

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:01 PM by Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri 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., Caligiuri 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. Heffner led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and Deacon Jim Hallman of Our Lady of Peace 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	Present	
Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore		Excused
Acting Solicitor, Bruce Warren	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Chris Rehmann	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis		Excused
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk		Excused
Township Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**PRESENTATION**

Cncl. Miller and Mayor Teefy presented Amanda Peacock with a Certification of Recognition for being named "2016 Miss Atlantic Shores Outstanding Teen". Miss Peacock's platform "Distracted Driving Awareness #ItCanWait" emphasizes her commitment in raising awareness to stop distracted driving.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted for the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of September 14, 2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Heffner and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE - None

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

**R:144-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Amendment To Transport Agreement Between Monroe Township And Virtua Health, Inc.

**Cncl. Miller** made a motion to approve Resolution R:144-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:145-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing A Shared Services Agreement Between The Township Of Franklin And The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey For Certified Tax Collector/(1) Clerical Support Staff (**REMOVED FROM AGENDA**)

**R:146-2015** Resolution Township Of Monroe Tax Records

**Cncl. Miller** made a motion to approve Resolution R:146-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:147-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Sale Of Personal Property Pursuant To *NJSA 40A:11-26* At A Public Sale To Be Conducted By Lee M. Fox Auctions

**Cncl. Miller** made a motion to approve Resolution R:147-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:148-2015** Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of September 28, 2015

**Cncl. Miller** made a motion to approve Resolution R:148-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:149-2015** Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council of the Township Of Monroe To Discuss The Scott Durand V. Township Of Monroe Litigation

**Cncl. Miller** made a motion to approve Resolution R:149-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) ORDINANCES - None

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

**Cncl. Bryson** reported the Historical Society held no meetings during the summer months; their next meeting will be held Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and he invited residents to attend that meeting. In October the Historical Society will again host the Haunted House and will be opening up the train station. **Cncl. Bryson** went on to speak about the Pope's visit over the weekend and how it was a blessing for our area and for our County. He also urged everyone to drive carefully through developments and residential areas, as the children are now back in school and getting used to their new bus schedules. **Cncl. Bryson** noted the one thing New Jersey has that no one else has is low gas prices but our legislature wants to raise the gasoline tax so that they can replenish the State's transportation fund. He noted his response to that is "no", as there has to be a stop to increasing taxes in this State. We already pay high real estate taxes, income taxes and sales taxes and this is where it should stop. If they want to do something for

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

the transportation fund they should be more responsible like the surrounding states of Delaware and Pennsylvania that provide new roads at a much lower cost. The cost for roads in New Jersey have skyrocketed and that must be put under control before taxes are again raised. He asked Council to adopt a resolution to send all New Jersey municipalities, legislators and the governor requesting the legislators to find a way to bring tax relief. He went on to say he is of retirement age and has a job that provides a nice income but like millions of other people will not be able to stay in this State. He noted he would like to see Trenton find out how other states derive revenue to fund their school systems, roads and government projects.

**Cncl. DiLucia** noted he had nothing to report from committee meetings since none were held during the summer months. He added he hoped everyone enjoyed their summer because now we get down to the tough time of the year going towards winter. He noted at the last Council Meeting he spoke about the Stock Market and afterwards he was afraid that he may have alarmed people but what he said a month ago has now become a reality. The Stock Market has been going down on a daily basis and his concern is that this Country and business has moved away from defined pension plans where people retire and get a set amount in pension benefits. We have now moved towards the 401K's where people invest their own money and in some magical way they are supposed to be much better off but in 2008 when the Stock Market dropped 40% it was demonstrated that is not true. Many people that have 401k's and IRA plans that supplement their retirement have no alternative because the banks have driven down the return on any type of bank investment to the point where you are lucky if you get a half percent. Many people were forced to put their 401k's, IRA's and their saving in the Stock Market and that is frightening because no one can predict what will happen with that. In his estimation the economy is not good due to under inflation, unemployment and the number of big businesses that are constantly announcing layoffs. The Stock Market is propped up, there is a false economy and he is concerned for the people that have their life investments in 401K's and IRA plans and he strongly urged them to take a good look at where their investments are. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted for younger people it's bad to lose money but for senior citizens it is life threatening because they have no way to recoup from this. A 70 year old person living on a fixed income and Social Security that only went up 1% this year has dollars that are worth much less now than they were the year before and if they lose much of their savings those people will be put into a difficult situation. He suggested they keep a close eye on 401K's and IRA's and any type of Stock Market investments they have right now.

**Cncl. Heffner** reported the Zoning Board has cancelled their last meeting and the first meeting in October. Parks and Rec held a meeting last week and plans are underway for the Fall Festival that will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This event includes hayrides, crafters, vendors as well as other activities and will be followed up by the Halloween Parade at 7:00 PM. He noted this is a real good time and is the highlight of all township events. **Cncl. Heffner** thanked the Police Department for doing a great job keeping the four wheelers and ATV's off the old American Training Center property.

**Cncl. Miller** reported the Mayor and Council are trying to get the public more actively involved in township government and held the first of a series of Town Hall Forums about two and a half weeks ago. This forum focused on substance abuse awareness and prevention and those in attendance were a few members of council, the Mayor, the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office and individuals from the public schools. This meeting was held to educate the public and to see firsthand what problems and issues the municipality is facing. Not many people know that Monroe Township is the first municipality in Gloucester County where the Prosecutor's Office has an Opiate Task Force working with Monroe Township Public Schools to educate our children and to be preventative about the issues of substance abuse. This is really taking off and **Cncl. Miller** thanked the County for that. He reported he had the opportunity of attending two ribbon cutting ceremonies. One at the Mona Lisia a restaurant located on Corkery Lane across from the Williamstown Ambulance Hall that has great food and a very personable owner. He also attended along with **Cncl. Dilks** the ribbon cutting ceremony for The Company Wrench, a company that has been in the township for over a year that did a wonderful job building a whole new facility. They have locations all across the Country but Monroe Township is their only facility in New Jersey. **Cncl. Miller** reported the Monroe Township Canine Foundation is having a Halloween Beef and Beer Party on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 11:00 PM.

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There will be prizes for the best costume and K-9 Officer Max Janofsky can be contacted for tickets. All proceeds raised will go to the Canine Foundation. Cncl. Miller also reported that South Jersey Biz recently did an article featuring the business development in Monroe Township. The article talks about our two redevelopment sites as well as what we are trying to do on Main Street and how we are partnering with Maley and Associates who worked with Glassboro and Collingswood in the redevelopment of their Main Streets.

**Mayor Teefy** reported the South Jersey Biz Magazine has a great picture of our Memorial Day Parade and includes comments from some of the business owners in town regarding the new direction they are trying to go to. The magazine also includes a picture of opening day ceremonies at Applebee's and there is an advertisement for the township in there as well. The Mayor noted people can go view the magazine on line by going to Southjerseybiz.net. He stated earlier this evening a resolution was adopted authorizing a Public Auction on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM. Fifty-two older township vehicles will be included in the auction and hopefully the township will make some revenue and some people will get a good used vehicle. Halloween is on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and trick or treating will take place from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Halloween Parade will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and in the theme of that the Main Street Committee will hold their first annual "Build A Scarecrow On Main Street Contest". Registration is at the Pfeiffer Center from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> (rain date October 18<sup>th</sup>). Poles along Main Street will be assigned and contestants must follow certain rules and regulations when entering the contest. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the Halloween Parade and scarecrows must be removed by November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in participating should contact Gina at 856-371-6891 or Sandy at 856-776-6164. The Mayor reported attending the Town Meeting, which ran from 2:00 PM to 5:00. The meeting had a very good showing and provided information on ways to handle the drug issues in our town. The Mayor reported Holly Glen School and Rowan University have a professional development partnership and he attended the unveiling of a banner at the school on Thursday recognizing that partnership. On Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> the POW/MIA Ceremony took place at the Pfeiffer Center and he commended the Business Administrator for running that event. In attendance were members of the VFW and American Legion but the number of citizens that came out was disappointing so we need to do a better job promoting this event. The Mayor reported attending the Mona Liza Restaurant grand opening and noted he had a very good meal there. He also reported Girl Scout Troop 66618 painted a new mural on the wall and painted the bathrooms at the Pfeiffer Center for which they will be getting a bronze award. The Mayor reported attending the Grand Theater 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He noted he was asked to participate in the spelling bee and even though he is not a great speller he did it and had a lot of fun. Mayor Teefy reported the Economic Development Committee has met with a company from Pittsburgh that makes information pamphlets, which include a map and information about the township and they are planning on implementing this in 2016. The Mayor urged local businesses to support this project, as it will be a good resource for people to find their locations.

**Director of Public Safety Jim Smart** reported Williamstown Fire Company will hold their annual Fire Prevention Week Open House on October 6<sup>th</sup> and Cecil Fire Company will hold theirs on October 7<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that this weekend was the first time he has not seen any vehicles down at the old American Training site and he commended the Police Department for doing an excellent job there.

**Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** reported on September 21<sup>st</sup> he attended the Environmental Commission Meeting where discussion took place regarding the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Opening of the nature trail behind Whitehall School. He reported several members of the Commission will be attending the ANJAC Conference and the Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference. He also reported that Holly Glen, Whitehall and the Middle School are involved in the scarecrow display that is going to be placed on the telephone poles along Main Street. On September 24<sup>th</sup> he reported attending the Planning Board Meeting where discussion took place regarding a microbrewery that is considering locating in Monroe Township, the review of the Master Plan, which will begin during the next calendar year and the submission of our Affordable Housing Plan that is due on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri reported the 4-H will hold their annual Fall Festival on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the fairgrounds in Mullica Hill.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

CLOSED SESSION

At this time Council went into Closed Executive Session. Upon returning from Closed Executive Session Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri indicated Resolution R:150-2015 that authorized a settlement agreement for Scott Durand would be added to the agenda.

**R:150-2015** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Settlement Agreement In The Litigation Captioned "Scott Durand V. Township Of Monroe" Docket No. GLO-L-359-14

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:150-2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks.

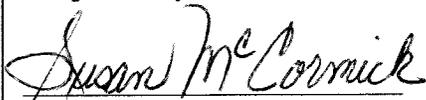
**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:150-2015 - 6 AYES, 1 NAY (McIlvaine)**

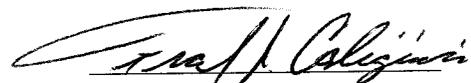
Tally: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Resolution R:150-2015 was duly approved for adoption.

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Bryson made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of September 28, 2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Miller 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 September 28, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_

Date 10/12/15  
Date \_\_\_\_\_