

MINUTES  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
OCTOBER 27, 2014

**A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL**

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council President, Ronald Garbowski** 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. Walt 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		Excused
Cncl. Richard DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Mayor, Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Business Admin., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	(Arrived 7:30PM)
Engineer, Chris Rehmann	Present	(Arrived 7:10PM)
Dir. of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	(Arrived 7:30PM)
Dir. of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

• **UPDATE – Property Tax Card Reward Program**

**Tony Langella, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission** introduced **Brent Euler**, Relationship Manager for the Property Tax Rebate Program along with **Jared Valdez**, Vice-Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Euler began by advising council members of the program and how it is working well for some 25 communities throughout New Jersey and has been up and running for some three years. Obviously, just like any new corporation it's taken some time to fill in the gaps. We have been receiving inquiries from all over the US (*Pittsburgh, Florida*) however at this time we are concentrating here in New Jersey. He explained Glassboro is the most recent town to initiate this program and it is working extremely well. They have 40 or 50 merchants already

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**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)**

in the program. Voorhees Township has the longest running program in the area and has had the program for approximately one year. Mr. Euler noted some participants are getting back upwards of \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 on the high end, on the low end, obviously if the card is not being used, they are getting very little to nothing at all. He noted it takes the burden off of the council's back with the number one problem in New Jersey, that being real estate taxes. If this program can relieve some pressure, that helps the township. As far as the merchants are concerned it helps them also. In Voorhees we have some merchants who are seeing a 30% increase solely in their sales due to our program. It is also good for the tax payers as some of them are getting back hundreds, if not thousands for those residents who own property within the township and we can give a credit to. He then spoke on the residents who rent and decide to go along with the program or teachers and policemen who may work in Monroe and live out of town they may be entitled to a card and in lieu of a tax credit we send back a check at the end of the year. If any of the council members will be attending the NJLOM we invite you to visit our booth down there we will probably have more people at our booth than any other booth as there isn't any town that doesn't want to be in the program. Mr. Euler went on to speak of the many merits of the program. He suggested that council go along with the program as there is no down side to it.

**Tony Langella** advised that council has already approved the tax card program what we have to get in an investor. He explained the system that came out originally was a credit card type of system however it had some glitches. They are now coming out with a second system that will be available at a relatively reasonable charge. You would buy a scanner (\$30.00) and this along with the tax card and some type of key fob where you run it through the scanner would be the process. There are no monthly costs involved just the price of the scanner which is purchased by the merchants. Mr. Langella then noted they would like to wait until after the election and see who the new mayor may be to see what his position is as far business is concerned. Also, we need a sponsor when TD Bank was approached they sort of shot us down. He noted Investor's Bank supported/sponsored the card program in Glassboro and Republic Bank sponsors the cards in Voorhees adding that they have done extremely well with this program. He noted some merchants offer anywhere from 5% to 15%, the object being that it increases business in the town and reduces taxes. Mr. Langella again stressed the need for a sponsor.

**Cncl. Caligiuri** questioned just how the system works as it relates to the quarterly payment of taxes. Mr. Euler explained once a sale is made it goes into our system and the customer is always able to access on line just how much tax is coming back, normally in most towns, the information that we have is sent to the tax collector office at the end of the second quarter and it is actually applied to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter taxes. **Cncl. Caligiuri** was curious on just how the resident actually finds out what their tax bill is. It is only applied, in most towns, one time with the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter taxes. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** explained it would automatically show up on your tax bill as a reduction, it is the same thing where the homestead credit shows up and it credits your 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter taxes, so it would be automatic. Again, he stressed it will be included as a reduction as it will be applied at the

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**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)**

end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter before the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter bills. Mr. Langella presented a scenario and explained how the credit/discount is applied with 75% going toward property taxes and 25% going toward administrative costs associated with the tax card program, indicating the township is completely out of the picture, they do all of the accounting (*according to a representative from Voorhees the township offices are not involved with the process, they do nothing*). Mr. Euler did explain with the exception of the tax office as they receive the information at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Mr. Heydel noted basically you are taking a file and importing it into the system which updates the tax collection system which reduces the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payment and that is it.

**Cncl. Sebastian** questioned how many vendors do you need to initiate the program and how far have you gotten in securing potential vendors. Mr. Langella noted we presented this program to the Businessman's Association and they all showed interest as well as the Rotary Club members who also want to get into the program. Mr. Euler advised that 25 is a good number to start with. Mr. Langella added we have 500 businesses in our town, where they are he did not know as many people work out of their homes but if we could get 25-30 to start the program will take off. Mr. Langella stressed the one single main thing still needed is an INVESTOR who will put up \$10,000.00 to purchase the cards, adding their name will on the card, and they would get back the glamour by becoming the sponsor. Questions were posed on various items such as: scanner equipment that will be used, how the program could be set up, fees involved (*if any*), etc. Mr. Langella then referred to a feasibility study that was conducted many years ago and how he questioned the person (*Getz*) who prepared the study on just how much money is spent outside of our town. The result he got back was \$35,000.00 per household. He then spoke of displaying signs throughout the township noting the merchants that participate ("*Buy Monroe*"). He felt this help business greatly. Mr. Euler then noted if council did have any questions that they should contact Freeholder, Heather Simmons who is involved with this program in Glassboro.

**Cncl. Teefy** questioned if any data existed to show us the difference in taxes and how much they have gotten off over a period of time in Voorhees and other towns that are participating. Mr. Euler explained that everything is on-line so if you go to [www.propertytaxcard.com](http://www.propertytaxcard.com) it will give you all that information. **Cncl. Teefy** then questioned how much the property tax card program took out of the cut. It was noted that 25% is taken out for administrative purposes no matter what the percentage. Mr. Euler noted, the resident only sees the amount that they get. **Cncl. Teefy** noted if you tell me the percentage is 10% I am going to look at my tax bill and out of \$1,000.00 I would only be getting \$75.00 not the \$100.00. Mr. Euler noted that was a good point and what happens is that the customer only sees the \$75.00 figure when they go on-line however at the bottom there is a disclaimer that says there are some additional fees for the administration of the program. **Cncl. Teefy** felt that should be brought to the attention of the residents as he is hearing there is interest in the program. Mr. Euler added that currently we are getting 10 to 15 calls a week from this township questioning when the program is due to begin. Mr. Langella noted

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**B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)**

we would like to acquire 10,000 cards and thought rather than going through the mail perhaps he would have a shindig at his place where people could come in and pick up a card. Mr. Euler then explained it would be run just like in a supermarket where you don't even have to carry the card the information can be accessed with your phone number.

**Cncl. DiLucia** spoke and as he understood what was being presented is that we are in need of someone to sponsor the purchase of the cards. He questioned if it was possible or even feasible to get several sponsors to split the cost. Mr. Euler explained we have been thinking that way. Mr. Langella noted he spoke with Carmine de Falco, the originator of the program, regarding this and yes this is possible, but he thought we could have as many as three sponsors, for example if the first investor were to give \$5,000.00 then 2 possible investors could each give \$2,500.00 that would work. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted with a program that seems like it would be very good we shouldn't let a barrier of one sponsor hold this whole thing up. Mr. Euler spoke on another by product of this program that being it induces more business so any vacant properties you may have this may bring in more people with interest in those properties, to start a new business. **Cncl. DiLucia** questioned what benefit a bank would derive from being a sponsor of this program. Mr. Euler spoke again on Voorhees (*Republic Bank*) and how that bank has derived approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 worth of free advertising, the bank is noted not only on the back of each card but on all the signage throughout the town. There was much discussion on added incentives that could be put into place to entice a bank to be part of this program. Mr. Langella urged council members to reach out to Susquehanna Bank as the township does a lot of business with them. **Cncl. Teefy** questioned the fee associated with the vendor who chooses to participate, it is a one-time or annual fee. Mr. Euler noted this is a one-time fee, as the card will be good for some twenty years we ask for no money after the initial \$10,000.00. **Cncl. Caligiuri** questioned what would happen if someone loses their card. Mr. Langella responded we are planning on getting 10,000 cards at \$1.00 each, he is looking at only giving out 7500 and holding 2500 because people will lose their card. **Cncl. Teefy** then questioned the information that is driven by this program dealing with shopping habits, etc. and where exactly does that go. Mr. Euler explained it is private information and all highly regulated as well as safety driven for both the consumer and the town. Mr. Langella thanked council for their time and for the opportunity to make the presentation.

**C.) PUBLIC PORTION**

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to close Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**D.) NEW BUSINESS - None**

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**E.) OLD BUSINESS – None**

**F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Cncl. Walt Bryson** advised a public safety committee meeting (*Bryson, Caligiuri, Teefy*) was held on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to address concerns relative to the purchase of a rescue truck. All interested parties (*Fire Companies, EMS*) were included as well as discussion on the economic impact of purchasing the truck. Mr. Bryson noted that as a result of the meeting what we (*public safety committee*) decided to do was to recommend to council members that we don't take action on the present ordinance (*O:20-2014 An Ordinance of the Township of Monroe Appropriating a Sum Not to Exceed \$525,000.00 for the Purchase of a 2014 Pierce Rescue Vehicle*) which is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at the regular council meeting and we delay this process until other things are investigated. The ordinance in its current form is incorrect it should have been prepared as a *Bond Ordinance* but bottom line is we wanted to investigate a couple of other alternatives. One of those being the possible purchase of a truck from another township at a very reasonable cost. **Cncl. Teefy** advised we were looking at an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party study and have someone from the administrative side come in and oversee the project to make sure it is the proper vehicle for us and to make sure the cost is kept as low as possible. He felt this was a decision for 2015 with the new mayor and council.

**Cncl. Sebastian, Ordinance Chairman** noted he was informed through the solicitor that Ordinance O:20-2014 (*as referenced above*) in regard to purchasing a rescue truck is not in the proper format.

**Solicitor Fiore** indicated that was correct and he noted after checking with bond counsel and speaking with Mr. Heydel before it was even put on the agenda, I tentatively agreed, it would have had to eventually been a bond ordinance. It was originally thought that there was going to be cash flow available for a down payment because of the fact there was not it generated the need to have the bond ordinance in the format required under the bond law, it was not in that format initially. **Cncl. Sebastian** questioned as Ordinance Chair could he just remove O:20-2014 from the agenda. Solicitor Fiore instructed you do not have to vote it down, just remove it from the agenda. It just simply had to appear on the agenda as it was advertised for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. **Cncl. Sebastian** will announce at the regular council meeting that this ordinance was removed from the agenda. **Cncl. Sebastian** then referred to the mention of a rescue truck being for sale from Logan Township adding it was the same truck the we have (*same front, same back, same everything*) and his question was, why are they getting rid of it? **Cncl. Teefy** responded they were looking to consolidate their services and go to like a rescue pumper type thing and use those types of multi-purpose vehicles now. **Cncl. Sebastian** questioned and not have a heavy rescue? **Cncl. Teefy** noted the heavy rescue would be done by something else but heavy rescue can be done by a multi-purpose vehicle also. **Cncl. DiLucia** requested on what the 3<sup>rd</sup> party study on our public safety vehicles would include, will they be looking at all the apparatus in both fire and rescue. He requested clarification on this and he thought it was noted they would just look at the rescue. **Cncl. Teefy** advised it would be for someone to come in and take a look at all of our public

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**F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)**

safety equipment. **Cncl. DiLucia** felt this was the best thing to do because then we know if we have enough equipment presently to do the job and if we don't this will give us (*at least*) an expert's opinion. **Cncl. Teefy** added and we may also have some duplicate extra equipment that we can sell.

**Cncl. Teefy** requested Council President to re-open the Public Portion of the meeting as a gentleman, who was not familiar with the process had just arrived and he wished to speak to council. **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** approved this and asked for a motion to re-open the Public Portion.

**Cncl. Teefy** made a motion to re-open the Public Portion of the council work session. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and was unanimously approved by all members of council in attendance.

**PUBLIC PORTION (re-convened)**

**James Parker** – approached council indicating he has been a resident of the township for the past fifteen years and his biggest concern is with the crime wave that is in the area, especially in the area where he lives on Library Street. He referred to a murder that took place about a year and half ago and since that time there has been a lot of chaos, violence, drinking and drugs. In a three block radius it is terrible and it is getting worse by the day and he sees this on a daily basis. Mr. Parker was hoping with a new administration coming in, that some of this stuff could be addressed because it is getting bad especially with the Grand Theatre there and I know a lot of those people don't feel safe getting out of their cars because there are a lot of drug addicts walking and all kinds of things can happen. He noted he was just putting this out there before something serious happens. **Cncl. Teefy** responded to this saying one of the concerns here is that back 10-12 years ago we had seventy (70) police officers with special task forces that could go around and were able to walk Main Street. Over a period of time, with the economic conditions our police force was down to 56-58 people. Today we are at 62 police officers and max at 68. **Cncl. Teefy** noted that last year council put on 4 new officers and are looking at adding 4 more next year and the direction (*for him*) is to put some people on the street, with patrols on Main Street where they are not just driving by but walking by and becoming part of the community. **Mayor Gabbianelli** spoke of the efforts the police force is taking with cameras, etc. There was discussion as to what type of things are taking place in the area and what options are available to our police. **Cncl. Teefy** felt it takes a community and the police working together and sharing information, getting boots on the ground and letting them know we are there. Mr. Parker noted that he strongly believes that the community needs to be getting involved. He, personally talks to many people throughout Williamstown and his thing is the community has to get involved a lot of people want to say a lot of things but when it is time to step up to the plate, don't step back. There are lot of out-of-towners coming here, standing with some friends and next thing you know they are setting up shop. A lot of them are violent, carrying guns and they want to get confrontational so they can act out. Mr. Parker continued, he has a lot of dealings, especially in the building where he lives because he is running into a lot of people under the

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influence of drugs and alcohol. He spoke with a few officers and interact with them to let them know exactly what is going on, it is crazy and I told them I not going to let anybody hurt me, I will protect myself. The Mayor spoke on some of the problems along Main Street primarily in a one block radius and a few homes along Washington Avenue.

**Cncl. Sebastian** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and was unanimously approved by all members of council in attendance.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** (cont'd)

**Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** reported on the Redevelopment Committee advising that Mr. Kernan suggested we put a resolution together to basically kill the redevelopment zone at the old Acme. **Cncl. Caligiuri** then noted the recommendation was to eliminate, actually we ought to make a recommendation to the Planning Board to eliminate the overlay, which is the plan but not eliminate the redevelopment zone so we establish that the area is in need of redevelopment but we do not have a specific plan in place. The reason for that is the specific plan we have includes some residential, some commercial and the Pinelands said that if you want to make it all commercial you got to relocate the residential zone, or else. So, if we eliminate the plan the underlying zoning takes precedence which was all commercial. If someone wanted to develop that area, they wanted to say put some residential in they could come to the Planning Board and ask for a variance. That would enable us flexibility. It would take a letter from the Solicitor to the Planning Board. Mr. Fiore noted it would also require a resolution be prepared for the next meeting. **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** stressed this is only for the Acme side. **Cncl. Bryson** then questioned if a resolution or ordinance was required. The Solicitor advised you need to a look at that and understand under the redevelopment law it would take a recommendation from the governing body to the Planning Board who then undertakes a study even though their study may be to delete that portion of the redevelopment plan it still requires formal action and he needs to see if it requires a resolution or ordinance. It does require formal action and a vote.

**G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED – 10/27/14**

**Engineer, Chris Rehmann** spoke with regard to Resolution R:180-2014 (*Authorizing Installation of an Automated Trail Use Counter on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Within the Township of Monroe, County of Gloucester*). He explained this is being done through the expense of the DVRPC and he urged council's approval on this. We are requesting, through Mr. Heydel, certain items of revenue to be added to the budget, they are the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 and we would like to use this to supplement the \$200,000.00 we have from the NJDOT to pave the next portion of Winslow Road. Also, Resolution R:186-2014 (*Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation NJSA 40A:4-87 Multi-Modal Transportation System Master Plan (TCDI)*). He explained again through the expense of the DVRPC in the amount of \$85,000.00 to allow us to do a bike and pedestrian master plan. What we would like to be able to do with that is hide within the evaluation all of the municipal streets in the township to give you a condition rating so that we can get out of this, not only a bike path and pedestrian path, but also a five-year capital plan for paving. It is not part of what you can get money for directly

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**G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED (cont'd)**

but since we are going to look at roads to see whether we could put bike lanes in them, we think condition of the road is important. We can work that in so we can get two studies out of the one fund. Mr. Rehmann explained this is more aimed toward walking and to the bike path. We want to try and make sure we can inter-move the existing interior bike path to go through the Genova Tract, the Mary Duffy tract back to Church Street into that whole area. The County has taken the bike path through Glassboro, then taking it further west though another grant and is in the process of being designed now. What we would like to also do is allow some other connections between Camden & Gloucester Counties. Mr. Rehmann spoke on the plan that we are going to develop, once it is developed and accepted that then leads to funding to implement the plan. That is what the DVRPC is looking for us to do and this study will take at least six months to complete.

**Engineer, Chris Rehmann** then noted that both he and Mike Calvello had a meeting with SJ Gas Company and Crown Pipeline because of the issues that Crown Pipeline was creating on the restoration of gas installations in the township. He added that Mike had a library of pictures of the faults he was trying to deal with. It was a good meeting, Crown was there and the owners but they didn't understand some of the issues until Mike laid them on the table. Things are going to change and it is our responsibility to get back to SJ Gas if things aren't changing. We should, hopefully see some changes. We also understand from Abby Greenberg, Community Relations that they are working on a draft agreement with the township to reimburse us approximately \$28,000.00 for all of the gas main openings out on Winslow Road. We could put this into an escrow account to use for the repaving of that entire roadway.

**Solicitor Fiore** advised that Resolution R:188-2014 (*Resolution Authoring Closed Executive Session Guim v. Monroe Township and Simmermon v. Monroe Township Litigations*) should be removed from the agenda as he has nothing to report on either matter. We were hoping that Mr. Baxter would be here this evening on the Guim matter but he will not be available until the next meeting.

**Engineer, Chris Rehmann** then reported we are working with the county engineer's office on the Cecil Fire Company Communications Tower where the county is going to do the installation. He advised we had prepared a site plan that we believe is going to be acceptable. Also, the county is cutting a check for the application fee and that should be in by the end of this week. Mr. Rehmann noted we got a lot of cooperation from the county engineer's office and it is an important issue.

**H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCE SCHEUELED - 10/27/14**

**Mayor Gabbianelli** advised that he Vetoed Ordinance O:17-2014 (*An Ordinance to Amend Section 175-135 of the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Monroe Regarding Signs*) which was placed on the agenda for RECONSIDERATION After the Mayor's Veto. He went on to speak of the Pinelands and the restrictions they place, we have been cow-tailing to the Pinelands forever and that was all he was saying. I vetoed it, if you guys want to pass it,

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**H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCE SCHEULED (cont'd)**

pass it. The Solicitor explained if council overrides the veto by a 2/3 vote, Pinelands has already suggested what the language should be then after it is passed, if it was passed by a 2/3 vote overriding the Mayor's veto it would be sent to the Pinelands and it would have to be certified. They won't certify it unless it is passed by council, if it is defeated by council they are not going to certify the ordinance. We will then not have an ordinance dealing with those digital signs. **Cncl. Sebastian** noted we have a sign ordinance. The Solicitor advised the amendments, they will not certify the amendments/ordinance so the old ordinance will be in place and whatever measures were attempted to be taken will be defeated, basically, voted down, will not pass. So there is nothing to send to the Pinelands to certify. What is being sent to Pinelands is the amendment to the old sign ordinance. Solicitor Fiore explained the old ordinance will still stand as being the law on this. The Mayor noted now they want these changes, this just gets old, I am being honest with you we shouldn't have the Pinelands in the center of Williamstown. Solicitor Fiore suggested council may want to look at the ordinance again because they are attempting to deal with the issue of the nature of the signs in the Pinelands (*digital type signs*). Because right now we will not have an ordinance on the books dealing with the digital signs so every sign application will technically be a variance application to the zoning board. If you recall, every application has been approved before the zoning board so the attempt was, and this may not be the right step, the attempt was to come up with some measure to deal with digital signs throughout the entire town.

**Cncl. DiLucia** questioned the solicitor if he was saying the only effect of not overriding the veto tonight, would be that we couldn't prevent anybody from putting up a sign if they got a variance. The solicitor noted, if they got a variance, that is correct. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted really there is no teeth to stop anybody from getting a variance. The solicitor noted, none whatsoever. There is a history out there that I don't believe the zoning board has ever voted down a variance application for a (*inaudible*). **Cncl. DiLucia** noted, in his words, by not overriding the veto tonight, we are actually opening up signage for everybody. The solicitor noted, as of right now, yes. This may not be the ordinance that you want to look at, I don't know. You deliberated upon it before, council moved it forward and you voted on it, the mayor overrode it. I know it would take a recommendation from the Planning Board, the Planning Board says, no we don't believe this is a good law we don't want to cow-tail to the Pinelands and so on. **Cncl. DiLucia** questioned, what would be our legal options tonight if we wanted to look at some modifications as opposed to take it or leave it. Could we table this and then work on an amended ordinance. The solicitor responded, no I would suggest that if you are going to vote it down, do not override the mayor's veto and send it back to the ordinance committee. No matter what, we are vulnerable now and yes it would leave it open to anybody filing a variance. **Cncl. DiLucia** questioned, if we veto it we are not vulnerable and we could then amend a newer ordinance without leaving ourselves open. The solicitor noted if he followed Mr. DiLucia's verbiage, if you override the mayor's veto, the overridden ordinance (*if you will*) would then be sent to the Pinelands to be certified. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted then we could always modify that ordinance again. **Mayor Gabbianelli** then spoke and he advised he vetoed it because of the Planning Board and it not being their recommendation, that's why I vetoed it. The Planning Board said no to the Pinelands

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**H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCE SCHEULED (cont'd)**

recommendations and I stood behind the Planning Board to be perfectly honest with you. Now, it can go back if we leave the veto in place, it can go back to the Planning Board and they can work on this again. The solicitor explained, the troubling language the Planning Board has was there was language that the Pinelands wanted in the ordinance indicating that every sign that had been put up in the zones within the Pinelands had to be removed. They were never legal in the Pinelands, if you remember the language was they were never legal in the Pinelands and they were allowed to be put up. The mayor used Hospitality Creek as an example, he does not have a digital sign but if he had one the Pinelands could force him to take it down. The solicitor added or the Pinelands could take some sort of enforcement action for signs within the Pinelands area that should not have been approved. The mayor then gave some history on the Pinelands and explained that although the Pinelands does not have enforcement power and they can't fine you but they will crush you, what they will do is not give you any approvals.

**Solicitor Fiore** noted just so that everyone was clear. Procedurally, if council decides not to override the mayor's veto the law is dead, you are back to square one and there is no amendment to the ordinance, it would be the existing ordinance that is on the books. If you override it by a 2/3 vote then it would be passed for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and be sent to the Pinelands to be certified. There was then much discussion and questions posed with many people speaking at once and how this could affect anyone with a digital sign located in the Pinelands.

**Cncl. Sebastian** then requested a "point of clarification" as he thought the ordinance said, even with the changes by the Pinelands, that they were allowed in the Pinelands in certain zones, there were only two (2) zones where they weren't allowed in. So, technically if it was passed you are allowed to put those signs in all the way down to I think, Malaga Road. The solicitor noted maybe what you have to do is go back and look at it again and pull the zoning map and see which areas would be effected because we didn't do that in our deliberations.

The solicitor advised to take action tonight (*reconsideration*), there is no reason to have it kind of linger on. Say yes or no tonight. **Cncl. Sebastian** noted yes is to override the veto. At this time there was so much discussion/speaking taking place that **Cncl. DiLucia** requested clarification on the yes/no again. The solicitor again advised there would be a motion to "reconsider" or to make a motion that we "override" the mayor's veto or make a motion we do not "override" the mayor's veto.

**I.) ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further for discussion, **Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of October 27, 2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and was unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

MINUTES  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
OCTOBER 27, 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 October 27, 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 Am Date 11/24/14  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_