

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

**A.) OPENING CEREMONIES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:20 PM by **Cncl. Vice-Pres., Cody Miller** 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. Vice-Pres., Miller** 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 offered the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present	
Cncl. Bart McIlvaine	Present	
Cncl. Cody Miller	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri		Excused
Mayor Daniel Teefy	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	
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk	Present	
Township Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**PROCLAMATIONS / CERTIFICATES - Police Officers**

**Cncl. Miller** noted Police Officers Robert Clark, Jr., Anthony D' Amico and Robert Marzi used Narcan, a drug that helps counteract overdoses, to help save the life of an overdose victim on the same day they were trained to use the drug. **Cncl. Vice-Pres., Miller and Mayor Teefy** presented **Officer Clark, Officer D'Amico and Officer Marzi** with Certificates of Recognition for their heroic effect in saving lives. **Gloucester County Freeholder Jim Jefferson** was in attendance on behalf of Gloucester County and thanked the police officers for their service to the community and presented them with a proclamation in recognition of their life saving actions.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of June 22, 2015 and the Special Council Meeting of July 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Dilks** who **Abstained** on the Special Council Meeting of July 1, 2015.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

**B.) CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Business License - Continental Comm. Mgmt. Serv., LLC**  
*New & Used Motor Vehicle Dealer - Mobile Homes*

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve New and Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Business License for Colonial Estates. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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

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

**R:112-2015** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 2015 Click It Or Ticket

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:112-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:113-2015** Resolution In Support Of The Gloucester County Minority Recruitment Advisory Committee To Increase The Diversity Of Law Enforcement Agencies In Gloucester County.

**Cncl. McIlvaine** made a motion to approve Resolution R:113-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:114-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement To Participate In The Alliance To Prevent Alcoholism And Drug Abuse Between Gloucester County, New Jersey And The Township Of Monroe

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:114-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:115-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Township Of Monroe To Join The National Joint Powers Alliance

**Cncl. McIlvaine** made a motion to approve Resolution R:115-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:116-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Purchase Of Two (2) New ODB (*Old Dominion Brush*) Trailer Mounted Vacuum Debris Collectors Model SCL800TM25 Under The National Joint Powers Alliance

**Cncl. Heffner** questioned whether we have the option to bail out of this agreement if Franklin Township chooses not to purchase their trucks. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** explained their purchase is separate from ours. Our agreement does not include purchasing any equipment with them. The agreement we have with Franklin is that we will share services whenever we can; we are not obligated to share services or equipment with them.

**Cncl. Bryson** referred to the six year Capital Improvement Plan that included this equipment in the 2020 and 2017 budgets and he questioned whether this purchase was moved up because of the Franklin agreement. Mr. Heydel replied no; previously we had eight machines now we have five. This new equipment will replace some from 1984.

**Solicitor Fiore** noted in regards to what **Cncl. Heffner** was alluding to as the process evolves the agreement will need to be more specific as to the nature and extent of the services being shared. The agreement is very basic and should include the manpower, hours of operation,

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

equipment usage and maintenance. At this point in time we are not obligated to Franklin Township.

**Cncl. DiLucia** questioned whether our equipment would be used to remove leaves in Franklin Township if they do not purchase their own leaf removal machines. **Mr. Heydel** explained they could ask to borrow our equipment and it is our decision as to whether or not we would loan it to them. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted his vote to approve the leaf machine is based upon the fact that if they don't share services with us we will not provide services for them because he does not want to spend \$90,000.00 on machines that will be used in Franklin Township if they can't reciprocate.

**Cncl. Miller** noted they agreed in the agreements they signed to contribute manpower as well. **Public Works Director, Bob Avis** added they already did that by sending manpower and equipment over to help cleanup brush. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted there is a difference between using manpower and using equipment that has a life expectancy based on hours used. If we are going to use our machinery to offset costs and they are not going to reciprocate because they have no machinery then we shouldn't do that. **Cncl. Miller** stated they agreed to share machinery and are in the process of purchasing hot boxes. Council and the Director of Public Works will have the discretion to deem what manpower and equipment we are willing to swap and the agreement will be modified, as there should be a tracking system that provides a cost analysis. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted he was voting for this with the understanding that Franklin Township is going to purchase leaf removal machinery that they will share with us.

**Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to approve Resolution R:116-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:117-2015** Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of July 27, 2015

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:117-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:118-2015** Resolution Authorizing An Extension Of The Period Of Time For Payment Of Real Estate Taxes For The Third Quarter Of 2015 For The Township Of Monroe

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:118-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:119-2015** Resolution Authorizing The Renewal Of Certain Plenary Retail Consumption Licenses Within The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

**Cncl. DiLucia** made a motion to approve Resolution R:119-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:120-2015** Resolution Adjusting Township of Monroe Tax Records

**Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to approve Resolution R:120-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:121-2015** An Interlocal Services Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And The Monroe Township Board Of Education For School Resource Officer Services For The School Year 2015-2016

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:121-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:122-2015** Resolution Releasing The Maintenance Guaranty Posted For "Summerfields West", Site Plan #392-SP, Block 3901, Lots 31 And 32 In The Amount Of \$69,310.00 For Certain Site Improvements

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

Cncl. Heffner noted he spoke to Engineer Kathryn Cornforth regarding release of this bond but he wanted it on the record that this will in no way curtail Summerfields from finishing the asphalt in the development, as that falls under a separate bond. Ms. Cornforth replied that is correct. When they posted bonds they posted the surface course paving in a separate bond which the township still holds 100% of. Cncl. Dilks questioned whether that is true on every bond/every job. Engineer Chris Rehmann explained these are letters of credit and these are private streets so when they finish sections in order for them to have cash flow we take certain things like storm sewer and give them that approval once it has been developed. When developers give a performance guaranty we don't go down to less than 30% of the original guaranty value.

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve Resolution R:122-2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:123-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe In Support Of Bus Stops Along Route US 322 At Justin Way Within The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:123-2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:124-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing An Independent Investigation Of The Monroe Municipal Utilities Authority's Financial And Procedure Operations

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve Resolution R:124-2015.

Cncl. Bryson commented that this resolution was talked about in the Work Session and what he would like to do before this is approved is to make a motion to Table it until Council gets more information. Cncl. DiLucia seconded the motion.

Solicitor Fiore clarified that a motion to Table would take precedent over any other motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE R:124-2015 - 2 AYES (Bryson, DiLucia), 4 NAYS (Dilks, Heffner, McIlvaine, Miller) 1 ABSENT (Caligiuri)**

**Tally: 2 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent.** Motion to Table did not carry.

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to amend Resolution R:124-2015 by including language that Council would convene a meeting with representatives of the MMUA before an investigation would go into effect. Cncl. Heffner seconded the motion.

Cncl. DiLucia requested a "point of clarification" noting as he understands the motion Council would be approving the Resolution but in the interim before the resolution would be enacted to select or appoint an impartial person to do an investigation we would sit down with the appropriate people either in the form of a committee or full council to ask the questions that we are concerned about. He questioned if that was correct. Cncl. Vice-Pres., Miller replied "yes".

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:124-2015 WITH THE AMENDMENT  
6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Caligiuri)**

**Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent.** Resolution R:124-2015 was duly approved with the amendment as noted.

**R:125-2015** Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss The Collins v. Monroe Township Litigation.

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve Resolution R:125-2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At this time Council entered into Closed Executive Session. Upon returning from Closed Session **Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to reconvene the Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**Solicitor Fiore** advised Council just concluded a Closed Executive Session where discussion was held regarding adopting a resolution to approve a settlement agreement between the Township of Monroe and Police Officer Jody Collins and that resolution is now before Council for action.

**R:126-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Settlement In The Litigation Captioned "Jody Collins Vs. Monroe Township", Docket No. GLO-L-664-13

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:126-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**D.) ORDINANCES**

At this time **Cncl. Vice-Pres., Miller** turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Dilks**. **Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O:26-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres., Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**O:26-2015** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Deleting Chapter 104, Article V Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Entitled "Registration And Maintenance Of Vacant Or Abandoned Properties" And Establishing Chapter 104, Article V Entitled "Abandoned Real Property"; Providing For Purpose, Intent And Applicability Of The Ordinance; Requiring The Registration And Maintenance Of Certain Real Property By Mortgagees; Providing For Penalties And Enforcement, As Well As Regulation, Limitation And Reduction Of Abandoned Real Property Within The Township Of Monroe; Providing For Severability, Repealer, Codification, And An Effective Date

**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:26-2015 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE O:26-2015 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Caligiuri)**

**Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent.** Ordinance O:26-2015 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:27-2015** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Deleting Chapter 237 "Precious Metals" And Establishing A New Chapter Entitled "Dealers Of Precious Metals, Gems, And Second Hand Goods"

**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. Heffner** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:27-2015 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded **Cncl. Miller** and approved by all members in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Bryson** who voted **Nay**.

**O:28-2015** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 65 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Entitled "Personnel Policies"

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

D.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

**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. Heffner** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:28-2019. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller**.

The motion was approved by **Cncl. Heffner, McIlvaine, Miller and Dilks**. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted his vote is conflicted because he is someone who receives health benefits although he was not on council at the time benefits were initially given. He felt it would be unfair for him to vote on this issue. **Cncl. Bryson** respectfully declined to vote on the ordinance because it directly affects him. **Solicitor Fiore** noted that would be considered an abstention.

The Clerk questioned if she should do a roll call and Mr. Fiore indicated that would be fine. When she called **Cncl. Bryson's** name he indicated he was not voting on this issue. **Solicitor Fiore** noted an abstention counts towards the proposition unless you abstain with cause. **Cncl. Bryson** noted then he would vote no. **Cncl. DiLucia** requested clarification. He questioned if he feels conflicted and he does it with cause than he is not abstaining. Mr. Fiore explained it doesn't count at all, it's not a vote. **Cncl. DiLucia** replied okay then he would do it with cause. **Cncl. Bryson** noted he didn't understand but he wants to do exactly what **Cncl. DiLucia** said.

**Cncl. Dilks** noted for clarification so the Clerk has it on record you are abstaining with cause. **Cncl. Bryson** replied with cause. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted no, not abstaining, we are not voting with cause, which is not an abstention, which is how he understood what the **Solicitor** said. Mr. Fiore explained no what he was saying is there are two abstentions. There is just an abstention, which would go in favor/go towards the proposition and then there is an Abstention with Cause, which is basically you are not voting.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:28-2015**

**4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABTAIN WITH CAUSE (Bryson, DiLucia), 1 ABSENT (Caligiuri)**

**Tally: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Abstain with Cause, 1 Absent.** Ordinance O:28-2015 was duly approved for First Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:29-2015** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 267 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Vehicles And Traffic" (*Stop Intersections*)

**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. Heffner** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:29-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

**Cncl. Bryson** noted he had no reports from the Board of Health or the Historical Society since those boards hold no meetings in July and August. He spoke of an article in the South Jersey Times that stated 70,000 homes were foreclosed on in New Jersey in the last quarter and 17,000 were what the paper called "Zombie Foreclosures", which are properties that are abandoned by the homeowner before the mortgage company actually forecloses on the home. Due to recent State legislation through the actions of Assemblyman Paul Moriarty and through local ordinances we can now track, fine and take action on the banks and others on these property eyesores. New Jersey has an underlying problem because we have the highest real estate taxes and legislators in Trenton need to take this issue seriously and legislate real tax reform. Council receives a monthly issue of the legislative incentives and actions being taken and from what he reads month after month the Assembly and Senate are doing mundane things while they need to do something about the high taxes causing foreclosures and New Jersey flight. High taxes affect older residents, younger residents and our businesses and they continue to creep up year after year and that cannot continue because we cannot sustain those types of increases. Older residents without a

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

pension cannot afford to pay taxes and all their other bills without a full time job and getting that job is another story. If it continues as is the only people left in New Jersey will be those collecting a State or local pension and those that are very poor on government assistance. In addition to the State legislature taking action on a complete tax structure overhaul and restructure of our school system it is the responsibility of us in local government to hold the line in pay, benefits and frills in favor of improvements in our own infrastructure. Residents got their tax bill with another 2.5% or more and it would have been higher if not for a compromise proposed by Cncl. DiLucia. Next year Monroe will see the first of three sizeable rebates from our old health insurance carrier and maybe that money can hold the tax increase to zero. He added he is a senior who can't afford it and may not be able to stay here. Cncl. Bryson noted he lived through the 60's and 70's when the people in this country were lawless and now in the new millennium the government is lawless also. He added since when does a nation give a free pass and release criminals because they are not citizens and when does a nation encourage cities with already high crime rates to ignore due process by calling themselves "Sanctuary Cities". He expressed his concerns that leaders don't have any common sense or understanding that these predators will go back to the community hiding the illegals and repeat their crimes and that by ignoring immigration laws, rewriting civil rights laws and ignoring the foundation of our freedom, the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights we will not thrive unless limitations are established. He noted an immigration system cannot come at the cost of American workers and their wages so let's quit bringing a million unskilled people into this Country when we cannot give our own citizens fair employment opportunities. Our people are now receiving flat line wages and decreased opportunities. This is no longer an illegals issue it is what is best for the American worker. One candidate running for president said there have been 6.5% new jobs created in this Country and all of them are held by people that were not born in this country and there are fewer native born Americans working today. At the conclusion of his report Cncl. Bryson noted hopefully we will have the opportunity to stay in this State and also enjoy the privileges of being an American.

Cncl. DiLucia had no committee meeting reports since no meetings are held in the month of July and August. He mentioned that we are getting into the presidential campaign season and the Republican side could fill a football team with the number of candidates running. He felt it is really important for everyone to listen to their positions because many times they are speaking to friendly audiences and he has found over the years when politicians feel they are speaking to friendly audiences they tell the truth. One candidate said American workers need to work longer and harder and he did not agree with those comments and neither do American workers. Another said that the Medicare system is unsustainable but what he was really saying is that things people have worked for all their lives they probably won't get if he is elected and that is health insurance. Many of these candidates are millionaires because to win an election here it takes a lot of money and millionaires don't live in the same world we live in. They have no concept of what it is to live on a salary or to be retired for ten or fifteen years without getting any pension increases, if a person is lucky enough to have a pension and most people have been getting very small Social Security increases. Millionaires don't relate to the common person and people need to look at candidates that say Medicare is unsustainable. It would be different if he said we must find a way to fix the potential financial shortfall in Medicare because that would mean he wants it to continue but when he says unsustainable he means get rid of it. Cncl. DiLucia urged residents to pay attention because we can't afford to be apathetic going into the next election and make another mistake.

Cncl. Heffner reported the July 6<sup>th</sup> Open Space Committee Meeting was cancelled and the Zoning Board turned down a minor subdivision on Tuckahoe Road but then approved a use variance on Corkery Lane. He reported Cncl. Caligiuri couldn't attend the Planning Board Meeting so he attended in his place but no action was taken at that meeting since there is not a whole lot going on in town right now. He reported attending the Main Street Committee Meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> and noted the Committee seems to be moving forward on a lot of projects. The Chairman Ernie Carbone does a great job and doesn't let anyone stray from what is being discussed or what they are trying to accomplish. He urged him to keep up the good work. Cncl. Heffner noted Little League playoff season is his favorite part of the year and this year we sent seven different age bracket teams to the playoffs. The boy's nine/ten year old year team won and are one of the last teams in the State to play and those games begin this week. The eleven year

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

olds are playing the championship district game tonight and the twelve year olds won districts and sectionals and are going to the State playoffs and the boy's thirteen/fourteen year old Junior Division, won districts, sectionals and are in the State playoffs. Our Senior Girls Softball Program won districts, sectionals but did lose in the State playoffs. So out of seven teams we have four that are currently playing in the State playoffs and that is amazing. It is getting to the point right now that kids that advance in Little League playoffs are coming through Monroe Township and they are a force to be reckoned with. The coaches are phenomenal between the Little League Program and the travel teams due to their great working relationships and hopefully the teams will do good this week and advance up to Regionals.

**Cncl. McIlvaine** thanked Mayor Teefy, Bob Avis, Mike Calvello, Jack Ballard, Rich DeSantis, Pokey Ward and their employees for the work they did during the June storm that did quite a bit of damage to our town. He added they made him proud to be a councilman and they are still working hard to get our town cleaned up. He urged residents to be patient if they are still waiting for brush to be picked up because these guys are working extremely hard and doing the best they can. He also thanked the fire companies and the ambulance squad because all these folks had the same issues at their homes but left them to take care of the residents of Monroe Township. The electric company got a lot of flak but those guys did an outstanding job and that could be seen by the equipment and setup they had stationed at the United Artist Theater. Cncl. McIlvaine thanked those workers and reminded everyone that those guys all left their families with the same mess that we had. Again he thanked Mayor Teefy, township employees, volunteers and the administration for doing an outstanding job.

**Cncl. Miller** reported he is technically on vacation and came back from Ocean City to attend the Council Meeting. He reported National Night Out will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at Owens Sports Complex. This is a night where the community comes together and learns about local law enforcement agencies and ways they can keep their community aware and provide resources for people going through issues. There will be food, games, contests, inflatables, fingerprinting and people will get to meet the Mayor. Cncl. Miller also commended the township employees, the Mayor and all emergency personnel for working countless hours during the storm. As a Williamstown fireman he knows the fire company handled about eighty-four calls and the highlight of the night was the Mayor taking pizza to every volunteer in the municipality. The Mayor did a lot of work and spent a lot of time in town hall to make sure everything was up to par and the employees spent countless hours and worked on weekends and we can't thank them enough for all that they do. Cncl. Miller noted he was advised not to do this but he feels he needs to speak his mind in regards to an ordinance that was moved forward tonight for first reading and publication dealing with the health benefits for elected officials. Throughout this process he has had personal attacks, was called a mannequin and it has been said that he has no budget experience and he just wanted to say that he was elected by the residents of this municipality and deserves the same respect of every single person elected to office and he does not expect the personal attacks that he has faced. He has served on boards of a college that was responsible for the lowest tuition in the State of New Jersey because we found ways to consolidate our costs so he doesn't like it when his experience is attacked or when people try to make him look bad because that is not why he got into this game. He got into this because he wanted to do what is best for the residents of Monroe Township. When he first ran for council at age nineteen this was an issue for him. The State passed the law that eliminated health benefits for part-time employees and every single councilmember or elected official was not eligible since that time on but people were grandfathered in. Most municipalities and most counties all opted to do away with this because they felt it was the right thing to do in 2011 immediately after the law was passed. He noted if he were in the Senate or Assembly he would not have grandfathered anyone but that is just his personal opinion. Since 2011 the taxpayers have paid over a half million dollars for health benefits for just council and the mayor. We have part-time employees in this municipality that work more hours than we do and they don't get benefits so this is not a personal issue or a personal attack, this is what he feels is right. He noted he is not trying to score political points or put anyone in a bad position. We went from immediately getting rid of health benefits to six months to the end of the term and that is a modest compromise. He went on to say he would like to commend Cncl. Dilks and Cncl. Caligiuri who are both individuals supporting this because they feel it is the right thing to do. He apologized for getting personal but noted he just had to state his case because he cannot stand or appreciate the personal attacks as he deserves respect.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

**Cncl. Bryson** requested to speak also. He noted he does not appreciate personal attacks either and he does not appreciate Cncl. Miller misleading the public on amounts of money. He also doesn't appreciate the fact that Cncl. Miller ignores him and Cncl. DiLucia in all things being done and that is because we didn't support you. **Cncl. Miller** noted that is false. Cncl. Bryson noted that is not false. At this point Cncl. Miller gaveled Cncl. Bryson stating he was out of line. Cncl. Bryson continued to speak, saying you are out of line by doing what you did tonight. Absolutely out of line and he hoped Cncl. Miller understands why the legislature did what it did. He then went on to say that he was elected eleven years ago, just like Cncl. Miller was elected and at that time all the people knew what benefits he was receiving and he felt there was nothing wrong with it. It was a benefit that was provided and it isn't the numbers that Cncl. Miller was saying and as a matter of fact he and Cncl. DiLucia saved this township over a million dollars by changing the healthcare plan. Cncl. Miller noted he is not arguing that. Cncl. Bryson continued to speak noting that Cncl. Miller was on the committee for the budget and voted against lowering the budget. Cncl. Miller replied can we please continue with the meeting. Cncl. Bryson continued to speak saying he was done now but Cncl. Miller should not use the words that he is or make accusations about him. He added Cncl. Miller deserves what he gets. Cncl. Miller responded he was attacked by blatant comments made about his lack of experience; this is not a personal attack so let's move on.

**Cncl. DiLucia** indicated he would be the first to own up to the fact that he called Cncl. Miller a mannequin and that is true because he believes he (*Cncl. Miller*) is. He went on to say in regards to the health insurance when he first came on council he didn't know there was health insurance or a pay. He did not run because of health insurance. He added he is very fortunate and does not need the health insurance so nothing will change for him when he doesn't have it so he is not fighting over that. The fallacy of this is Mr. Miller initially took the position that he was asking to remove the health benefit because it cost this township \$70,000.00 a year and that is pretty close to the cost but when he (*Cncl. DiLucia*) fought to reduce the budget to lower taxes for the people he had to settle for a \$100,000.00 reduction because he could not get enough votes to reduce it further. Cncl. DiLucia went on to say Cncl. Miller voted against that \$100,000.00 reduction so is this for the taxpayer or is this for you. **Cncl. Miller** noted it is not for him and he gaveled Cncl. DiLucia saying since 2011 over \$500,000.00 is what the taxpayer's have footed for health benefits; thank you let's please move on. Cncl. DiLucia noted you had your say and you have the chair but you voted against a \$100,000.00 budget reduction.

**Mayor Teefy** indicated he would not comment on what was just said. He went on to say we do not like property tax increases but they are necessary to run the township. The philosophy over the years has been to add a little to the budget each year so in future years we don't have spikes of 12% to 14%. This year the letter sent to residents pointed out exactly what the township gets and the overall blend from the county and the schools. The municipality had a 2.51% increase, the county was around 5% and the school was a little above us and when that is blended together with the library tax it comes out to about 3% for everybody. We would love to see it go down and that may happen next year because our previous health insurance provider will be refunding money to us that was saved over the years. Mayor Teefy spoke of the severe storm that hit the township on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Crystal Lake area was hit the worst and right in that path was Holiday City, which experienced electric outages for quite a while and that was a concern. He noted he was on the phone that night making sure there were enough people in the municipal building to help people and it was a proud moment to see so many volunteers come out that night. The Williamstown Fire Department and the Cecil Fire Department both had over thirty volunteers come out and the Monroe EMS had almost all of their volunteers and they did an outstanding job. The Public Works Department brought in about nine guys and they worked with the fire departments that night. The communication lines were down but they figured out a way to communicate through bands that were open. The Police Department had about twenty-five guys on staff that night and they did an excellent job. Emergency Management Coordinator Frank McLaughlin opened up the emergency center and they did a great job as well. The Mayor noted thank God for John's Pizza in Traders Lane because that was the one place open so he was able to get twenty-five pies for the people working that night. He noted he is not good with a chainsaw or on a fire truck so he did what he could and went and got food for everyone. The Mayor thanked Burt Lopez from Atlantic City Electric for communicating with him on what was happening so he could keep the residents informed. Meetings were held every day at 3:00 PM

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

and Burt explained there may be areas where the electric was out at five or six houses but they would not move a crew to bring up the electric for those few houses when they could be working in areas that would bring up two hundred houses. It took a little longer to get the power back on in the beginning because eight substations went down and ACE had crews working to rebuild those pretty much from scratch before the linemen could get out on the roads and bring up the homes. Then the following Saturday night we got hit with another storm that caused additional power outages and set them back. The Mayor noted he found the best thing for him to do was to man the phones in the mayor's office to keep communications open with the residents so he could let Burt know where the problem areas were. The mayor thanked the citizens for communicating with the township through social media, as that really helped a lot. He noted when you go through things like this you want to be sure you revisit what happened so on July 13<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held with the Public Safety staff to see what could be improved upon. Today Frank McLaughlin gave him a list of tasks that were put out there from the meeting and at the end of August we will hold a meeting to see what has been improved upon. As a township what we learned is the most important thing is to teach our residents how to sustain themselves and help their neighbors. Residents need water, food, they need to know where to go and how to communicate to officials of the township. People did help their neighbors and the mayor thanked them for doing that as the aftermath of this storm was scary for a few days. Three houses in the Crystal Lake area were demolished but we were lucky because other towns were 70% to 80% down. The Mayor again commended the volunteers, the police and the Public Works Department for the work they did. He also reported during the storm he took two hours off to attend the Williamstown Sunshine Rotary swearing in ceremony at Rack's Restaurant for the new president Matt Hershman. He reported that the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks were great and being up close for the first time to see the actual operation was really neat. He also reported that on July 11<sup>th</sup> he attended the VFW homecoming ceremonies for the incoming state commander. The Mayor spoke of the MMUA rate increase and of attending the MMUA meeting along with residents who addressed their concerns over the rate increase. He noted this evening Council supported a resolution to look into investigating the MMUA but prior to that a committee will be put together to meet with representatives of the MMUA to go over the issues the residents have. He added we as Council and Mayor are working for the residents because when we have hundreds of people complaining we need to find out what happened to make the July bills skyrocket. The Main Street Committee Meeting was held on July 21<sup>st</sup> and we are on the right course of moving Main Street forward. The Mayor reported attending Little League games over the last couple weeks. The eleven/twelve year old boy's team had very intense games with Blackwood and are now moving on to the State finals in Hammonton. The nine/ten year old team is moving to Middletown, New Jersey, the fourteen/fifteen year old boys game is in Old Bridge and the girl's softball team went to the State finals. All the teams are doing an excellent job. The Mayor noted with everything going on he had to smile when he received a phone message from Junior Girl Scout Troup 66618 regarding what color to paint the bathrooms at the Pfeiffer Center. That is an easy decision, we are going with light blue and the girls will begin painting soon. The American flags have been taken down on Main Street and we are looking to replacing them with an autumn flag for fall so we have something up before our holiday lights go up. The Pfeiffer Center Food Pantry needs food and donations are accepted Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The Community Gardens donated over \$3,000.00 in food items, soaps, shampoos and paper products and that was done through the efforts of Sandy Keen and many other people that helped her raise that money. The Mayor reported there was a very serious head on accident on US Rt 322 and Jobs Lane and he received a letter from Robert Smith of Newfield whose wife was injured in this accident. Mr. Smith indicated he could not praise our police department enough especially Officer Andy Pease for the job he did and the compassion he showed. The letter also praised the EMS staff who were wonderful in this tough situation. The Mayor noted he was going to send a copy of the letter to the police department and the EMS staff so they are aware of it. The Mayor invited residents to come out to "National Night Out" on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Owens Park. There will be activities and he will be there to meet with residents to answer questions or address their concerns.

Engineer, Chris Rehmann reported next week the reconstruction of Winslow Road will begin on the portion between New Brooklyn Road and Walnut Street. This project is being funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Cncl. Dilks questioned whether the road will be detoured while the work is being done. Engineer Kathryn Cornforth advised the

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
JULY 27, 2015

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

first step is to replace the forty-eight inch pipe near the railroad right-of-way and that will be a very local detour. The County is supposed to open Malaga Road by the end of the month and we are hoping our timing will be with that. Cncl. Dilks felt the work should coordinate with that because a business on Malaga Road almost went under during the last detour when the expressway project was done. Ms. Cornforth noted our detour will be only while they are working and it will be opened at the end of the day. Cncl. Bryson questioned how long the reconstruction of the bridge will take because Bill and Lynn's Nursery, the business that Cncl. Dilks was talking about is good and people should take the detour to get to it. Ms. Cornforth noted she talked to the county engineers and they said the road should be open by the end of August.

Director of Public Works, Bob Avis reported a lot of brush is around the township especially in the areas where the storm hit the worst and Public Works has already picked up approximately 2200 yards of brush since that storm. He noted he will be in contact with the Mayor's office to modify the brush pickup schedule because we are on our down swing now and the Supervisor of Roads, Mike Calvello feels he can knock out the rest within the week. Mayor Teefy questioned whether we would then go back to requiring branches to be cut into four foot pieces. Mr. Avis suggested going back to the regular schedule the first Monday in August but he cautioned we will get complaints. Mayor Teefy noted we can handle that because we know there has been more than the storm brush being brought to the street and the guys have really been working hard to clear it.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

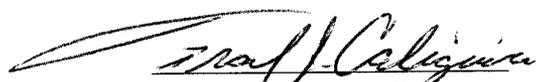
G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Bryson made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of July 27, 2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Heffner and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan McCormick, RMC  
Township Clerk



Presiding Officer

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of July 27, 2015 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 8/24/15  
Date \_\_\_\_\_