

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council Vice-President, Richard DiLucia** 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. Walter Bryson 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. Richard DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Ronald Garbowski		Excused
Mayor, Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Business Admin., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Engineer, Chris Rehmann, ARH	Present	
Dir. of Finance, Jeff Coles	Present	
Dir. of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

• **Stockton Run**

Solicitor, Charles Fiore advised this was a matter he reported on at the work session meeting of January 27, 2014. He felt that the Department of Public Works was going to review the matter and determine whether or not the township should receive the money and finish the minor bondable item or make it the responsibility of the developer. This matter will be discussed once again at the February 24, 2014 work session as Mike Calvello, Road Supervisor was on vacation, he will report at that time.

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

C.) PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Walter Bryson 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 address council members, **Cncl. William Sebastian** 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

Solicitor Fiore reported on a speeding issue along Ames Road that has been an on-going problem for some three (3) years now and as a result Adams, Rehmann & Heggan conducted an inspection of the area (*Ames Road & Longfellow Drive*) to review the conditions to determine if a three way stop sign would be warranted. Mr. Fiore noted in discussing this with Dave Cella, ARH, he cautioned that three way stop signs cannot be utilized for speed control. Mr. Fiore advised he would share the report with council and this matter should be placed on an Ordinance Committee Meeting for review. **Engineer, Chris Rehmann** advised one of the things you can use a stop sign for is if you have limited sight distance. When we went out and looked at the intersection there was enough conflicting stuff in the way that creates such a situation that we think those stops can be put in. He elaborated explaining the problem with installing a stop sign to prevent speeding is normally the speeding takes place on a major road and you don't abruptly come up to a stop sign unless there is a reason for those signs. Sight distance can always be considered a reason. Mr. Rehmann noted what you would have to do is to amend your traffic control ordinance. However, before anything would happen he hoped that because it has not been a stopped control intersection (*at least in this direction*) that signs would be placed, something to warn the public. **Mayor Gabbianelli** questioned if this was "enforceable". Mr. Rehmann advised it is "enforceable" if you adopt the ordinance and use the arguments that Mr. Cella included in his letter. **Mayor Gabbianelli** also questioned if this required state approval. It was noted, not for a stop sign, it is a local road.

David Simpson - Longfellow Drive spoke and noted there are bus stops at both intersections being considered. There is a school bus stop and actual structure at Longfellow Drive and at a second intersection, the busses stop there and pick up children from various schools and there is a crosswalk located there. Mr. Rehmann explained, actually the bus stop happens to one of the obstacles that limits sight distance. Mr. Fiore asked Mr. Simpson to clarify if in fact this was a school bus stop designated by the school district. Mr. Simpson was unsure of how a school bus stop is recognized however the busses do stop there to pick up the children. Mr. Simpson went to note there is quite a bit of pedestrian traffic at the one stop. **Cncl. Sebastian** questioned the engineer on the school bus stop where it was noted this is one of the obstructions. Mr. Rehmann clarified noting the structure (*bus shelter*) itself was the obstruction. **Cncl. Sebastian** questioned if this was due to it being forward of the intersection. Mr. Rehmann noted it is very close to being in the right-of-way, so as we pull up, you must pull out to see oncoming traffic. Mr. Fiore then noted there is also a parking lot where cars park up against the street; this was also part of what Mr. Cella looked at.

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

E.) OLD BUSINESS

Engineer, Chris Rehmann spoke of a few issues being dealt with in regard to roads and street opening permits. One being, an incident with a SJ Gas Company contractor and Mike Calvello is the individual who unfortunately must deal with this and has the responsibility dealing with the gas company as well as the street openings. Mr. Rehmann went on to explain there was an incident where the contractor has removed about 50-55 feet of water services, the services that were in the road they (contractor) just drilled through and tore up all the copper. This is not the first incident; we met with the gas company because when doing excavation they piled the dirt on the sidewalk, then scraped the dirt off the sidewalk with the backhoe teeth and scored the sidewalks, the road and tore the curb up. They really just ignore the township facilities. Mr. Rehmann noted we have a request into the gas company, for the twelve to fourteen road openings they put in down along Winslow Road, to come back to us with a proposal to try to get them to make a contribution toward paving the roadway. We have not heard anything back on this from SJ Gas and Mr. Rehmann advised Mike Calvello not to issue any more gas/street openings permits until such time as a response is received. He felt we had a right to do this as the road has been torn up and there has been no response from the (gas company) on how they are going to fix it. Mr. Rehmann continued and noted that he has yet to consider whether he will write a letter of protest to the President of SJ GAS about the contractor, Crown Pipeline, because they just ignore everything and Mike Calvello cannot be everywhere. He tries his best and he was the one who brought all of this to the attention of Mr. Rehmann. Mike has also gotten them to replace some curb and sidewalk, as well as to fix some roads that they have beaten up. They are a contractor, not the gas company and what we are going to do is recommend to council an amendment/change to the street opening ordinance as we need to get much stricter. He went on and noted there are some down sides associated with this; it was his understanding that if you add too much in fees they (gas company) go to the person requesting the gas service to pay the additional expenses. We must look at this closely to see the impact of this on the residents. This is something we will be addressing in the next month or so.

Mr. Rehmann then advised we are also going to request council to amend the Land Use Ordinance with respect to the High Density Polyethylene Pipe. He explained this is pipe used for storm sewers and the problem with it is that under certain conditions during the construction of a development when there is no base course down they have taken out the cover necessary to support that pipe. The pipe flexes and as long as the sides of the fill are compacted properly, it transfers its weight to the earth and flexes back but if it flexes too much it cracks on, what we call, the spring line. We would like to put a requirement and the RSIS standards adopted by the state says you can use this type of pipe, but what we want to say is yes, you can use it as long as the cover **under any condition** in the construction of a development remains at, at least two (2) feet of cover. He then went on to elaborate on the base course, etc. with continued discussion on exactly what should be included within the amendment (*inspections, etc.*).

Engineer, Chris Rehmann then displayed a map/plan of the Walmart site (*BHP & Malaga*) and advised that the front portion of the facility is still under bond and a request has been made to release that bond. **Mayor Gabbianelli** noted there was no need

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

E.) OLD BUSINESS (cont'd)

to discuss this as they still have landscaping that needs to be replaced/planted, they have a lot of stuff to do before we even consider splitting that bond up. Before we even think about this, we must make sure everything is done right. Mr. Rehmann noted if anyone has a complaint about the Walmart please make sure to get their concerns to either Kathryn, Dave Cella or himself. He also added that a revised developer's agreement for the front portion is needed.

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cncl. Walt Bryson reported that a Budget Committee meeting was scheduled for tomorrow night (*Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00PM*). The committee will meet with both the Business Administrator and the CFO. He urged other council members if they had any concerns or questions to pass it on to the committee.

Cncl. Bryson then noted he wanted to address an email received in regard to the Public Safety Committee meeting that took place. This meeting was requested by Mr. Jacobi (*Fire Chief, Mike Jacobi*) so that he could address some issues with regard to budgetary items and the expectations for this coming year (*costs, etc.*). Cncl. Bryson noted another matter discussed was the relationship between the Fire Department and EMS. One thing mentioned at the meeting, was a question of should we, are we, or do we have a fire truck that goes along with the EMS on an accident call, specifically dealing with extractions. Cncl. Bryson then advised he would look into this matter adding that he also received an email from EMS requesting to meet with the Public Safety Committee. He then went into detail on an email he received in response to a voice mail message he left for the fire chief. He then stressed a key point, that being we would like these two entities to work together. Cncl. Bryson then referred to an email received from Mr. Smart (*Director of Public Safety*). He then spoke on his responsibilities as they relate to a committee explaining that he takes input, along with other committee members, and then recommendations are made to the full council. He noted, he can't say or set any policy; that is not his job as a committee chairman. He went on to elaborate on some of the comments he made as it pertained to the "box". **Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart** noted he received a phone call from the fire chief in regards to Mr. Bryson's phone call. He explained the problem was there were no tools to come off of the truck, you are rolling as fire suppression only. Mr. Smart indicated that was a problem and that is what he stated in his email and he thought he was very clear on that.

Cncl. Bryson then noted the emails were addressed to him as the committee chairperson. He felt they were very distasteful to him. He went on to explain the situation we have had in this township for more than one (1) year has been a situation where now it seems to be some sort of competition between the Fire Company and EMS. It centers specifically around this rescue equipment. His only objective when there are public safety committee meetings is public safety. You are the Public Safety Director and it is your job to make sure that the EMS and the Fire Department find some kind of ground to work together. The committee can take input as to what they need and make recommendations but again we make no policy. Cncl. Bryson then addressed an email

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)

sent from Mayor Gabbianelli. The mayor urged everyone to work together and stop the pissing contest. Cncl. Bryson then addressed a third email emphasizing this matter is not political in any nature; this was to get to the bottom of a situation. Mike Jacobi wanted this meeting to see about his budget, it had nothing to do with politics. Everyone on council knows what the committees were set up to do. He will continue to defend both the Fire Company and EMS; he added he has no enemies here. Cncl. Bryson stressed both organizations are a *treasured asset* to this township. **Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart** again addressed the phone call he received. **Mayor Gabbianelli** then explained there was no reason to debate this issue; if the Fire Company is there they will extricate until the rescue comes and they are better equipped to stabilize and that is what it is all about. They must work together.

Cncl. Sebastian noted he was at the public safety meeting (*Bryson, Caligiuri, Sebastian*) and the Chief (*Jacobi*) brought up the issue of not being on the "box" for motor vehicle crashes. He advised he would contact the Chief (*Accoglio*) to find out why they were not on the "box" as it was a concern to him as well, with being a member of the ambulance association. **Cncl. Sebastian** then explained the "box". Each department (*fire, ambulance*) have what is referred to as a "box" supplied to the county. For example, on specific calls if there is a dwelling fire, the fire department has a box that says, these people are dispatched on first dispatch, immediately. The ambulance and rescue squad have a "box" as well for the county that is broken down by certain things EMS wise who gets called first, who is back up, as well as mutual aid and automobile extrication, who gets called in first. The Chief of each organization controls their "box". The mayor noted the ambulance cut the fire company out as a responder, he stopped that, adding that we can't play games, this is Monroe Township and I don't care what I have to do but it better get resolved. **Cncl. Sebastian** then continued and noted that later that evening he spoke with Chief, Tom Accoglio and questioned him on what was going on. Cncl. Sebastian advised him to put them back on the box because during the entire evening, the thing about not being in the box was about fire suppression, there was never mention of extrication, that night, at all (*at the public safety meeting*). It came in as a budget thing, the item of not being on the box was mentioned as a by the way. Cncl. Sebastian indicated he did not like that either and noted he would speak with the Chief and take care of it. He checked this with Cncl. Bryson before doing so. He then talked with the Chief of the Ambulance Squad; they were put back on the box that afternoon. After that, he contacted Cncl. Bryson and advised him of what had transpired. Discussion took place back and forth on fire suppression, etc. and mention was made of an email that referenced a disturbing phone call.

Cncl. Sebastian explained we (*public safety committee*) don't do policy, explaining again, what had transpired at the public safety meeting, adding it was just an informational thing as far as he was concerned, he was asked to step in and call the Chief, and that is what he did. He noted the organizations work together, not well. Now, the ambulance and Cecil work very well together, they go to classes together, they will be on the same box, if not on it already for commercial motor vehicle accidents because we have the additional equipment and manpower. If you get into a certain situation where you

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)

have a commercial motor vehicle accident involving buses, trucks, etc. you need heavy equipment, you need to be able to stabilize the vehicle. The Fire Department does a good job popping a door but they don't have the equipment or the expertise yet, to stabilize some vehicles. There was a response to that (*Jim Jacobi, Deputy Chief WFC*) indicating that was wrong, most of our guys are rescue two and/or heavy rescue certified, that is not accurate. Cncl. Sebastian noted but they don't have the equipment because we (*ambulance association*) just went and got the stabilizing jacks, the air bags are on board, there is at least a quarter ton of dunnage (*wood blocks*) in there of all different sizes for stabilizing vehicles. That is what is on the truck, and what has to be on the truck, there are certain requirements to be classified as a heavy rescue vehicle. Cncl. Sebastian continued, he noted we are not looking to say you can't do your job and we are only going to do one job. We must work together in any situation whatever the case may be. In both cases (*fire/ambulance*) everyone should know the boundaries of what they are capable of doing.

G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - None

H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED

Cncl. **Walt Bryson** questioned Ordinance **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* which was scheduled for second reading. He questioned a message he received from Mr. Heydel saying this was going to be postponed. Cncl. **DiLucia** explained from his understanding the installation could be postponed rather than get involved with installation before the baseball season opens and all the organizations have agreed with this. He explained this has no bearing on the second reading of the ordinance. Mr. Heydel then noted this was made possible because in speaking with the purchasing network they agreed to expedite the extension of the contract. Cncl. **DiLucia** noted it was his understanding that the price will stand for one year. There were two parts to this; one was the guarantee for the price of the lights will be extended for one year and that the installation, whenever that takes place, would be pushed back until sometime in the early fall. Mr. Heydel noted we are looking at installation sometime toward the end of July or very early August. Cncl. **DiLucia** noted what we are doing now is approving the expenditure up to \$400,000.00.

I.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for discussion, Cncl. **William Sebastian** made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of February 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. **Marvin Dilks** and was unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 10, 2014

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 February 10, 2014 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 _____ AmJ _____ Date 2/24/14
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____