

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 11, 2017**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:45 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Bart McIlvaine** 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., McIlvaine 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 **Cncl. Miller** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present
Cncl. Ron Garbowski	Present
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present
Cncl. Joe Marino	Present
Cncl. Cody Miller	Present
Cncl. Pres., Bart McIlvaine	Present

Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present
Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel	Present
Solicitor, Gary Lomanno	Present
Engineer, Chris Rehmann	Present
Dir. Of Finance, Karyn Paccione	Present
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present
Dir. Of Public Works, Michael Calvello	Present
Dir. Comm. Dev./Code Enf. Rosemary Flaherty	Present
Dir. Parks & Rec, Jim Bonder	Present
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk	Present
Police Chief, John McKeown	Present
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present

Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine apologized to everyone in attendance for the Work Session Meeting running late. He explained these are the last meetings of the year and there was a lot of business to take care of and he didn't want anyone to think that Council's time was more important than those in attendance. He thanked everyone for coming.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Monroe Township Police Promotions - Swearing-in-Ceremony**

Chief John McKeown thanked the Mayor and Council and the friends and family members in attendance for their support. He opened the swearing-in-ceremony by calling for the presentation of the Colors by the **Monroe Township FOP 125 Honor Guard**. Chief McKeown called forward **Detective Lester Harris** who was being promoted to Sergeant assigned to the Patrol Division and noted Detective Harris earned an Associate Degree at Gloucester County College and was hired by Monroe Township Police Department in 1999. In the Police Academy he earned the Firearms Award and became a firearms instructor in 2005 and continues to serve in that position. He is also a field training officer, a position, which like a

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PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

sergeants is critical to the success of the Police Department. He served on Monroe Township's Entry Team for seven years and has been assigned to the Gloucester County Swat Team since 2012. He serves as a level 3 certified hostage negotiator for the Swat Team and has been a detective since 2009 and has earned several awards including Distinguished Service and Life Saving Award. The Chief noted a sergeant is charged with ensuring that the mission of the Police Department and the orders from command are carried out on a daily basis and they stand as the police administrations front line. At this time **Mayor Teefy** administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Lester Harris while his wife held the Bible and his children looked on. Chief McKeown called for the Colors to be retired and a short recess took place to allow time for everyone in attendance to congratulate Sergeant Harris.

- **Proclamation - Deputy Clerk**

Mayor Teefy, all members of Council and Township Clerk **Susan McCormick** presented retiring Deputy Clerk **Sharon Wright** with a dozen red roses and a proclamation in recognition of her 25 years of service to the Township. After the presentation was made each member of Council, the Mayor and Township Engineer, **Chris Rehmann** expressed their sentiments and wished her well in her retirement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted for the Work Session and the Regular Council Meeting of November 27, 2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Dilks** and **Cncl. Garbowski** who Abstained.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE

- **Junkyard Licenses**
 - AA Auto Salvage Inc.
 - Advanced Financial Services
 - Auto Express
 - Blue Bell Auto Parts, Inc.
 - Midway Auto Parts
 - Shorty's Salvage Yard
 - South State Auto Parts

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve the Junkyard Licenses for the period of twelve months, December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to open 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. Garbowski** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:263-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Amended Developer's Agreement With Hovbros Stirling Glen, LLC For Subdivision #1713, Block 14201, Lot 12 **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

R:264-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Acceptance Of An Irrevocable Standby Letter Of Credit In The Amount Of \$191,147.00 For "Stirling Glen I" Basin Modifications (Past and Current) Subdivision #1713, Block 14201, Lot 10 **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

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

R:265-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Authorizing The Acceptance Of An Irrevocable Standby Letter Of Credit In The Amount Of \$1,028,958.40 For "Stirling Glen I" Section 2, Subdivision #1713, Block 14201, Lot 10 **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

R:266-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe In Support Of Completing 180 Miles Of Circuit Trails By 2025 In The Delaware River Valley Regional Planning Commission Region

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:266-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:267-2017 Resolution And Notice Of Council Work Sessions, Regular Council Meetings And Ordinance Committee Meetings Of The Township Of Monroe For The Year 2018

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:267-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:268-2017 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:268-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:269-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing A Lien Be Placed On Various Properties For Failure To Comply With Chapter 295 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:269-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:270-2017 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of December 11, 2017

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:270-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:271-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Execution Of A Mutual Aid Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And The Participating Units

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:271-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:272-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Rejecting RFP Submissions For Architect And Engineering Services For Renovations To Existing Cecil Firehouse Or Design Of New Cecil Firehouse And Renovation And Expansion Of Williamstown Firehouse As Specified In The RFP For The Township Of Monroe, Gloucester County

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve Resolution R:272-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:273-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Funds For The Budget Year 2017

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:273-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:274-2017 Resolution Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Settlement Agreement In The Litigation Captioned "In The Matter Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester Declaratory Judgment Action Docket Number L-930-15"

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

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:274-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:275-2017 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing Sirchie As The Sole Source Provider For The Repair And Upgrade To Williamstown Fire Company's Smaller Rescue Vehicle

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:275-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:276-2017 Resolution Authorizing The Planning Board Of The Township Of Monroe To Conduct A Preliminary Investigation To Determine Whether Block 101, Lots 2, 7, 8, 9, 9.02, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 39, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 56.01, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 and 63, Commonly Known As The Cross Keys Redevelopment Area, Is A Redevelopment Area

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:276-2017. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Heffner**.

O:40-2017 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing Payments To Retirees In Lieu Of Receiving Health Benefits Offered By The Township Of Monroe

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. DiLucia made a motion to approve Ordinance O:40-2017 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:41-2017 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 109 Entitled "Circuses And Carnivals"

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. Dilks made a motion to approve Ordinance O:41-2017 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:42-2017 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Canceling O:09-2011 Which Authorizes The Completion Of Various Improvements And Authorizes The Issuance Of An Obligation In The Form Of A Promissory Note Not To Exceed Aggregate Principal Amount Of \$6,900,000

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. Garbowski made a motion to approve Ordinance O:42-2017 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:43-2017 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 175 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Land Management" (Chapter 175-57 Pinelands Area Development)

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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. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance O:43-2017 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:44-2017 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 175 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Land Management" (Chapter 175-151.1 Wireless Telecommunications Facility And Deployment)

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. Marino made a motion to approve Ordinance O:44-2017 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Dilks thanked the Clerk's Office, Sue, Sharon, Aileen and Karen for the work they did this year and extended best wishes to Sharon in her retirement. He thanked Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine, Cncl. Vice-Pres., DiLucia and Ordinance Committee Chairman Cncl. Heffner for doing a great job and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cncl. DiLucia reported Social Security recipients will be getting a 2% cost of living increase but the bad news is Medicare Part B will also increase from \$109.00 per month to \$134.00 per month for individuals making less than \$85,000.00 per year or husband and wife making \$165,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked Cncl. Heffner for doing a great job as Ordinance Chairman and noted it has been a pleasure working with Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine.

Cncl. Garbowski reported attending the Williamstown Sunshine Rotary Toys for Tots Make a Donation and he urged residents to make a donation to kids and families through the local churches and organizations. He urged residents to visit the Monroe Township Library over the holidays as there are many programs for children and adults. The Friends of the Library and the Monroe Township Library are accepting donations of used books that will be sent to the VA home in Franklinville and to Puerto Rico. Cncl. Garbowski thanked Sharon, the Clerk, Council and the Mayor for a very successful year and he wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Cncl. Heffner reported attending the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2nd at the Pfeiffer Center and commended the Parks and Rec Commission for doing a great job. He spoke of the number of people attending, how this event has outgrown the Pfeiffer Center, how the children were excited to see Santa on the fire truck, that Mrs. Claus read to the kids and that next year the Parks and Rec Commission will make some changes to accommodate the number of people attending. He thanked Sharon for helping him during his two years as Ordinance Committee Chairman and thanked Kathryn Cornforth, Kevin Heydel, Rosemary Flaherty, Jim Bonder and others for always answering his questions in a timely manner. He reported through ARH a Road Program has been established after years of trying, the safety aspects of the town are through the roof and Rosemary and her department are doing a great job cleaning up the town. He commented Council has their differences and everyone respects those differences but in the end we all try to do what is best for the township. He commended Cncl. Pres. McIlvaine for doing a great job as Council President and extended best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Cncl. Marino noted in wrapping up his first year on Council he didn't think all the preparation he did to serve on Council prepared him for the full weight of serving and representing taxpayers. He thanked Councilmembers for answering all his questions over the past year. He stated Cncl. McIlvaine said to him prior to becoming Council President that he

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

wanted to make decisions with input from all members of Council and he wanted us all to work together. Cncl. Marino thanked Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine for keeping his word on that and for also supporting the new ideas that he personally brought forward. He commended Cncl. Heffner for doing a great job as Ordinance Chairman, Cncl. DiLucia as Cncl. Vice-President and Mayor Teefy, the directors, Deputy Mayor, the Business Administrator and the Police Chief for all the work they do behind the scenes. He commented that coming from the private sector has been tough because he would like to see things move a little quicker but he is getting use to how long it takes to get an ordinance changed or something pushed through from beginning to end, as it takes more time because people must be notified of things to know what is going on. He commended the Clerk and her staff for all the work they do for Council and thanked former Solicitor Fiore and all the professionals for their service. He reported he will be attending the Economic Development Committee Meeting scheduled for December 18th and the Board of Education Meeting scheduled on December 21st. Cncl. Marino extended best wishes for Happy Holiday and a Healthy, Happy and Safe New Year.

Cncl. Miller reported the Williamstown Fire Department and Police Department will hold their annual Santa Around Town on Saturday, December 16th and he thanked them for doing this every year for the residents. He also thanked everyone who participated in the Wreaths of Remembrance Ceremony at the Gloucester County Veterans Cemetery, the Mayor and Business Administrator for providing two buses to transport the family members from the high school to the cemetery and STA for providing in-kind buses. He commended the organization People for People that raised \$6,300.00 this year to ensure that all the service men and women and their families had a wreath on their grave. Cncl. Miller noted this year he felt all members of Council worked together and he thanked them all for their guidance, assistance, knowledge and for working together to move things forward in the township. He also thanked the Clerk's Office for all their help during the year, Cncl. Heffner for his work as Ordinance Chairman and Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine for his work as Council President. He then extended best wishes for a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Teefy reported the Tree Lighting Ceremony was a great event and a fun time. He thanked Santa and Mrs. Claus for being there and the Williamstown Fire Company for bringing them to the Pfeiffer Center. He commended Jim Bonder, his staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission for doing a great job. The Mayor noted the garland along Main Street was put up early for the Halloween Parade and that will continue to be done. He urged everyone to drive down Main Street to see all the decorations as more things have been added. The Mayor reported someone stole five books from Mrs. Claus so they will be getting coal in their stockings this year. He thanked Patty Adams for buying Mrs. Claus "Christmas in New Jersey", to replace the one that was stolen and the Library for donating books to Mrs. Claus. The Mayor reported the plans for the intersection of Rt. 322 and Fries Mill Road are close to being completed and as soon as they are done they will be driven to the DOT in Trenton. He commended the Police Department and the County for the service at the Veterans Cemetery and thanked the Public Works Department for staying on top of the leaf cleanup and Director Calvello for his response during snow storms. He also thanked his administrative staff, Kevin Heydel, Sherri McIlvaine and Christine Scola for all the work they do for him and the other township employees for doing an excellent job, as the employee headcount has not increased in the last seven years but the township has grown and there is a lot going on. He thanked Deputy Clerk Sharon Wright for her service and wished her the best in her retirement. He also extended best wishes for a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

Solicitor Lomanno thanked the Mayor and Council for giving him the privilege to serve as township solicitor over the last few weeks.

Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel reported the new HVAC units are being shipped from Mexico on December 19th. As soon as they arrive the installation will be scheduled, which will probably be the first week in January. He noted it has been a pleasure working with everyone this year and he looks forward to working with everyone next year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Engineer, Kathryn Cornforth reiterated Mr. Raymond's sentiments about Sharon and noted she will be missed and she wished everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday.

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

Director of Finance, Karyn Paccione reported a note sale was held on December 8th for \$4,441,125.00 and the successful bidder was Oppenheimer & Company for the interest rate of 1.6132% with the net interest cost of \$71,445.00. There were two other bids TD Securities at 1.646% and Jeffries LLC at 1.676%. Mrs. Paccione wished everyone a Happy Holiday and extended best wishes to Sharon on her retirement.

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart reported the Williamstown Fire Department's Christmas Tree Sale was successful again this year. He thanked the residents for supporting the fire department and all the other emergency services fund raisers. He reported the Police Department and Fire Departments will team up together to take Santa around town on Saturday, December 16th and in the event of inclement weather or an overflow on Sunday, December 17th. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Director of Public Works, Mike Calvello congratulated Sharon on her retirement and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Director of Community Development/Code Enforcement, Rosemary Flaherty congratulated Sgt. Harris on his promotion and Sharon on her retirement. She reported Cross Keys Micro Brewery received a TCO so they will start brewing but they will not be able to sell until they receive their State license. Mrs. Flaherty noted it has been a pleasure serving everyone in Monroe Township and she wished everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday.

Deputy Mayor Potopchuk thanked the Mayor, Council, township employees, Director Calvello and Sharon for working with him and he wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Jim Bonder extended best wishes to Sharon and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. He also extended best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Chief of Police, John McKeown extended best wishes to Sharon on her retirement and reported that a new police officer is graduating from the Police Academy on Wednesday, December 13th so there will be one more officer on the street enforcing the laws. He urged everyone to drive safely during the holidays and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine thanked Jim Bonder, the Parks and Rec employees and the Parks and Rec Committee for the awesome Tree Lighting Ceremony and commended Director Calvello, the Public Works Department employees and all the other Directors and employees for doing a great job this year. He noted Sharon will be missed and even though the job will be filled by capable hands there will be a hole in this township that cannot be filled. He congratulated former Township Solicitor Chuck Fiore and his family on his appointment as Gloucester County Prosecutor. He stated Chuck was a fantastic solicitor because he is not only a great lawyer but he was a former councilman and a hometown person who had a lot of interest in the township and he will be missed. Cncl. Pres., McIlvaine thanked everyone for helping him through the year during his tenure as council president. He noted at home his wife is his right hand who does everything for him and here it is the ladies in the Clerk's Office, as he has never had to ask for anything it was always there for him. He noted Sue is an amazing person and deserves all the money in the world. The work she does is incredible and her attention to detail and her attitude is just amazing and he thanked her for everything she did for him. He thanked the Mayor for doing a fantastic job, adding that at times we all bang heads but that's because we all care so much. It is all about making decisions and that is not easy to do when using other people's money. He apologized for meetings running a little long sometimes but he wants to make sure the people speaking are able to get their point across. He thanked Council for having faith in him as Council President, the fire companies, the ambulance association and all the employees that made the job as Council President easy. He spoke of how it is not easy to speak publicly but when you believe in what you are saying and it comes from the heart it usually comes out easy. He thanked the people of Monroe Township for giving him the opportunity to serve and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and God's blessing on each and every one.

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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. Marino** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Leeann Thurston, 721 Davinci Way congratulated Mr. Fiore on his achievement and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She then went on to speak about issues she is having regarding the property she is renting and questioned who was responsible for the Construction Code Office. **Mayor Teefy** advised the Director of Code Enforcement runs the department. Mrs. Thurston stated she has serious code issues in her home and has a problem with that department. Mrs. Flaherty earns big money according to the Business Administrator but that department has a lot of organizational problems. She noted she has never had a problem with the Clerk's Office or the Tax Office but she has been put on the back burner a few times by that office (*Construction Code*) and has been living in a home for a year without a CO. She explained on January 10th Lou Polillo failed the home because the exterior doors did not have the required railings so she could not move in but magically Dan Kozak inspected it and issued a CO when nothing was changed. She noted these are safety issues and the Director all the way down the food chain should know the township code and what their job is and if they don't they should not have the job especially for the money they are getting paid. She noted she was told that a temporary CO is not allowed for a rental unit, as rentals will be occupied. Mrs. Flaherty commented temporary COs are given for rentals. Mrs. Thurston disagreed with Mrs. Flaherty stating she was previously told temporary COs are not allowed for rentals only for homes that were being purchased. Things such as the water, fire extinguishers and toilets must work but when she moved in the smoke alarm did not work and they, as the tenants got them to work but Dan Kozak passed it. She noted she has proof from the realtor that on January 11th, one day after it was failed, an email was sent to the owner of the home making it very clear that the house needed to be brought to code. A temporary CO was issued and they were given two weeks to correct the problems or they would be fined the maximum. Since the home failed no one has been back and no changes were made so she questioned how was a CO issued? She spoke of calling the office and being told there was nothing in the computer and nothing was filed. The Mayor just reported how well the township is running with the current number of employees but the Business Administrator told her the township is poorly understaffed and blamed the work not being done on the people out on disability. She noted the entire office is a debacle and to blame it on the people on disability is totally unacceptable. In November she sent her employee to the office to get a permit to connect to water and they returned with an electrical permit after the person in the office argued with them for ten minutes that that was the permit needed. The people in the office should know their job and they should do it well because they are representing the entire township. She spoke of video-taping Kevin Heydel, Dan Kozak and Brian Glaze when they came to her home and that she was told the township has over 1,300 COs, which no one knows what is happening with. She noted her landlord purchased the home and then modified it so now the CO is different because the home is a rental so the process must start over. She stated the first time she came to the municipal building the Business Administrator would not let her in his office and held the door open with his foot for twenty minutes while they talked but the next day she ran into the Mayor, who was very pleasant and took her into his office and made it very clear that he was working on it and appreciated her patience. However, no one got back to her or responded to her emails and she felt that was because township officials know an error has been made and they do not want to correct it. She noted she is embarrassed for the Township of Monroe that the whole Construction Office operates like this. She added Dan Kozak could not find the permit so he contacted the homeowner and asked her to email it to him, which was unprofessional. The second day she met with the Business Administrator she specifically told him she did not want anyone at her home because she was watching her sister's dog, which could get out of the fenced yard if the gate was opened. They called her at 3:50 PM to say they would be at the house at 4:15 PM, but when she got there she was told Lou Polillo had already been at the house that afternoon even though she had asked them not to enter the property. Then they called the landlord and said she was present for the inspection and there was a clear CO. She felt the Business Administrator told the inspector to go on her property when she had specifically told them not to because of the dog. She wanted to know from the Mayor and Kevin what was going to be done about this and questioned whether they wanted her to sue the township and why the township was not trying to get the violation money of \$2,000.00 from the property owner? She stated today she told them that if something is not done she will be meeting with Jeff Cole tomorrow so he can do a newspaper story about the

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)


1,300 COs that there are problems with. Mrs. Thurston stated she didn't know how many Council members knew about this but as a resident she had to come to them to voice her concerns because if her daughter or anyone else falls down the steps the township and the homeowner will be liable. She went on to say that she went through her phone and found the file the township could not find so she knows exactly when every person was there and until railings are produced the CO is not valid and technically she is not allowed to be in home. **Acting Solicitor Lomanno** asked the Mayor and Council not to respond at this time due to potential litigation because Mrs. Thurston told the Mayor and Mr. Heydel that she was going to retain counsel on this matter. Mrs. Thurston replied she did not say that and requested that he prove she said it. Solicitor Lomanno advised this matter will be investigated internally and no response will be made publically due to the threat of litigation. Mrs. Thurston commented township employees did trespass and as a resident she has the right to know who told them to go there. She felt that it was the Mayor or Kevin. Solicitor Lomanno thanked Mrs. Thurston for her time. Mrs. Thurston expressed her frustration and noted she or Jeff Cole will be back.


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

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss **Cncl. Miller** made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of December 11, 2017. 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 December 11, 2017 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 1/22/18
Date _____