

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 25, 2016

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:00 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Cody D. 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 and also on the Monroe Township website.

Cncl. Pres., Miller stated the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet in the meeting room. If anyone would like to address Council please sign in and you will be recognized during the Public Portion. Kindly state your name for the record.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Cncl. DiLucia led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Jeff Tilden of Cross Keys United Methodist Church** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walt Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present	
Cncl. Bart McIlvaine	Present	
Cncl. Cody Miller	Present	
Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present	
Solicitor Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Kathryn Cornforth	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz		Excused
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart		Excused
Dir. Of Public Works, Michael Calvello	Present	
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

PRESENTATION

- **Eagle Scout Designation** - Brandon M. Palazzo - Matthew Tursi

Mayor Teefy and **Cncl. Pres., Miller** presented a Certificate of Recognition to **Brandon M. Palazzo** of Boy Scout Troop #234 in acknowledgement of completing his Eagle Leadership Project "*A Stone Outdoor Classroom*". Brandon explained he built an outdoor classroom at Radix Elementary School for the children to go outside and learn about gardening. Mayor Teefy noted Brandon dedicated the outdoor classroom to Mr. Dennis Spera, which was fitting because as a young teacher Mr. Spera took his sixth grade class outside to read under the trees at Maple Grove School. Mayor Teefy was one of those students.

Mayor Teefy and **Cncl. Pres. Miller** presented a Certificate of Recognition to **Matthew Tursi** of Boy Scout Troop #234 in acknowledgement of completing his Eagle Leadership Project "*Fire Trail*" at Wilson Lake Memorial Park. Matthew explained attached to the lake is a fire pump used by firetrucks to pump water from the lake if there would be a fire in the region. Over the years the trail leading to the pump had become overgrown so the firetrucks could not get down it. With cooperation from the Clayton Fire Department Matthew cleared the trail and put woodchips down to prevent the woods from retaking the trail.

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PRESENTATION *(cont'd)*

- **Certificates of Recognition – 2015/2016 Teacher of the Year Recipients**

Mayor Teefy and Cncl. Pres., Miller presented Certificates of Recognition to **Stacy Zentz** of Williamstown High School, **Susan Heidemark** of Williamstown Middle School, **Sandra Barone-Tweed** of Holly Glen, **Penny Mossbrucker** of Oak Knoll Elementary School, **Jennifer Temple** of Radix Elementary School and **Mandy Jones** of Whitehall Elementary School recipients of the 2015/2016 Teacher of the Year Award.

- **Monroe Minute – Spot Light On Business**

Bobby Harris from Dreams of Tomorrow (DOT) a non-profit organization located at 1809 North Black Horse Pike dedicated to serving youth ages five through eighteen to keep them involved in academics and recreation. DOT is in need of committed and dedicated people to volunteer their time to the youth who are our dreams of tomorrow. Mr. Harris noted DOT is working with the School Board, Camden County, Atlantic County and Gloucester County to help our children because if we do not invest in them, or train them, we will get nothing from them and they cannot be blamed for their actions. He noted he has been a resident of Monroe Township for two years and has had an opportunity to work in the community with the Mayor and the youth program at St. Mathew's Baptist Church. He thanked the Council for making him feel welcome and for allowing him to speak this evening. **Mayor Teefy** commended the work that Mr. Harris is doing.

Jim Bonder, Parks and Recreation Department advised the Parks and Recreation Department will be starting a new program this summer. He spoke of the success Camp Squankum has been over the last ten years for kids in grades one through eight. Over twenty-five people have been employed and over two hundred kids have registered for it each year. Mr. Bonder noted for the last three years he has wanted to start a leadership camp which he feels will also be a significant value to kids. The name of the camp will be Braveway Leadership Camp and it will offer four one week sessions with the first three weeks for grades nine through twelve and the last week will be for grades seven and eight. Mr. Bonder noted during the last few days, with the support of Mr. Earling, he has met with Dr. DelConte and Mr. Becker at the high school and with several hundred students that are participating in sports to share with them our vision for this program. Tonight he wanted to reach out to parents during the televised Council Meeting to share what this program is about. The camp will be from 9:00 AM to noon daily and it will challenge the students in a fun filled environment to assist them in reaching their goals. There will be a daily dose of roll playing on basic life skills and there will be group conversations on how to make decisions and how to handle peer pressure in regards to drugs, alcohol, friendships and relationships. There will be field trips, motivational speakers that will share their experiences on a weekly basis and daily aerobics, dance and yoga type exercise for twenty-five minutes taught by a professional trainer because this is not only about the mind but also the body. Shirts, backpacks, manuals and snacks will be provided and the camp will be held in our newly renovated Church Street Club House, which will provide a conference room setting that we think will be an exciting atmosphere for them. The goal of the camp is to show kids how to surround themselves with good role models. The leadership camp will support the values taught by parents, educators, coaches and mentors in a casual relaxed setting and it will be conducive to the minds and bodies of our youth. The cost of the camp is \$115.00 per week. Mr. Bonder urged parents to speak to their children to see if a leadership program might be of value to them and consider this because if we can get eighty kids involved in this we will be sending eighty new leaders to our schools in September. Additional information about the program is on the Parks and Recreation website and an open house will be held Tuesday, May 10th. Mr. Bonder thanked the Mayor and Council for everything they have done for Parks and Rec and for allowing him to speak to parents during this televised meeting. Mr. Bonder also reported this will be the sixth year for the Music Festival and he thanked the Mayor and Council and commended the Parks and Rec Commission for all the work they put into this event. The Music Festival will be held on June 4th from 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM and will include eighty additional vendors, amusements, fireworks, music highlighted by the Soul Sensational Cruisers and a hot air balloon sponsored by Re/Max that will go about seven stories in the air. The Rotary Club is sponsoring a Pie In the Face Contest and are trying to get 1,000 people involved to break the Guinness Book of World Records for that. Two BMX Bike shows will take place in the skate park, the first at 6:15 PM and

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PRESENTATION (cont'd)

the second show at 7:30 PM and there will also be a beer garden in the picnic area. Mr. Bonder noted since this event started six years ago it has grown each year and last year there were approximately 10,000 people in attendance. He noted this is not only a Music Festival this is really a town appreciation night because everything is very affordable. Kids can go on all the amusements for about \$15.00 and the music and fireworks are free. The only things people pay for are food, drink and whatever they purchase from the vendors. He noted it takes over 900 volunteers to run all the athletic organizations, the Rotary Club, the fire and ambulance associations and he encouraged everyone to come out to support those volunteers.

- **Municipal Alliance Commission**

Michelle Perez, Chairperson of the Municipal Alliance Commission noted the Commission is holding a Drug Reality Forum entitled "*If Only*", which is a twenty-nine minute movie created by the Mark Wahlberg Foundation. Through the efforts of Monroe Township and the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office this will be the first of a few forums throughout the County displaying this movie. A presentation entitled "*Hidden In Plain Sight*" will also be held and that is an interactive event for eighteen years old or older. This will be a teen bedroom display and the parents will get to walk through this room and try to find the paraphernalia and the drugs. Ms. Perez noted this is very informative and educational for parents and will really be an eye opener. The movie shows the reality of how drugs happen and enter our homes, neighborhoods and community. This event will consist of a panel that includes Paul Fletcher, a former Phillies player, Vance Johnson from the Denver Broncos and Randy Grimes from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers who are in recovery and advocates working for Behavior Health in Florida. This Reality Forum is to collaborate, we are not there to speak, we are there for discussion and to provide the proper education and knowledge of what is going on with substance abuse disorder. It will be held on Thursday, May 6th at the Williamstown High School. The resource hour and the exhibit begins at 6:00 PM and the actual forum will open at 7:00 PM. **Mayor Teefy** thanked Michelle for the work she and the Municipal Alliance are doing. He spoke of the newspaper article regarding the drug abuse in the township and noted we thought that article was going to deal with the programs the Municipal Alliance is doing in the schools but it turned out to be how bad things are in Williamstown. Drugs are bad throughout South Jersey as well at the entire country but we are not putting our heads in the sand, we are dealing with it and putting programs together to help people. This Reality Program is just one night that will show people there is hope. The Mayor reported a conference will be held tomorrow from 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM that will be attended by Governor Christi who has put together a Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) that he is trying to partnership with New Jersey and New York. Three people will be speaking at the conference Warren Keller, Governor Christi and Amanda Potopchuk from the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission. Amanda will be representing South Jersey and her message to the governor will be a lot of money is going to North Jersey but we need money in South Jersey because we have issues here in the Camden/Philadelphia area as well. The Mayor noted he wanted everyone to know that we are not brushing the drug issues aside, we are working on them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Special Council Meeting of April 6, 2016 and the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of April 11, 2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

B.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

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C.) CORRESPONDENCE

- **Carnival Permit** – Our Lady of Peace Parish
- **Flea Market Application** – Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul TRCC

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve the Carnival Permit for Our Lady of Peace Parish and a Flea Market Permit for the Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul TRCC. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Teefy appointed **Adan Maskery** to the Environmental Commission and **Rosemary Flaherty** as the Director of Community Development and **Jim Bonder** as the Director of Community Affairs.

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointments. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS
6 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN WITH CAUSE (Dilks)**

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain with Cause, 0 Absent. The Mayor's appointments were duly approved.

Cncl. Pres., Miller thanked Mrs. Flaherty for the work she has been doing over the last few months and the Mayor and Business Administrator for making the decision to appoint her to this position.

D.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

R:97-2016 Resolution Approving The 2016 Gloucester County Community Development Block Grant Project Application For ADA Door Improvements & Various Other Improvements To The Municipal Building And/Or The Pfeiffer Community Center In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:97-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:98-2016 Resolution Appointing Alternate Member #1 To The Monroe Township Economic Development Commission

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to open nominations for an Alternate Member # 1 to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. **Cncl. Bryson** seconded the motion.

Cncl. Caligiuri nominated **Tony Iovino** as Alternate Member # 1 to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. The nomination was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner**.

With no other nominations **Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON NOMINATION OF TONY IOVINO AS ALTERNATE MEMBER # 1
TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - ALL AYES**

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Nomination of Tony Iovino as an Alternate Member # 1 to the Economic Development Commission was duly approved.

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

R:99-2016 Resolution Appointing Alternate Member #2 To The Monroe Township Economic Development Commission

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to open nominations for an Alternate Member # 2 to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. Caligiuri nominated **Thomas Schwartz** as Alternate # 2 member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. The nomination was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks**.

With no other nominations **Cncl. McIlvaine** made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. DiLucia questioned if the two nominations to the Economic Development Commission were of different political parties as required by the ordinance. Since no one knew the political party affiliation of Mr. Iovino and Mr. Schwartz Solicitor Fiore recommended a motion be made to remove Resolution R:99-2016 from the agenda until a determination could be made.

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to remove the Resolution R:99-2016 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:100-2016 Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss Real Estate Acquisition

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve Resolution R:100-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon reconvening the meeting Solicitor Fiore stated Council just concluded a Closed Executive Session where acquisition of several parcels by the Township of Monroe was discussed. No contracts are being entered into at this point in time so he cannot divulge the particulars of the properties or the purchase prices. That will be reported on at some future time.

R:101-2016 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to approve Resolution R:101-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:102-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Referring A Proposed Rehabilitation Area Designation Of Block 1303, Lot 20 In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, To The Township Of Monroe Planning Board

Cncl. McIlvaine made a motion to approve Resolution R:102-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:103-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Awarding A Contract For Professional Services To The Municipal Engineer For Construction Management Services With Respect To The Old Township Library Demolition Within The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:103-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:104-2016 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of April 25, 2016

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve Resolution R:104-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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

R:105-2016 Resolution Awarding A Contract For Professional Services To Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Associates, Inc. For Services Associated With The Final Design And Preparation Of Plans And Specifications For The Completion Of The Corkery Lane Improvements Within The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:105-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri**.

Cncl. Heffner questioned which plan the township was going with, the one without sidewalks or the one with sidewalks and curbing. **Mr. Heydel** replied the one without sidewalk.

Resolution R:105-2016 was unanimously approved by all members of Council.

E.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Miller turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Chairman, Cncl. Heffner**. **Cncl. Pres., Miller** made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the ordinances listed on the agenda for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Pres., Miller** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:12-2016 Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Completion Of An Expansion Project At Earling E. Owens Memorial Park In And For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating The Sum Of \$780,000 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds, Bond Anticipation Notes Or Other Debt Obligations Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$390,000; Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

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

Cncl. Pres., Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance O:12-2016 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks**.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:12-2016 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:12-2016 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:13-2016 Ordinance Of The Township Of Monroe, In The County Of Gloucester, New Jersey, Approving And Authorizing The Entering Into And Execution And Delivery Of Amendments To Existing Equipment Lease And Agreement And Improvement Lease And Agreement With The Gloucester County Improvement Authority In Connection With The Authority's 2016 Governmental Lease Revenue Refunding Program

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

Cncl. Pres., Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance O:13-2016 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson**.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:13-2016 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:13-2016 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

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E.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

O:14-2016 Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Demolition Of An Existing Library Building In And For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating The Sum Of \$160,000 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Or Bond Anticipation Notes Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$152,000; Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

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

Cncl. Pres., Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance O:14-2016 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:14-2016 FOR SECOND READING AND
PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN WITH CAUSE (Dilks)**

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:14-2016 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:15-2016 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 226 Entitled "Parks And Playgrounds" (**Second Reading And Public Hearing**)

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

Cncl. Pres., Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance O:15-2016 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:15-2016 FOR SECOND READING AND
PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:15-2016 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

F.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Bryson reported the Historical Society met to discuss the plans for the British Car Show that will be held on May 21st at the Ireland Hofer House. The South Jersey British Car Club will be there but we are also running an add requesting other owners of British cars to attend as well. This event will also include a Tea Garden, a gardening session taught by a lady from the Philadelphia Flower Show and the Ireland House and Hall Street School will be open for people to learn about the history of the town. **Cncl. Bryson** reported attending the Board of Health Meeting where tethering of animals was discussed. The Board wants additional research on this issue prior to adopting an ordinance to regulate it. The Board also discussed what should be done with drug paraphernalia found by residents, as there are special procedures that must be followed to dispose of syringes to render them harmless to others, such as placing them in plastic bottles. In the event drug paraphernalia is found the Police Department should be contacted; it should not be put in the trash. **Cncl. Bryson** reported the Police Department will collect unused drugs on April 30th and members of the Board of Health will be at the Ireland House during the Arts Festival on April 30th and at the British Car Show to distribute information about the services the Board provides. **Cncl. Bryson** noted New Jersey residents are moving out of state due to our high property taxes but when they do that they pay a GIT/REP Tax or what is called the New Jersey Exit Tax. In 2004/2005 the purpose of the tax was to determine whether or not a non-resident seller or grantor of property was required to make an estimated gross income tax payment upon the sale or transfer of real property in New Jersey. Non-residents were required to complete the forms that came out in August 2004. Now a current resident or non-resident is responsible to complete several forms when their property is sold in order to record the deed to transfer the property. A person who has lived and paid taxes in New Jersey for years is subject to this exit tax as soon as they sell their property and move out of state because they are no longer considered a resident of New Jersey. Without any exceptions people can pay up to 8.9% of the profit they gain from the sale of their home but not less than 2% and they cannot refuse to sign those papers at settlement. Corporations must file and pay as well and people who transfer their properties to their children pay unless they do a quick claim deed or sell the property to

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

their children for \$1.00. If the consideration amount of a property is \$250,000.00, \$2.00 is paid for each \$500.00 up to \$150,000.00, which amounts to \$600.00. In excess of \$150,000.00 up to \$200,000.00, \$3.35 is paid amounting to \$335.00 and \$3.90 is paid for each \$500.00 in excess of \$200,000.00 to \$350,000.00, which would be \$390.00. The Exit Tax on a house worth \$250,000.00 would be \$1,115.00 and on a house valued at \$370,000.00 it would be \$2,735.00. Senior citizens pay 50¢ for each \$500.00 up to \$150,000.00 amounting to \$150.00 and \$1.25 for each \$500.00 in excess of \$150,000.00 up to \$350,000.00 amounting to \$175.00. A senior's home valued at \$220,000.00 would cost them \$325.00 and for a \$375,000.00 house it would cost \$1,388.00. Seniors are getting a break but young professionals moving to other states are being penalized and there is no reason for that since the real estate taxes in New Jersey are among the highest in the nation. This tax is unfair to residents, it should apply to only non-residents as that was its original intent. New Jersey is the only state that does this and it is very unfair. Cncl. Caligiuri questioned if a home owner rented their home and moved out of the state would they be subject to this tax. Cncl. Bryson replied no, only if the home is sold.

Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on April 14th where an application for a site plan waiver was heard for Endurance Automotive at 4335 South Black Horse Pike and also for 210B Main Street, which was previously an apartment but was being used as a warehouse and the owner would like to use it again as an apartment. Holiness Worship Center at 1480 North Tuckahoe Road proposed adding an 800 square feet building to be used as a daycare/school but that was tabled due to an inadequate submittal. An application was submitted for the Tuckwoods Subdivision, which proposed twenty-six single family homes on a 22.7 acre parcel on Butler and Tuckahoe Road. Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Environmental Commission Meeting on April 18th where discussion took place regarding an Anjac grant for \$1,500.00, the Holly Glen Safe Routes to School Program walk to school day, cleaning up the Path of Hope and a \$3,000.00 Green Community Grant to update the Forestry Management Plan. Cncl. Caligiuri noted he was informed that the Environmental Commission was represented at the Tri-County Sustainability Alliance and we were named as a model for all the hubs for Sustainable New Jersey. He also reported the 4-H Preserve located on the South Black Horse Pike is looking for a way to install ADA bathhouses/bathrooms so additional events can be hosted there and that a second meeting of the Budget Committee was held on April 19th. The Committee could not find any items to change so he requested other members of Council to send him any recommendations they might have for the committee to review but to date he has received no response. Some were sent directly to the Business Administrator but no changes were made.

Cncl. DiLucia reported attending a Safety Committee Meeting at which time an incident was discussed regarding a transportation bus that drove over a speedbump too fast causing a person on the bus to go airborne and as a result of that the township is being sued. He noted this illustrates why we have been telling residents we don't want any more speedbumps in the town to address speeding problems. Cncl. DiLucia noted he reported to the Safety Committee that Chris Rehmann spoke about visual optical illusions and blinking speed signs that could be used to address speeding. A representative from the Police Department was also at the Safety Meeting and discussion took place regarding issuing tickets and how there are not enough police officers to station in every neighborhood to stop the speeding. The Committee will continue to talk about this issue. Cncl. DiLucia noted he received a letter from AARP because they are concerned the issue of Social Security and Medicare has been on the back burners during the current presidential campaign and they estimate by the year 2028 the funds will be depleted. The concern is if that is not discussed until the last minute when there is no money benefits will be cut. There are many things that can be done now to save the systems if it is done now. One idea that does not seem outrageous is to raise the \$150,000.00 cap contribution towards Social Security, as that would totally fund the program. He reported three of the last seven years the cost of living has been zero, which means the disabled and seniors who depend on that calculation have received no increases for those years. Congressman Norcross has sponsored a bill that would change the computation method of the cost of living to be more favorable to seniors and the disabled because he believes the numbers that go into that calculation are not an accurate description of what is happening in the real world. Cncl. DiLucia felt this bill may not pass unless there is a change in the complexion of the House of Representatives during this election. Some of the candidates are more liberal towards those types of programs and if we get the right mix that would become a reality.

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Cncl. Heffner reported attending the Easter Egg Hunt on March 19th. This event was very well attended and the kids had a great time even through the weather was not the best. On March 28th he attended the John Davis Golf Outing sponsored by the Monroe Township Police Department. Approximately 80 to 100 guys attended and it was a great time that he looks forward to every year. On March 15th, April 5th and April 19th he attended Zoning Board meetings. The issues discussed dealt with compliance because for many years people were out of compliance but now Rosemary is forcing people to comply with what they should have been doing for years. Some complaints have been received but most people understand it is all about cleaning up the town. **Cncl. Heffner** thanked Mike Calvello for making the improvements (*ceiling tiles/lights*) to the courtroom and the Police Department for stopping the ATVs and motorcycles from riding on township owned property.

Cncl. McIlvaine noted his report is based on what he saw this evening. He commended Jim Bonder for spending his own time doing things for this town, Michelle Perez who volunteers her time trying to help people with drug issues and the Scouts who did projects to improve areas. He noted the things people do free of charge should be appreciated and instead of sitting back complaining about what's not being done people should get involved like Bob Harris does with the kids. He noted we are trying to make a difference and he urged the public to do the same thing and get involved.

Director of Public Works, Mike Calvello reported there has been a lot of illegal dumping along Jackson Road and most of it is televisions. He urged people rather than dumping them on the roadway to take them to the township yard.

Director of Community Development, Rosemary Flaherty thanked the Mayor and Council for the directorship. She noted she is a strict compliance officer but also very business and resident friendly and hopes to continue the progress in Monroe Township to take it to the next level.

Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk reported the VFW contacted him questioning if they could get the fees waived for the sign they are installing and he asked if Council would discuss and consider that request. **Cncl. Heffner** suggested that be placed on a meeting agenda.

Cncl. Pres., Miller reported Senior Recognition Night will be held at the Williamstown High School Theater at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 8th and the Commencement Exercises will be held on Friday, June 17th at the George Ormsby Memorial Stadium. **Cncl. Pres., Miller** noted he had the opportunity to attend and try to facilitate a meeting between Williamstown High School and Rowan College at Gloucester County to enhance the relationship between the high school with the transition to Rowan College and Rowan University. He thanked the school administration for inviting him to participate in those discussions. He thanked the BA and the Mayor for presenting Council with a responsible budget that marks the lowest increase since 2004. The budget is a .98% increase that will reflect an \$18.00 per year increase for the average homeowner. The Board of Education increase will be 2.25% and the Gloucester County tax increase is estimated to be 2.24%. The budget presented by the Mayor and BA looks out for future fiscal responsibility when we decide to go out for bonding within the next year or so.

Mayor Teefy reported the public hearing on the budget will be held at the May 9th Council Meeting and since that is not a TV night he wanted to address some of the things included in the budget this evening. This is a \$36,000,000.00 budget estimate that provides services for just over 36,000 people according to the 2010 census but according to a website that gives the new demographics/resident count we have over 39,000 people. Only 26% of property taxes support the services we provide such as trash, roads, public safety, street lights, etc. This amounts to a .98% increase or \$9.00 per \$100,000.00 assessment, which amounts to \$18.00 for the average taxpayer or 34¢ per week, the lowest it has been since 2004. The average taxpayer pays approximately \$6,800.00 and of that only \$1,800.00 goes to supporting township services. The Mayor noted it is easy to say cut this or cut that and diminish the services for our residents but we don't want to do that, we want to improve upon our services. It is also easy to apply a onetime revenue to the budget to have no tax increase but that is not a responsible thing to do when you know the cost of services go up 3% to 4% each year. We know that because 64% of our budget is for wages, benefits and pensions that were negotiated in contracts. The Mayor thanked the

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

employees for agreeing to go to the State Health Benefits Program, as that helped the budget by lowering the cost of health benefits. Now the employees are actually seeing increases in their paychecks that they have not seen in four or five years since the State required them to pay a portion of their benefits. Not managing the budget process responsibility only serves to push tax increases in to following years at a greater increased tax burden and we don't want to do that. He noted when he was first elected to council in 2000 the members of Council were proud to say they did not raise taxes for four years and at that time he questioned without raising taxes are you providing the same services. Their answer was we think so. Mayor Teefty noted he remembers sitting in a meeting at the Pfeiffer Center until 11:00 PM because Council kept trying to reduce the budget and in 2003 we had the largest tax increase we ever had and as Mayor he does not want to see that happen again. He noted when he ran for mayor he promised he would stabilize taxes, which means keeping spikes from happening. When taxpayers look at their tax bills they see high taxes but we cannot control the school tax or the county tax, which represents 74% of the tax bill. We can only control 26% of the tax bill and provide the services residents expect. The Mayor assured residents that when the budget is prepared every potential impact to the budget is measured and reviewed and taken into account to make sure the budget represents the best interest of taxpayers, not just for this year but for future years. This includes rate growth, loss due to tax appeals, market conditions and tax collection rates, which was the highest it has been in years and that might show the economy is coming back because people are able to pay their taxes. He commended the Tax Collector's Office for a job well done. Individual revenue sources and prudent spending habits give our taxpayers the biggest bang for their tax dollar. Our financial professionals have steered us through the worst economic recession in our lifetime and this township fared better than most municipalities in New Jersey. The fiscal policies that we established have resulted in a strong, positive statement from the professional bond rating agencies such as Moody's and Standards and Poor's and that is important because it lowers the interest rate when we go out to bond. The Mayor noted he is responsible to move this township forward and responsible to address increases in cost, seek new revenue sources, manage township growth, maintain our infrastructure and roads and revitalize our downtown so we can live in a community that we can be proud of. This budget accomplishes these goals. The Mayor also reported attending the Planning Board meetings and noted some development including commercial is coming in, businesses are coming in for site plan waivers and we are also talking about more growth by Sam's Club. He reported meeting with Anisha Davis who is working on a Municipal Map/Directory that will be coming out soon. He encouraged businesses that would like to advertise in this to contact his office. He reported Atlantic City Electric will be installing new poles in the fall of 2017 along the bike path and Clayton Road. The poles along the bike path are currently on private properties and they will be relocated more towards the bike path. If any damage is done to the bike path during this work Atlantic City Electric will make all repairs and they will be coordinating with the schools so traffic is not blocked on Clayton Road. Atlantic City Electric is merging with Exelon Corporation so residents will be seeing a credit in their bills during the month of April and May in the amount of \$113.16 and there will be additional benefits in the future from this merger. The Mayor reported April is "*Distracted Driving Month*" and on April 16th he was at Wal-Mart along with Amanda Peacock, Miss Atlantic Teen and members of the Police Department handing out car magnets and information about safe driving. On April 11th he attended the Grand Opening for High End Car Stereo and Performance and the Grand Opening for Cakes and Cookies. On April 23rd he attended St. Matthew's Youth Mentoring Event and the Business Expo at the Monroe Township Public Library. Upcoming events include the first annual Arts Festival on Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Main Street. The shops along Main Street will be open and there will be food, art, workshops and bands and the South Jersey Times will be writing an article about the event. That same day Gina Martucci, who has helped the township by painting the event signs, will be opening an art gallery on the corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street. The Mayor reported the Bearded Guitar will be opening May 14th and a meeting will be held on April 27th to discuss the Memorial Day Parade. He urged all residents to come out and support the veterans on Memorial Day. The Mayor commended Jim Bonder and the Parks and Rec Department for doing a great job on the blue monster at the minor league field. He reported a meeting will be held with the Route 322 and Fries Mill Road property owners, our engineer and the County engineer to discuss a developer's agreement to hopefully get the improvements done on that intersection. Bluebell and Malaga Roads were paved and through the efforts of Kevin Heydel and Mike Calvello the county paved the township's section of Bluebell from Virginia Avenue to Main Street for \$38,000.00. Winslow Road and also the intersection of Gordon Avenue and Princeton will be paved from

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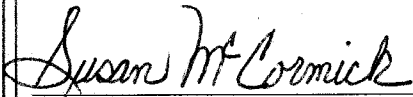
F.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

township funds. The old library next to Newfield Bank will be demolished and hopefully someone will be interested in purchasing that property. The Mayor thanked Mike Calvello for the new courtroom ceiling tiles; noting we are trying to improve our buildings and will be looking in the budget for money to paint and put a new roof on the Hall Street School. He added we are cleaning up township owned properties and enforcing ordinances currently on the books to try to get people to take pride in their community by cleaning up their own properties. The Mayor noted June 7th is the Primary Election and he urged everyone to vote as it is very important.


G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of April 25, 2016. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Bryson 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 April 25, 2016 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 AmJ
Approved as corrected _____

Date 5/19/16
Date _____