

**MINUTES
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 3, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission was called to order by Chairperson Cody Miller at 7:03pm in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Cody Miller led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Patricia Adams, Kelly Fleming, Cody Miller, Colleen Reitz, Jeanette Remsen, Jared Valdez, Rebecca VanDexter, Cncl. Walter Bryson

Excused: Mary Brown, Ptl. Ryan Borkowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pat Adams made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of September 10, 2012. The motion was seconded by Becky VanDexter and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance; abstain by Kelly Fleming, who was not in attendance of the September meeting. Minutes as submitted of the Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of October 1, 2012 were not voted on, because official business was not conducted due to a lack of quorum. The meeting scheduled for November 1, 2012 was cancelled.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Cody Miller spoke in reference to the prize selection of Red Ribbon Week. He and Jeanette Remsen had been in contact with Mary Beth Monroe and Mary Brown about this matter. They were discussing what prizes to award the students who had participated in Red Ribbon Week. Cody said that Mary Brown mentioned she wanted to award a mat to the students to place in their bedrooms that read "Say No To Drugs". Jeanette spoke with Mary Beth and she did not seem accepting of this type of prize to give to students. Cody and Jeanette were discussing maybe purchasing digital cameras, which Mary Brown suggested, to give as prizes, one to each of two students at each school participating; t-shirts will also be given. Jared Valdez asked what kind of mat it was. Jeanette replied that the invoice read that they were 3'x5' floor mats, costing \$75.00 each. Jared asked what kind of cameras, mentioned that kids/teenagers now use cell phone cameras now, not digital cameras. Cody noted that the Commission has a substantial amount of money to spend and only a certain period of time to take care of this matter, so they're trying to expedite this process as soon as possible. Jeanette said that if the decision was made to purchase the mats, there will still be \$200.00 left in the account that they have to figure out how to spend. She and Cody had priced the cameras and found that if they purchased these as the prizes, all the monies except 50 cents would be used in the account for Red Ribbon Week. Pat Adams asked why the students were getting prizes, what it was for. Jeanette explained that during Red Ribbon Week, when the students wore a red clothing item, their names were submitted into the contest prize drawing; 2 names will be randomly chosen, totaling 14 students from Monroe Township schools. Jeanette and Cody explained that

in the past years, the Alliance has purchased banners and such for the schools for Red Ribbon Week and that this is the first time they are trying contest prizes for the students. Jeanette said that maybe next year, they can purchase these mats for the schools, instead of prizes for the students. Cody asked the members in attendance if anyone would be opposed to purchasing the digital cameras, or would they rather give the mats as the prize. Jared asked Kelly Fleming's daughter, who was in attendance and is a high school student, what she would rather have as a prize. Colleen Reitz asked her if she had received a digital camera, would she use it; she replied that she uses her cell phone camera. Jeanette said that not all kids have a cell phone, so Colleen suggested that maybe for the elementary school students the prizes could be the cameras. Kelly mentioned purchasing iPod Shuffles or Nanos instead of the cameras. The members looked into pricing. After further discussion on pricing and budget, Cody proposed that the Alliance purchase 10 digital cameras for the elementary school students and 4 iPods for the middle and high school students; Pat Adams made a motion and seconded by Kelly Fleming, all in favor. Jeanette asked what they can do if they are not able to purchase the 10 cameras and 4 iPods, what they can get in place of. A motion was put on the floor that if the previous motion could not be made when at Best Buy, if DVD players could be purchased instead of the iPods and if that can't be done, if Chairperson Cody Miller could make the executive decision; Colleen Reitz made a motion and seconded by Pat Adams, all in favor.

Cody mentioned that the Municipal Alliance training is on December 4th, which he had emailed all the members the information on. He and Jeanette will be attending and will report back to the Commission. Cody asked if any other members will be in attendance; Colleen may be able to attend also.

Cody spoke in reference to the subject of reducing the amount of members on the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission. This matter has been a topic of discussion in the past due to not being able to have a quorum to hold official meetings, noting October's meeting did not have a quorum. Cody mentioned that other members had similar feelings about reducing the amount of members on the Commission to help the percentage of members for a quorum when members are present. There are currently 15 members allowed to be on the Commission, with 10 members currently appointed and 5 vacancies. The Secretary noted that the Clerk's Office had several Citizen Leadership Forms on file from residents wanting to be a member of the Commission. Chairperson Cody Miller suggested reducing the membership by 2 members and asked for a motion to be put on the floor; Kelly Fleming made a motion and seconded by Colleen Reitz, all in favor. Cody will provide the Mayor and Council with a letter requesting this reduction and to have a Resolution made for approval.

Due to the township's Reorganization meeting scheduled for January 8, 2013, the January meeting for the Municipal Alliance Commission will need to be rescheduled. The meeting will be scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00pm.

Cody said that he's been discussing the school assemblies with Mary Beth Monroe. He has also been working with Southwest Council, who provides school assemblies. Cody asked the members that they search and try to find ideas for assemblies for 2013. For the Anti-Gang awareness, \$6,300.00 was available in the budget. Cody asked that the members look through the County's 2012 Municipal Alliance Plan that breaks down the programs the Alliance has budget monies for and to look around/make phone calls and bring back to the Commission their ideas for 2013. Colleen suggested that maybe prisoners on work programs talk to students, like a Scared Straight program; she will find out information on this. Jeanette noted for the record, that she checked with all the schools and all have had their drug/alcohol/anti-bully assembly programs through 3 Screen Productions and she will send Finance the purchase order for them to be paid.

Cody said that monies are available in the Community Gathering budget line item. Previous discussion was made in reference to giving monies to Open Houses for Police, Ambulance, Fire companies. Cody noted that the Williamstown Fire Company had their Open House and that a check is being provided to them for the food provided at the event, for \$175.80. Cody mentioned Project Graduation, this year's graduating class being the largest in Williamstown High School's history and funding for Project Graduation not going up. Cody asked the members in attendance, if it's allowed by Kevin Heydel and Mary Beth Monroe, if the remaining monies left in Community Gathering could be donated to Project Graduation. Cody asked for a motion; Pat Adams made a motion, seconded by Colleen Reitz, all in favor.

Jeanette said she could not give a true Treasurer's Report due to Police not giving her copies of D.A.R.E. purchase orders; she has no idea what they've spent and what they've used from Cash Match. She has asked for copies, but does not receive them. All monies are used for the accounts for Project Graduation, Senior Awareness, National Night Out, Haunted High School, Anti-Bullying. Some monies are left in Community Gathering, A.T.O.D., Red Ribbon Week. Jeanette said that she will ask the high school if they had done a program that they can reimburse the school for it and also if approved by Mary Beth Monroe. Cody asked for a motion for reimbursing the high school; Pat Adams made a motion, seconded by Kelly Fleming, all in favor. Jeanette gave Colleen a phone number to contact a person for the "Steered Straight" program for ideas for 2013. With monies from the township for Promotional Items, pens were ordered that read "Municipal Alliance Commission".

Cncl. Bryson mentioned that he has seen on the streets in town teenagers who are getting into some trouble and may need to be steered in the right direction. Cody said that maybe they can hold an event at the Pfeiffer Community Center as a community gathering, open to the public to attend; Kelly agreed, saying they can ask teens what they would like to see going on in the town, what would keep them out of trouble. Cody stated that if it doesn't go well and it fails, there's always next time to go back to the drawing board; it's always better to have tried something and failed than not even attempt at all. Kelly suggested that at the new basketball courts at Owens Field, that maybe there are some ways to reach out to those kids. Cody and Cncl. Bryson suggested maybe having an event, shooting hoops, having water ice for them, have someone come out to speak; Becky VanDexter suggested maybe having a person who has been through some problems and has turned their life around, to come and speak. The Commission will have to contact the County to see if they can do this event. Cody would like to see a Committee formed within the Commission in 2013 to observe and look for programs and events they can do, it would be a lot more efficient, can do more and have more time; experiment with Community Gathering funds.

Jeanette suggested contacting Jim Bonder of Parks and Recreation, who schedules games at the fields, to see what day would be best for scheduling National Night Out in 2013; N.N.O. does not have to be the 1st Thursday of August.

Cody will review Citizen Leadership Forms and stated that he will make recommendations to the Mayor and Council of who he feels would be the best fitted to be a member of the Municipal Alliance Commission. Aileen reminded the Commission that there is still a vacancy for an Associate Member, which could be a student. A student member could help give suggestions and ideas of what would be best for students. Cody asked Kelly's daughter, Tory, who was in attendance, if she would like to be the Associate Member. Cody asked for a motion; Colleen Reitz made a motion, seconded by Jeanette Remsen, all in favor. Tory Fleming is an Associate Member of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Cody Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Jared Valdez made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of December 3, 2012. The motion was seconded by Colleen Reitz; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission meeting is Monday, January 14, 2013 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting of December 3, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____