

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

**A.) OPENING CEREMONIES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:15 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. Bryson** 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, Chris Rehmann	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz		Excused
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Certificates of Recognition - MTL 10/11 Baseball State Champions**

**Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** and **Mayor Gabbianelli** presented Certificates of Recognition to **Caden Dulin, Brett Wichrowski, Ryan Achey, Dillon Love, Jonathon Wood, Frank Kopaczewski, Joseph Racobaldo, Lucas Dinger, Kyle Neri, Christopher Montone, Jarred Reis, Bobby DiDonato, Douglas Brown** and **Manager Jason Dulin** and **Coaches Mark Wichrowski** and **Joe Achey** of the **Monroe Township Little League 10-11 Year Old Baseball Tournament Team** in recognition of winning **"The New Jersey District 21 Championship, the Section 4 Tournament Championship and the New Jersey 10-11 Year Old Baseball State Championship.**

**Little League President Nick Fortunato** extended his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for recognizing the accomplishment of this championship team. He noted this is the second year in a row this team won the State Championship and he would love to see them do it three years in a row. Mr. Fortunato also congratulated the manager, coaches and players for doing a fantastic job.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of September 8, 2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Dilks** who Abstained.

At this time **Mayor Gabbianelli** made a statement in regards to the incident that happened at the Firemen's Convention in Wildwood involving the Williamstown Fire Company. He reported holding a meeting with the Fire Department Board of Directors and noted they came up with a plan to hold sensitivity training for all volunteer organizations. We are in the process of setting this up with our legal counsel, Brown and Connery and they will advise us how to handle it. Once this is done the Fire Company and volunteer Ambulance Company will be notified. Mayor Gabbianelli thanked the volunteers for their service and introduced the President of the Williamstown Fire Company, Joe Kurz.

**Joseph Kurz, President of the Williamstown Fire Company** extended sincere apologies on behalf of the entire fire company to those who were offended by the inappropriate banner at the New Jersey State Firemen's Convention in Wildwood. This was an unfortunate action followed by very poor judgment and Mr. Kurz assured everyone this type of action will not happen again under his tenure. Williamstown Fire Company # 1 is a proud organization made up of volunteer men and women. These volunteers are dedicated, trained professionals who proudly serve their community. Our organization has had a strong bond with this community for over 100 years and that will continue. Again, we apologize for this incident and the embarrassment to our community. We will continue to provide the best possible fire protection to the residents of Monroe Township while proudly serving this outstanding organization and community. Mr. Kurz thanked the Mayor and Council for affording him the opportunity to speak.

**B.) CORRESPONDENCE**

**Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** advised the Mayor and Council received a thank you card from the Campbell/Coles family for the flowers sent in memory of Jeff Coles.

**C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION**

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled - Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** 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. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:159-2014** Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:159-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:160-2014** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Amended Developer's Agreement With Hovbros Stirling Glen, LLC And Hovbros Fries Mill, LLC For Subdivision #1713, Block 14201, Lot 1 And Block 14801, Lot 12

**Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to approve Resolution R:160-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:161-2014** Resolution Releasing The Irrevocable Standby Letter Of Credit Posted For "Cross Keys Pavilion (Commercial Site)", Site Plan # SP-444 PS-1, Block 101, Lot 3.02 And Substituting A Maintenance Guaranty In The Amount Of \$57,235.20 For Certain Site Improvements

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

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:161-2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:162-2014** Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss Guim V. Monroe Township And Simmermon V. Monroe Township Litigations

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:162-2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

At this time 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 Ordinance O:16-2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. DiLucia 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. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**O:16-2014** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Establishing Rates Of Compensation To Officers And Employees Of The Township Of Monroe

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

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski made a motion to approve Ordinance O:16-2014 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. DiLucia.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:16-2014 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.** Ordinance O:16-2014 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:17-2014** An Ordinance To Amend Section 175-135 Of The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Monroe Regarding Signs

**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:17-2014 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Pres., Garbowski and approved by all members of Council with the exception of Cncl. Teefy who opposed the ordinance.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Solicitor Fiore reported Council just concluded a Closed Executive Session that took approximately fifteen to twenty minutes. During the meeting he brought the Mayor and Council up to date as to the two matters listed that are part of the current litigation. No action will be taken this evening.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Bryson reported the benefit held at St. Mary's on Friday night for Taylor Hyndman was a success with over four hundred people attending. He extended his appreciation to those that came out to support Taylor but noted the medical bills are still mounting up and if anyone that would like to provide financial assistance they should contact St. Mary's Church.

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

**Cncl. Caligiuri** reported attending the Public Safety Committee Meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> and the Planning Board Meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> and noted there is nothing to report from those meetings.

**Cncl. DiLucia** noted this evening Certificates of Recognition were presented to the Little League Baseball Team for winning the State Championship and he felt it was understated to just say they won a state championship because anyone who has ever coached or been involved with little league baseball understands the magnitude of that accomplishment. These are eleven year olds from Monroe Township that were the best in the State of New Jersey and that is a heck of an accomplishment, which takes a lot of discipline, hard work and hours and hours of practice. Cncl. DiLucia noted many people think people are born with these skills and that may be true but the coaches do a lot to refine those skills in such a way that a disciplined product comes out as a cohesive unit of nine players on a field. Cncl. DiLucia commended the coaches for the time they spent with this team and the parents for allowing their children to participate in activities that help them grow as human beings. He added the parents should take a lot of pride in the fact that they contributed to that. Cncl. DiLucia went on to speak about problems with the New Jersey Public Employee's Pension System and how Governor Christie proclaimed state and municipal employees were somehow the major cause for all the financial woes in this State. He noted no one can deny the taxes are very high but he does not believe the culprits in this calculation are the state and municipal employees. He spoke of how he previously went on record saying the governor's approach would not resolve the pension problem and that is now evident. If this problem continues in its current direction it will have major consequences for not only employees expecting a pension at the end of their career but to the taxpayers that are going to have to fill the void in the financial responsibilities that are going to exist. He explained the way the pension plan works is employees contribute money every pay and the municipality sends a sizeable check every year for our portion but to this day, the governor has not put one penny in the budget to pay the State's portion and that will only multiply the problems that exist in that pension plan. He felt the time has come where the municipality can no longer sit back and allow this to happen or ignore the consequences it will have on employees. Whether you like it or not there is both a contractual and moral responsibility to ensure pension money is available for those who have worked twenty-five or thirty years as well as for those who are presently retired depending on their pension to live in this economy. Cncl. DiLucia suggested Council contact every municipality within the State of New Jersey to ask them to join us in adopting a resolution insisting that the governor find the money to fund the State's obligation to the pension plan. Cncl. DiLucia noted he believes it is a legal and moral responsibility and it is something that cannot go unaddressed. He noted many people don't care what happens to municipal workers because they feel it will not affect them or because they feel municipal workers are overpaid and over compensated but it will affect them because if this pension plan goes under someone will have to pull it out of the hole that it goes in. If everyone else is paying their share it is the governor's responsibility to create the budget to make sure emergency situations are addressed and we need to insist that the governor find money in the State budget to pay for the pension obligations. He explained pension money is given to investment companies to invest and the dividends supplement the contributions. Normally pensions are invested in prudent and conservative things that take no chances on a down market but the governor invested a lot of the money in Hedge Funds, which are very speculative and very, very costly. These investment firms charge higher handling fees than other companies and last year the return on the investment on those pension funds was far below what the average investment in other funds were. This is like hiring and paying a contractor big bucks for a lousy job. In this case it put those pension plans in jeopardy because Hedge Funds can drop 30% to 40% and then what will happen with these pension plans. Cncl. DiLucia noted at the next Work Session Meeting he was going to request a resolution be developed to ask other towns to join us in insisting the governor keeps his legal and moral responsibility and find money to fund these pension plans.

**Cncl. Sebastian** reported Monroe Township Ambulance entered the 1963 Rescue Truck in the Antique Category and an ambulance in the Ambulance Category at the Firemen's Convention and both took First Place in their categories. Cecil Fire took their Rescue Pumper and took Second Place for the Best Appearing Rescue Pumper in the State. He noted this is a big achievement for the volunteers, as they spend a lot of time making sure their rigs are clean because judges practically go through a vehicle with white gloves to make sure it is in perfect

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

condition to earn the title. Win, lose or draw it is good for the municipality because the vehicles are being maintained. The ambulances have gone through many years of service and recently the original boxes were put on new chassis. Both the paid crew and volunteers spend a lot of time maintaining the six ambulances we have keeping them all in good shape. Proclamations will be presented to the Cecil Fire Company and Monroe Township Ambulance Association at the October 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting to show our appreciation for them taking care of our equipment in such a well manner.

**Cncl. Teefy** reported on Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> he attended the Environmental Commission Meeting where discussion took place regarding the clean community projects they have been working on. September 13<sup>th</sup> they had volunteer groups clean up the Cedar Lake Wildlife Management area, which is off Jackson Road and Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> they will be cleaning up the 4-H property located in the Cecil area. During the Commission Meeting Cncl. Teefy told the Commission that when he took his daughter to college in Washington State he found out stores do not use plastic bags and they charge five cents for a paper bag. The town of about 90,000 people has an ordinance making plastic bags illegal. People bring their own bags to the stores and it was interesting to see how going green is working in that town. The Commission discussed looking into doing that here. It would take a while to implement and they would have to work with Shop Rite and Wal-Mart the two major stores in town to get people to start bringing their own bags to the stores. Plastic bags do not go away, they end up in landfills and they are not biodegradable. He advised in the future the Environmental Commission may have more information on this. Cncl. Teefy reported he attended the POW/MIA Ceremony at the Pfeiffer Center on Friday night where approximately seventy people were in attendance to honor former prisoners of war and those missing in action. During the ceremonies the VFW and American Legion presented Mayor Gabbianelli with a very nice plaque in recognition of his dedicated service to the veterans of the township during his twelve years as mayor. On Saturday he attended the Cecil Fire Department barbeque and the American Legion Riders Beef and Beer. He reported on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> the Fall Festival will be held at Owens Park from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This event will include games, hayrides and food. At 2:00 PM it will be shut down because the Parks and Rec Commission members need to begin getting things ready for the Halloween Parade, which begins at 7:00 PM that night. The parade will include large and small floats, classic cars, motorcycles, string bands and candy will be handed out to the kids. Cncl. Teefy urged parents not to let their children run into the street for the candy as there are vehicles in the parade and we don't want anyone to get hurt. Those who wish to enter a float or walk in the parade should contact the Parks and Rec Department at 856-728-1372.

**Mayor Gabbianelli** reported attending the Opening Ceremonies for Soccer on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. He noted he was involved when his children played and now his grandchildren are playing. During the event Marion Berwick was honored and presented with a proclamation in recognition of 40 years of service to the association. The Mayor congratulated her and thanked her for her service. The Mayor reported on Wednesday he bagged groceries at Shop Rite along with Sean Landeta, a former Eagles and Giant's kicker for the "Help Bag Hunger" program and while he was there he saw people coming in with their own bags. He also reported attending the POW/MIA Ceremony and was very surprised with the recognition and kind words from the veterans. He reported the Public Works yard will be closed on Saturdays after this month, that the township was awarded a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the CDBG for Phase 6 of the Winslow Road Project, which will begin in the spring and that Applebees would like to be open by the end of the year. **Engineer Chris Rehmann** advised a preconstruction conference, which they previously postponed twice, has been scheduled for next Thursday. The Mayor added they want to be open by the end of the year but they have a paperwork issue with the Pinelands. The Mayor reported one of the new police officers saved a man's life by using Narcan and the ambulance squads will begin their training on it so township emergency responders can be as efficient as possible. He also reported the Administration renegotiated with the HIF regarding the two million dollar refund we were to get in 2018, six years after we left the HIF. Getting two million dollars at one time would be difficult budgeting so instead of that we will get half a million dollars in 2016 and 2017 and a million dollars in 2018. Spreading the refund out will create a more stable budget for the township. The Mayor noted he has 100 days remaining in his term.

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

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski reported on September 15<sup>th</sup> he attended the Economic Development Commission Meeting and they are rekindling the video project advertising Monroe Township they are working on with school students. The Commission is also trying to negotiate with a couple of banks to get funding for the Tax Card Project, as twenty-five businesses are interested in the program. The Business Seminar scheduled for September has been cancelled and they are looking to move that to the spring 2015. He also reported attending the Library Board Meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>, which was the first meeting of the new school year. The Board is sponsoring a program bring a friend to the Library and win a prize. The Library has many upcoming events including moving night, needle art classes, Bookworms Book Club, writing groups and healthcare seminars. He urged everyone to check out the Library website as the Library has something for everyone. He also reported the IHOP is now open. **Director of Public Safety Jim Smart** reported they advised the Fire Department they were having an experimental opening; the actual opening will be sometime this week. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski congratulated the 10/11 Little League Team and the coaches for doing a fantastic job. He noted it's tough to win this championship one time but to win it two times in a row is like a miracle.

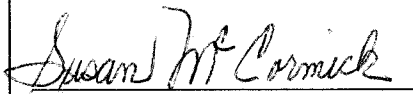
F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

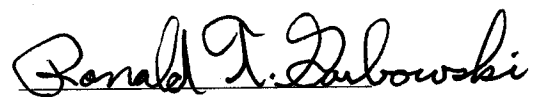
Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Caligiuri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

G) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Dilks made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of September 22, 2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Sebastian 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 September 22, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ *SM* \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_

Date 10/13/14  
Date \_\_\_\_\_