noted he learned this evening from the Township Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel, that the tower is going to be located at the Cecil Fire Company property and he thanked Mr. Heydel for giving him that information.

Cncl. Dilks reported attending the Senior Commission Reorganization Meeting on January 9th at which time Jeanette Remsen was again elected chairperson and a report was given that 170 different people went on the commission trips in 2013. The Senior Commission will be running a trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Busy Bodies" on March 15, 2014. The cost is \$62.00 per person and that includes a luncheon and the show. Anyone interested should contact Jeanette Remsen at 856-629-5491. Cncl. Dilks noted he also attended the MMUA Meeting on January 15th and commended the Township Road Department and the MMUA for the great job they did removing the snow during the recent storm.

Cncl. DiLucia reported attending the JIF Safety Committee Meeting on January 22nd, which focused on keeping down the cost of accidents. The Committee is also giving employees the opportunity to participate in wellness programs. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of legislators trying to reduce the CPI calculations on Social Security retirement benefits, as they say it is too costly. He noted he disagrees with them on that issue and went on to explain that senior citizens received a zero increase in their January checks this year because the Consumer Price Index as calculated by that method went up about 1.4% or 1.5% but the cost of Medicare Part B went up about 11% completely washing out their increase. Gas, the cost of fuel oil and insurance are all going up but if you look at the CPI you would think nothing went up. Senior dollars have decreased due to their value not keeping pace with inflation and that creates difficult situations causing more and more seniors to work because they cannot afford not to. Another equally disturbing issue in a country as prosperous as ours is the fight going on in Washington regarding whether to extend unemployment benefits that kick in after the 26 week Federal Subsidy. Now, 1,750,000,000 people in this Country are without benefits while Washington legislators talk about it. The reason they do not want to extend benefits is because they feel

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E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

it gives people a reason not to look for a job. He noted he knows a number of college graduates that have been unemployed for six months to a year who cannot find a job even after sending resumes out every day and if they can't find jobs, what will happen to high school educated 50 year olds whose factories have left. He questioned where are the jobs people need to provide homes, food and clothing for their families because that cannot be done on \$8.00 or \$9.00 an hour, which are the only jobs available. Cncl. DiLucia noted he will continue to write to the legislators holding up this Federal Subsidy for unemployment because they are bartering for something they want and that is a crime and morally wrong. He noted when the President makes his State of the Union Address he is apparently going to invoke his administrative authorities and that will be the only way some of the legislators will start dealing in reality. He noted many people looking for work cannot find jobs and it's not because they're lazy and don't want to go to work, it's because they can't get a job and many laid off from other jobs are not getting the Federal Subsidy they are entitled to.

Cncl. Sebastian reported attending the Zoning Board of Adjustment Reorganization Meeting on January 7th and that no changes were made to the Board membership or professionals and that the January 21st Zoning Board Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. He reported attending a Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting on January 15th, at which time discussion took place regarding the need to hold certified drills to comply with Emergency Management requirements. Frank McLaughlin, OEM Coordinator, will be setting up a joint training exercise with Collings Lakes and more information will be reported on that when a date has been established. Cncl. Sebastian noted he found Cncl. DiLucia's request for a dog park interesting so he did some research and found the County built one in Logan Township and Washington Township has a walking trail for dog owners. Last year Monroe Township issued approximately 2,700 dog licenses so a dog park could be an attraction to owners. Cncl. Sebastian noted he looked at the website for the Gloucester County Dog Park in Logan Township and was curious about the statements made by Freeholder Director Damminger when he said *"Gloucester County is an active community of dog lovers, a 4-H Dog Club, Kennel Club and other dog organizations. I am constantly asked for a dog park to be built and now we have a permanent 1.5 acre location that features great amenities for our residents and their pets. This was a team effort and we received a lot of assistance from Logan Township and private industry. GCIT helped construct the benches, New Jersey American Water donated the water line and Soil Safe Inc. donated the fencing"*. Cncl. Sebastian noted Gloucester County couldn't have put that dog park any further away from Monroe if they tried, as he drove to it and found it is 25.9 miles and a 45 minute ride from Monroe Township. The County dog park has two Gazebos, four waste stations, eight benches, six that were given by Logan Township and two that came from GCIT and is located on 2.5 acres at the corner of High Hill and Birch Creek Roads in Logan Township. It features a half acre fenced in area for small dogs and approximately one acre for large dogs and a list of rules and regulations are posted. He noted he can see the need for a dog park in Monroe Township with 2,700 dogs licensed and people traveling to Washington Township or Logan Township just so their dogs can enjoy other dogs in a confined area. He suggested the liaisons from the Parks and Rec and Open Space Committees look into it further and make recommendations in regards to the cost and space/location for a future dog park here. Cncl. Sebastian noted about a week ago he was informed that the refurbished ambulances were not yet inspected by the State and without inspection they cannot be used for billing purposes. Monroe Township Ambulance and Rescue generated almost a million dollars in revenue last year and the only way that can be done is if the vehicle is licensed by the State and the seal is on the side showing that it meets the inspection requirements from the State of New Jersey. One ambulance has been in the bay for almost four months, maybe even longer. He noted about a week ago he questioned Mr. Heydel on whether he had an opportunity to speak to Nancy McDonald about this and was advised she was waiting for all three ambulances to come back to get them inspected. The one that just came back last week had a couple of minor issues and once those tweaks are corrected they will be inspected. Cncl. Sebastian noted in the future vehicle inspections should be done immediately by the State instead of waiting four months. Other municipalities get theirs inspected as soon as they get them, as the State will come do the inspections once rigs are outfitted. Our ambulance has been equipped and is ready to be inspected and the person in charge should contact the State to get the inspection done so it can be used in emergency situations. Mr. Heydel advised they should be in within the next week and then it can be done. He added we had three other ambulances in service the entire time so

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E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

public safety was never jeopardized. Cncl. Sebastian noted an officer from the Ambulance Association called the State to find out if we could use one of the ambulances that were not inspected during the snow emergency and he got verbal approval to use it for that evening. He again noted in the future these things should be handled quickly.

Cncl. Teefy reported attending the Cecil Fire Company Installation Dinner held at the Star Cross Fire Hall on January 25th. The event was very well attended, had good food and was enjoyed by everyone. He noted he is now the liaison to the Municipal Alliance Commission, which did not hold a meeting in January but has scheduled one for February. He reported he is also the liaison to the Environmental Commission and prior to this Council Meeting he attended their meeting to meet with some of their members. When leaving that meeting he was invited into the Economic Development Commission Meeting for about five minutes. The Commission was discussing conducting a small business assessment, not as large as the one that was done in 2005, but a smaller one just to see if there are opportunities for businesses in town. He advised Council will be getting more information on that in the near future.

Mayor Gabbianelli reported he had the honor of administering the Oath of Office on Saturday, January 25th to the new officers in the Cecil Fire Company. He also reported the township received a grant for additional remediation for the ATS site and a \$50,000.00 CBDG Grant from the County to improve drainage on West Lois Drive, which has had drainage issues since it was built. The Mayor thanked the Road Department and the MMUA for doing a great job plowing snow. He noted he was out at 2:00 AM and Main Street and some developments were already plowed during the heavy part of the storm. Trash was postponed for two days and the people must have understood because they didn't call to complain that their trash was not picked up.

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart echoed the Mayor and Cncl. Dilk's sentiments regarding the Road Department and MMUA. He noted there was an emergency situation on Blue Bell Road, which was difficult to get down because of drifting snow but between the Ambulance, Fire Company, Road Department and MMUA it was handled as good as we could hope for. The township roads were all in good shape but there were some struggles on the County roads throughout the township. The Mayor noted the County did not show up to plow their roads. Mr. Smart agreed adding but during the emergency situation the township and MMUA trucks and equipment showed up to assist.

Director of Public Works, Bob Avis thanked everyone for their comments regarding his department.

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski extended his appreciation to the Public Works Department, MMUA, the fire companies and ambulance association for the fantastic job they did during the snow storm. He reported meeting with the Economic Development Commission earlier this evening when Tony Langella was nominated as Chairman and Jared Valdez Vice-Chairman. The committee has a very ambitious agenda for 2014 and if they can do half the things they are planning it will be fantastic. He noted the committee should be supported as they are trying to entice new business to the township. He reported attending the Library Board Meeting on January 22nd where Sue King was selected as the Board Chairperson and Joyce Samoyan as the Vice-Chairperson. Some upcoming events at the Library are Lego Night on February 12th at 7:00 PM for ages four and up, a Valentine Party on February 14th at 2:00 PM for ages three and up, Rubber Band Bracelet Making on February 19th at 7:00 PM for ages eight through thirteen and Dr. Seuss' birthday party on February 26th at 6:30 PM. Signup is required for each event. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski encouraged residents to check the Library's website, as many other events have been scheduled and are listed there.

Mayor Gabbianelli reported he will be cutting the ribbon at the Grand Re-Opening Ceremonies of Trio Tavern on Friday, January 31st.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Jack Simmermon, of A-Jack's Towing and Recovery, noted he believed Council made a big mistake putting seven towers back on the towing list this year, as there has been nothing but problems with the police towing. Last year there were two towers and it ran flawlessly and the Police Department loved it. This year it seems there has been nothing but complaints. The first week one of the towers went to a one car accident and it seemed they did not have enough oil dry to clean up the mess. There was a report written on that through the Police Department. The second week there was a large ice storm for about two hours in the morning and there was approximately sixteen cars towed or winched out of ditches, which the second tower had no problems doing. The third week there was a three car motor vehicle accident and the dispatcher let the towing company know there were three cars but the man showed up with one truck, picked up one car took it to his location and then came back and picked up two more. He noted the Solicitor spoke about being safe, fast and efficient and he (*Mr. Simmermon*) felt that was not done that way. The fourth tower broke a winch, which is understandable, as all towers have had a malfunction in equipment. The backup tower was called but he was not ready to go so they had to go to the next tower who responded and did the job. The following day that tower (*the fourth tower on the list*) fixed his truck and was out on a job. At that time there was a second accident that was called in and he could not respond so they went to the backup tower that should have been ready but he still was not ready to go. The following tower was then called and he went and took care of the job. On Saturday there was a two car motor vehicle accident on the Black Horse Pike and Corkery Lane by the Super WAWA. The tower was told two cars were involved but when he came to the scene he was only able to take one car. The backup tower was called and he said he would be out but seven minutes later he called back and told the dispatcher he was sorry but he could not get in touch with his driver so he could not come out. So they went to the following tower who came and out and took the car. **Mr. Simmermon** noted it looks like this year has been nothing but a disaster and he questioned whether Council had any feelings or comments about this or if they wanted to think about it and get back to him. **Solicitor Fiore** cautioned Council about making any comments due to **Mr. Simmermon** having an attorney present at the last meeting who had threatened litigation. He advised any concerns **Mr. Simmermon** has should be given to Director of Public Safety, **Jim Smart** who can look into the matter and make a report back to Council. **Director Smart** advised that he has not been made aware of any of this and will look into it. **Mr. Simmermon** questioned the Director of Public Works, **Bob Avis** on why he was not getting all the heavy towing from the Monroe Township Public Works Department, as that had been addressed before with the solicitor. **Mr. Fiore** indicated he didn't know and could not answer that question at this time and would have to get back to **Mr. Simmermon** on that, as that may involve a privileged communication.

With no one else wishing to speak **Cncl. Teefy** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.


Solicitor Fiore noted approximately a year ago **Mr. Simpson**, a resident of Ames Road who is in the audience this evening brought up an issue regarding speeding along Ames Road. **Mr. Fiore** reported that he talked with the Chief of Police and the Township Engineer regarding the speeding issues and they are looking at perhaps putting a three way stop sign at the intersection of Ames Road and Longfellow Drive. Engineer **Dave Cella** was at the site today to see from a legal standpoint what can be done and he will be able to provide a report at the next meeting about possible options for safety along Ames Road. **Mr. Simpson** questioned what is practical and allowable and if he should talk to the township engineer. **Mr. Fiore** explained he just wanted **Mr. Simpson** to be aware that **Mr. Cella** was looking into the issue, as the speed humps that had been brought up are being frowned upon for public safety reasons and because they do not adequately deal with speed control. The three way stop on Ames may be a possibility but that must be recommended by the engineer and it has to meet traffic warrants. **Engineer, Dave Cella** explained that is correct but he wanted to preface that speeding is not a warrant for putting those types of signs up however he is looking at the warrants and there may be one that fits the criteria.

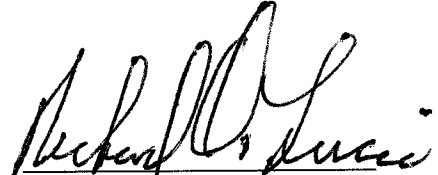
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G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Bryson made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of January 27, 2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan McCormick, RMC
Township Clerk


Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of January 27, 2014 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings. 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* _____
Approved as corrected _____

Date 2/10/14
Date _____