

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JUNE 23, 2014

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:05 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., 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. Dilks** led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Sister Rita of Our Lady of Peace Parish** 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		Excused
Assistant to Solicitor, Barbara Dumadag	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella	Present	
Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles		Excused
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**PRESENTATIONS** - None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cncl. DiLucia** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of May 27, 2014 and the Special Council Meeting of June 5, 2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Dilks** who Abstained on the minutes of May 27, 2014.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE

- **Prime Auto Group - Used Car Dealership**

**Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to approve the Used Car Dealership License for Prime Auto Group. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

**R:119-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract Renewing Membership In The Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:119-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:120-2014** Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

**Cncl. Teefy** made a motion to approve Resolution R:120-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R: 121-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Rejecting Bids For The Drainage Improvements To Lois Drive Within The Township Of Monroe As Specified In The Bid Specifications For The Township Of Monroe, Gloucester County

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:121-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:122-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Developer's Agreement With Blackhorse Pike AA, LLC For Site Plan #461-SP, Block 3201, Lots 2 & 3

**Cncl. DiLucia** made a motion to approve Resolution R:122-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:123-2014** Resolution Authorizing The Acceptance Of A Secured Performance Guaranty In The Amount Of \$276,024.10 For Advanced Auto For Site Plan #461-SP, Block 3201, Lots 2 & 3 For Certain Site Improvements

**Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to approve Resolution R:123-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:124-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Granting A Renewal Of Inactive License Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 For The 2013-14, 2014-15 And 2015-16 License Terms For License No. 0811-33-005-012, Apple New Jersey LLC

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:124-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:125-2014** Resolution Appointing An Alternate # 1 Member Of The Monroe Township Zoning Board Of Adjustment

**Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to open nominations for an Alternate # 1 Member of the Monroe Township Zoning Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to make a nomination **Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:126-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing Issuance Of Renewal Of Soil Removal License To Sahara Sands, Inc. T/A Sahara Sands Of Franklin Block 9301, Lots 10, 11, 12

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:126-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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

**R:127-2014** Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of June 23, 2014

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:127-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:128-2014** Appointing Contact Person For The Employment Practices Liability Helpline Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland Counties Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

**Cncl. DiLucia** made a motion to approve Resolution R:128-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:129-2014** Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Change Order In The Amount Of \$3,873.00 For The Installation Of Access Control Systems At The Monroe Township Municipal Building

**Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to approve Resolution R:129-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:130-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing Submission Of A Grant Application And Execution Of A Grant Agreement With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The Bikeway Safety & Enhancement Project

**Cncl. DiLucia** made a motion to approve Resolution R:130-2014. 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**. **Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinances O:13-2014 and O:14-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**O:13-2014** An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Establishing Rates Of Compensation To Officers And Employees Of The Township Of Monroe (*Prosecutor/Public Defender*)

**Second Reading:** The above ordinance was published in an official publication for the Township of Monroe. This portion was opened to the public.

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:13-2014 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:13-2014 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain** Ordinance O:13-2014 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:14-2014** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 69 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Police, Division Of"

**Second Reading:** The above ordinance was published in an official publication for the Township of Monroe. This portion was opened to the public.

**Cncl. DiLucia** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:14-2014 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski**.

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D.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:14-2014 FOR SECOND READING AND  
PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain** Ordinance O:14-2014 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

**Mayor Gabbianelli** reported attending the following events on Saturday, June 7th; the Williamstown Rotary Club's dedication of a park bench in honor of former Mayor and Councilman Winnie Sharp at the Library Children's Garden, the Honor Flight Ceremonies at the Williamstown High School and the Music Festival at Owens Park. He commended Pam and Ron Pontano for putting the Honor Flight program together and extended his appreciation to all the volunteers of the Parks and Rec Committee for the Music Festival. He reported the Public Works Department is open on Saturday from 8:00 AM to noon for residents to drop off their yard waste and household trash. Residents must present a driver's license to show they live in Williamstown and no construction materials will be accepted. National Night Out will be held August 7<sup>th</sup> and the fireworks will be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>. He spoke of an article in the paper that said Williamstown is the best place to live and noted we are very proud of finally getting some recognition. The Mayor reported the Police Department went through the final phase of the accreditation process and hopefully by October Monroe Township should have an accredited Police Department. The Mayor spoke of the passing of retired Police Officer Finley Brown at the age of 94 and of Police Officer Anthony Vezza, an eleven year member of the Police Department, being hit by an SUV driven by a drunk driver while making a traffic stop along the Black Horse Pike near Forest Hills. Officer Vezza is in Cooper Hospital and has already undergone one surgery with another scheduled for tomorrow. The Mayor urged everyone to keep Officer Vezza, as well as all police officers, in their prayers.

**Cncl. Teefy** wished Officer Anthony Vezza a speedy recovery. He reported attending a breakfast on Saturday, May 31st held by the Williamstown Middle School Environmental Club to celebrate a community partnership with Boy Scout Troop 161. He also reported the Monroe Township Education Association PRIDE Grant sponsored the STEM Project for solar heating of the green house to benefit the Community Caring Gardens at the Middle School. The solar panel was provided by the Solar Store located in the Amish Market. Cncl. Teefy reported over 5,000 people attended the Music Festival, which included food and craft vendors. Three stages were set up this year; two for local acts and the main stage for performances by Vocal Velocity a group associated with the Road Company, JAGGED lead by a local resident David Marino and the main act Cheers the Band. The festival included fireworks at the end of the night and everyone had a good time. Cncl. Teefy noted he wasn't supposed to emcee the event but due to a problem with the 96.5 DJ he ended up emceeing again this year. He extended appreciation to the event sponsors Williamstown International Rotary, No Sales Company, the First Bank of Williamstown and Parxs Casino and offered a special thanks to Jim Bonder and the Parks and Rec Commission for putting on a great event again this year. He reported attending the "Drug Reality Forum" (originally called Red Out Event) sponsored by the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 175 people attended this program which brought awareness of drug issues in town, heroin and prescription drug use and how to handle issues that may be going on in homes. Cncl. Teefy noted he spoke as the liaison to the MAC and Kevin Meara, appointed by Governor Christie to the State Commission On Drug Awareness, spoke about how kids that became addicted to prescription drugs after an injury are being suspended when the schools should have programs to help them as well as adults going through those problems. Gloucester County has had twenty-three drug overdose deaths and nine of them were from Monroe Township. Those people whose ages ranged from 67 to 18/19 were remembered that evening with candles. Cncl. Teefy extended a special thanks to Municipal Alliance Chairman Cody Miller and the Vice-Chairman Michelle Perez for putting this program together and to the Williamstown High School Administration for allowing the event to be held at the high school theatre. Cncl. Teefy also reported National Night Out will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Pfeiffer Center.

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

**Cncl. Sebastian** commended the Parks and Rec for all the work they did for the Music Festival and thanked the Road Department for their quick response to resolve a drainage issue. He reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting where final approval was granted to Sterling Glen I, a market ratable housing development located on Fries Mill Road past the Scotland Run Country Club. Sterling Glen II is an adult community and the Zoning Board was told within 90 days they will be coming in to start the process for that as well. Cncl. Sebastian noted he publically wanted to congratulate Dan Teefy and his team for winning the Primary Election.

**Cncl. DiLucia** noted around four years ago Governor Christie asked for by-partisan support to address the problems in this state affecting the insurance fund and pension fund and because of that he got national province. Many people were upset with the legislators when they did that, which imposed upon employees a greater contribution to their pension and a substantial contribution to their health insurance. Anyone who understands pension plans knows there are four legs to any pension plan to make it solid. In this case it is the contribution by employees, which have been made; a contribution by the municipality, which was made, the anticipated yield by all parties, which most actuaries consider to be anywhere from 6% to 8% yield, and the Governor is legally responsible to make a contribution on behalf of the State. The Governor announced approximately a month ago that he does not intend to make the \$2.4 billion contribution. Eventually that contribution may be made but the problem with funding a pension plan is that you have to have timely contributions because the monies in those funds are dependent upon the return on investment. Historically the DOW return has been 7% so \$2.4 billion dollars amounts to a lot of money and if contributions are not made by the State this fund will be in a critical situation that will adversely affect people receiving pensions and those who are expecting them and that is not right. The governor has 148 inter-circle employees directly working for him and he gave 27 of those employees an average increase this year of 23% and one even got 50%. The newspaper that uncovered that submitted an OPRA request but the governor refused to give the paper any information but the matter was taken to court and eventually they got the information. The governor could give his staff those increases but refuses to make the payment to the pension fund for other employees who made their contributions but Senator Sweeney is challenging that through the court system, which will make a final determination on the issue. This year senior citizens will not receive their \$500.00 tax rebate because the Governor claims his revenue estimates were extremely over stated and there is not enough money for those things but yet there is enough money to give his staff increases averaging 23%. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of how the Pineland Commission voted to give their employees a 5% salary increase, which the Governor refused to sign because he said that increase was outlandish and yet he gave 23% and 50%. Cncl. DiLucia stated he wanted to address this issue, which affects employees in this municipality who paid their contributions because shortly we will be hearing how employee pensions will be cut because there is not enough money. Governor Corzine did not contribute to the pension fund in the past and Governor Christie criticized him for it and now he is doing the same thing. There is legislation before him that asked to impose a millionaires tax, which would tax anyone with an income of \$500,000.00 and he refuses to do that and is refusing to address shortfalls. Cncl. DiLucia went on to say New Jersey is one of the states that has not recovered from the recession. Unemployment sets the income level and when that drops, the taxation on those incomes drop causing revenue to drop, which is one of the major problems. Unemployment may be dropping but employment in this state is not coming back at the same compensation level it was therefore the tax revenue has dramatically dropped. Cncl. DiLucia noted this is not the end of the story and what we will hear next is that workers are over compensated, their pensions are too rich and their insurance is too good. He went on to say currently township employees are paying 30% of their insurance premiums, which amounts to \$6,000.00 or \$7,000.00 less in their paychecks and now there is a possibility that their pensions may not be what they were promised because of a lack of contributions on the part of the State; not on the municipality's part. If we did not have that money we would have to borrow it and pay it back at 18% interest and it's a crime that the State is not paying this bill.

**Cncl. Dilks** reported the MMUA met on June 18<sup>th</sup> and voted upon a resolution for Federici and Akins to move forward with the application to put Crystal Lake back in the Sewer Zone. That process takes time and it will be at least two years before anything happens in that area. Cncl. Dilks will keep Council updated on the process. He noted Officer Anthony Vezza and his family are in his prayers.

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

Cncl. Caligiuri reported on June 2<sup>nd</sup> he attended the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting. The Committee is currently researching the terms and changes to the Open Space Ordinance so there may be some requests in the future for Council to amend the ordinance. He reported he had planned to attend the June 12<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting but that meeting was cancelled.

Cncl. Bryson referred to Cncl. DiLucia's comments and noted everyone should be aware of what is happening in the State and Federal government. He noted the State wants to add a 15¢ tax to gasoline because the fund used to construct roads has been raided and is almost broke. He urged residents to contact their senator and assemblymen to let them know they do not support this. The cost to pave one mile of roadway in New Jersey is \$1.2 million while in Pennsylvania and Delaware to pave that same mile of road cost between \$300,000.00 and \$500,000.00. This State needs to become competitive and find ways to cut those costs and it should stop raiding accounts and use money for what it was originally intended for. Cncl. Bryson went on to express his feelings regarding the small turnout during the Primary Election. He urged citizens to vote in November, those that are not registered to register and those that will be out of town to vote-by-mail, as very important things are going on at the Federal level. Leaders need to be elected from both sides of the aisle that will protect our borders, not encourage illegal entry and give legal citizens from every nationality and race the attention they deserve. He cautioned residents not to be misled because the solution of illegals crossing our borders is not in the proposed comprehensive immigration bill. This legislation is 1,000 pages long with many zingers that will not solve the problem but will definitely increase the number, escalate the cost to support illegal entrance efforts and no one will be sent back. Cncl. Bryson urged residents to go to the website "Numbers USA" to see what the drafters have in mind concerning our solvency. He urged residents to elect officials that support funding to States affected so that they can supplement border agents and patrol borders to stop illegal crossing. There are still fifty million US citizens out of work, we are still in a recession, might have a threat of increased energy prices that could push our economy into a depression and most legal US citizens do not favor an open border. He urged residents to support leaders who will bring back industry and jobs for our citizens. Don't support those that forget about people and give corporate America their attention by favoring policies that have labor rates racing towards the lowest common denominator and tax breaks that equate to zero contributions. Our people deserve better and our education system deserves more direction from industry to accommodate the industries that want to come here. Cncl. Bryson also noted children are now out of school and he urged residents to slow down while driving through developments and backing out of driveways.

**Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** on behalf of his family, the Administration and all township employees extended wishes for a quick recovery to Officer Anthony Vezza, who was involved in an accident while performing his police duties along the Black Horse Pike. Patrolmen Vezza is an excellent police officer and one of the most diligent the township has. He noted all police officers put themselves at risk when making car stops, which was shown on Saturday night when Officer Vezza was struck by a car. Mr. Heydel reported two years ago the Police Department contracted with the Rogers Group a consulting firm whose expertise is in policies, procedures and police accreditation. The accreditation program, started under retired Chief Joe Smart, is not easy to do, as there are over 500 municipalities in New Jersey and only about 135 have received accreditation and approximately 200 are in the pipeline moving toward it. Chief McKeown picked up the ball after Chief Smart retired along with Deputy Chief Howard Wiemer, Capt. Stephen Farrell, Capt. Jon Rumpf and recently Patrolman Derrick Jacobus. They did an excellent job in getting the ball over the finish line and we expect accreditation sometime in October. Mr. Heydel noted he attended the exit interview and there was only one minor issue with a compliance and the accolades the officers and senior command received was moving. In December last year we asked for the position of Evidence Officer and the accolades we received from the audit on the evidence room was astounding, it was 100% in compliance. Mr. Heydel noted he is so excited about this because the Police Department worked so hard. It is an accomplishment; not just for the senior staff, but for every patrol officer on our force, as we are now one of the "elite" police departments in the State of New Jersey.

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

**Engineer, Dave Cella** reported on June 19<sup>th</sup> a pre-construction meeting was held regarding the Winslow Road and Owens Lighting projects. The notice to proceed has been issued for July 15<sup>th</sup> for the Owens Sports Lighting Project and July 7<sup>th</sup> for the Winslow Road Project.

**Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart** reported June 7<sup>th</sup> was an over the top day for the township. Members of EMS started their day at 6:00 AM for the Honor Flight activities. The Police Department escorted the Honor Flight out of town and then went on to set up the traffic patterns for the 5-K run. Many times ambulances standby during the 5-K run and people do not understand how much money the volunteers save municipalities and he commended the volunteers for their service to the township. He also extended best wishes to Officer Anthony Vezza for a speedy recovery.

**Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** also sent prayers and well wishes to Officer Anthony Vezza for a speedy recovery, congratulated the Police Department on their pending accreditation, suggested everyone go to the Township and Library website to see upcoming summer programs and thanked the Parks and Rec Committee for the success of the Music Festival. He also congratulated Cncl. Teefy on winning the Primary Election for Mayor.


**F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

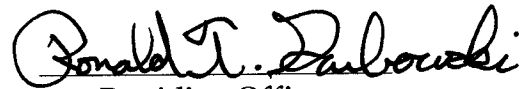
**Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl.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

**G.) ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss **Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of June 23, 2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan McCormick, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

  
Presiding Officer

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of June 23, 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           *Smj*            
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_

Date           7/28/14            
Date \_\_\_\_\_