

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
NOVEMBER 27, 2012**

**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., 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.: Gloucester County 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., Frank 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. William Sebastian** led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Pastor Mike Schneck** of Williamstown Assembly of God Church offered the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| Cncl. Walter Bryson                    | Present |         |
| Cncl. Marvin Dilks                     |         | Excused |
| Cncl. Rich DiLucia                     | Present |         |
| Cncl. Ronald Garbowski                 | Present |         |
| Cncl. William Sebastian                | Present |         |
| Cncl. Daniel Teefy                     | Present |         |
| Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri           | Present |         |
|  |         |         |
| Mayor Michael Gabbianelli              | Present |         |
| Solicitor, Charles Fiore               | Present |         |
| Business Adm., Kevin Heydel            | Present |         |
| Engineer, Dave Cella                   | Present |         |
| Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles               | Present |         |
| Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz | Present |         |
| Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart       | Present |         |
| Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis         | Present |         |
| Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick       | Present |         |

**PRESENTATIONS**

• **Certificates of Recognition**

**Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri** noted during this holiday season he felt it appropriate to recognize some of the residents and special people who have gone above and beyond the norm. He extended appreciation to the volunteer fire departments and ambulance association for doing exceptional jobs, to the Emergency Management people who did an incredible job during Hurricane Sandy and to the Clerk for all the work she did during the Presidential Election. He noted a few Council members have identified some people within their jurisdiction that they would like to recognize for their service to the community.

**Cncl. Walter Bryson**, Council liaison to the Historical Society, presented **Susanne McKee**, President of the Historical Society with a Certificate of Recognition for her exceptional dedication to preserving, recording and presenting the history of Monroe Township. He also recognized **Joe Gionti**, **Nancy Taylor (Secretary)**, **Jackie Flint**, **Geri Smith**, **Diane Babiy**, **Sandy Hoffman**, **Julia Keller**, **Ashley Keller**, **Dorothy Keller**, **Judy Keller**, **Bobbi Ryan**, **Steve DeFelice**, **Jill Periconi**, **Jeanne Long**, **Helen Cesare**, **Bob and Dorothy Ormsby** and **Don Ulrich** the other members of the Historical Society who have worked very hard through the years to preserve the heritage of Monroe Township not only for the current residents, but for future residents as well.

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PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski recognized Gina Cacace of the Monroe Township Library for her dedication, leadership and initiative in coordinating with Monroe Township School District to establish the Teen Library Program, which fosters volunteerism among our youth and future leaders. Cncl. Garbowski commended Gina for all the programs she has fostered at the Library.

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri noted a property located in the southern part of town that abuts the Winslow Wildlife Preserve, which has endless trails extending to the Blue Hole was an eyesore for a long time until it was dedicated as a nature preserve for the Gloucester County 4-H Organization. This property has been an extensive undertaking for the 4-H Organization who over the course of the last year took upon the task of cleaning out the residence there with the intention of turning it into an office or concession stand. Cncl. Pres. Caligiuri noted many volunteers should be recognized for the work they do and tonight, he would like to recognize a few for keeping the dream of the Monroe Township Nature Preserve alive and moving forward. He then presented Certificates of Recognition to Melanie Milne for her dedication and contribution of time, effort and genuine love of nature, to Jerome Milne, Jr. for his dedication and contribution of time and construction skills, to Michael Hogan for his dedication and contribution of time and effort, Bucky and Sue Howell for their dedication and contribution of immeasurable time and labor and Maryann Metz for her dedication, leadership, and initiative in coordinating recreational and fund raising events. He also presented a Certificate of Recognition to Edward Foder for his dedication in initiating prompt and efficient emergency preparedness measures for the Friendly Village Community in the face of Hurricane Sandy. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted during this season of the year it is an honor for him to recognize these very special people that have done so much for our community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of November 13, 2012. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson and approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of Cncl. William Sebastian who Abstained.

**B.)** CORRESPONDENCE

- Junkyard Licenses  
AA Auto Salvage, Inc.  
Auto Express  
Blue Bell Auto Parts, Inc.  
Midway Auto Parts  
Patriot Automotive, Inc.  
Schultz Enterprises, Inc.  
South State Auto Parts, LLC  
Tuckahoe Road Auto Sales, LLC

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve the above noted Junkyard Licenses. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Ronald Garbowski and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. Cncl. Daniel Teefy commended Director of Code Enforcement, George Reitz for the way in which he handles the Junkyard License application process, as that process has improved over the last five/six years.

- Williamstown Fire Company # 1 Raffle

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to waive the township fees for the Williamstown Fire Company Raffle due to it being a township related raffle. The motion was seconded by Cncl. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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

**Cncl. Rich DiLucia** made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the Resolutions Schedule-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:191-2012 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records**

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Resolution R:191-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:192-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And Monroe Township Supervisors Association**

**Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to approve Resolution R:192-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:193-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And Monroe Township Administrative Employees Association**

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Resolution R:193-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:194-2012 Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40a:4-87 Division Of Criminal Justice - Body Armor Grant**

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:194-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:195-2012 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of November 27, 2012**

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** made a motion to approve Resolution R:195-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:196-2012 Resolution Declaring Patriot Communities, LLC In Default For "Federal Hill" Block 13101, Lots 8-11 And 25-26, Subdivision #1745 "Off-Site Improvements"**

**Cncl. Rich DiLucia** made a motion to approve Resolution R:196-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:197-2012 Resolution Declaring Patriot Communities, LLC In Default For "Federal Hill" Block 13101, Lots 8-11 And 25-26, Subdivision #1745 "On-Site Improvements"**

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:197-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**R:198-2012 Resolution Declaring Patriot Communities, LLC In Default For "Federal Hill" Block 13101, Lots 8-11 And 25-26, Subdivision #1745 "Roadway Improvements"**

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Resolution R:198-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED (cont'd)

**R:199-2012** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Funds For The Budget Year 2012

Cncl. **William Sebastian** made a motion to approve Resolution R:199-2012. The motion was seconded by Cncl. **Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., **Frank Caligiuri** turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. William Sebastian**.

**O:30-2012** An Ordinance To Amend Section 175-155 Of The Land Management Code Of the Township Of Monroe Entitled "Zoning Map"

**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. **Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:30-2012 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Pres., **Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**O:31-2012** An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 175 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Entitled "Land Management"

**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. **Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:31-2012 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. **Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. **Walter Bryson** extended appreciation to residents who supported Council during the November 6<sup>th</sup> General Election. He noted this Country is in a dire financial situation and Federal Legislators and the Executive Branch of the government need to put politics aside and work for the common good of the people because what we are seeing from Washington is worker unfriendly. Too many people are out of work and there are few opportunities for them. The Federal and State levels must work as hard as possible to get those people back to work or train them for other jobs. Cncl. Bryson reported the Historical Society is trying to restore the train station and complete other projects in the Little School and Ireland House and will be holding fund raisers, requesting volunteers and collecting contributions in the upcoming year to assist in these projects. He urged residents to support the Historical Society and the treasures of Monroe Township.

Cncl. **Rich DiLucia** reported Council will be requesting a meeting with the Gloucester County Freeholders to discuss the aspects of the proposed 2013 Tax Compliance Plan. He spoke of the havoc Hurricane Sandy caused the east coast and of the one good thing that came out of the storm being a republican governor and a democratic president, who was up for election, standing together to address the problems as equals. Many people from both sides of the aisle said there were motivations for that but Cncl. DiLucia noted he would like to believe they did it in the spirit of doing what is right for this Country. He added he would like to see that spirit carried to Washington legislators, as the tax issue before them, if not resolved, will have a devastating and long lasting effect on this Country. Other debates being held around the tax issue is what cuts will be made to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid at the end of this process. Some legislators that previously signed pledges to never raise taxes no longer feel bound to that pledge and that is a good beginning. Cncl. DiLucia noted his wish is for legislators to make a by-partisan effort during this process to do what's best for the people of this Country in order to address unemployment, underemployment, the situation with taxes and how we can bolster up our economy.

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

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski reported attending the Williamstown Fire Company annual banquet on November 9<sup>th</sup> and the Williamstown Ambulance Association annual banquet on November 16<sup>th</sup>. He extended best wishes to the new officers of each organization and his appreciation to all the volunteers of these organizations for their service to the community throughout the year. Cncl. Garbowski reported on November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Library Board of Trustees held a retirement reception for Library Director Beth Lillie, who is retiring in December 2012. He extended his appreciation to the Board for providing her with a nice affair. He reported the Library Board met on November 14<sup>th</sup> and along with the Mayor confirmed the new Library Director Manuel Paredes, (former Cherry Hill Library director). Cncl. Garbowski extended his appreciation to the Mayor and the Board of Trustees for appointing the new director and urged residents to view upcoming events on the Library's website. Cncl. Garbowski reported the Economic Development Commission met on November 19<sup>th</sup> and in conjunction, with the Library sponsored a meeting with various business owners to discuss creating a Businessmen Association. Last night the new Monroe Township Businessmen's Association met for the first time and he extended his appreciation to the members of the Economic Development Commission and the Library for making that possible.

Cncl. William Sebastian noted he was in a quandary when Cncl. Pres. Caligiuri asked him to come up with names to acknowledge because he could easily come up with 300 names, as there are 72 on the Williamstown Fire Company roster, 37 on the Monroe Township Ambulance Association roster, there's the Police Department, Public Works and a number of others doing their jobs everyday supporting this municipality and they all deserve a pat on the back. During Hurricane Sandy individuals such as our Public Safety Director, Jim Smart, the OEM Office and the Police Department did an outstanding job. The fire departments and EMS were on standby and the Public Works Department took care of fallen branches and blocked highways. This is their jobs but they do it with a vengeance and when called upon these individuals respond when and wherever there are problems. Cncl. Sebastian also reported attending the Williamstown Fire Company and Monroe Township Ambulance Squad banquets. He spoke of the many calls the volunteers handle; noting the Williamstown Fire Department responded to 650 calls, the volunteer Ambulance Squad responded to over 2,000 calls between October 30, 2011 and October 30, 2012 and the day crew handled over 1,000 calls. This amounts to an average of ten calls a day and the volunteer fire and ambulance squads do it for zero; they are not paid and do not receive any perks, they do it because they love it. Cncl. Sebastian noted he has been a member of the ambulance squad for 32 years and is still an active member of the Rescue Squad because he enjoys it. He urged residents to show their appreciation to these organizations by sending a check when donations are requested. He spoke of how the Monroe Township Ambulance Association is part of the ambulance task force and how they sent an ambulance up north to assist during Hurricane Sandy and to New York during 911. Cncl. Sebastian noted we have the best fire, ambulance, police and public works organizations in the county.

Cncl. Daniel Teefy noted at the last Council Meeting he didn't know Hurricane Sandy would be hitting us within a week when he reported the Monroe Township CERT Program (Community Emergency Response Team), would be starting up in January 2013. He explained the CERT Program prepares people to deal with emergency situations at home and in their neighborhoods and residents interested in finding out more about this program are invited to attend an Open House at the Library on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Cncl. Teefy reported the Parks and Rec Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Santa Claus will be there, the Sweet Adeline's will be singing Christmas Carols and Mrs. Claus will be reading stories to the children. Cncl. Teefy urged residents to donate to the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy. He also extended best wishes for a happy holiday.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli reported administering the oath of office to newly elected Williamstown Fire Department and Monroe Township Ambulance Association officers during their banquets. He also reported the Main Street Sidewalk Project is underway and should be completed within the next couple of weeks. He extended appreciation to the Williamstown Civic Association, Jefferson Village Apartments, Oak Knoll Elementary School, the Boy Scouts and many residents for collecting non-perishable food items to replenish the food pantry for Thanksgiving. Many people rely on those donations during these difficult times and non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Community Center Monday through Friday 8:00 AM

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

to 4:00 PM. The Mayor spoke of the devastation Hurricane Sandy created in northern New Jersey, how people were in line for miles trying to buy gas when they found a station open, how the stores had no food, how the power was off for days and how fortunate Williamstown was to be spared from that type of devastation. The Mayor went on to extend his appreciation to everyone for all they did during the storm; noting as Cncl. Sebastian said, we do have the best.

**Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart** reported even though we got the best of the storm, we were prepared for the worst. The fire departments and ambulance hall were all staffed just in case the volunteers could not get out of their own homes. He also noted during the holiday season children are out of school and will be playing outside so residents should drive with caution.

**Mayor Gabbianelli** also reported that the Road Department is a little behind in leaf pickup but has been working weekends and during the holiday to get back on schedule. The Mayor noted he wanted to assure everyone that all leaves will be picked up.

**Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. No new subdivisions were considered by the Board at that time. He also reported attending the Williamstown Fire Department Banquet on November 9<sup>th</sup> and the Monroe Township Ambulance Association Banquet on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. He recognized the volunteer firemen, volunteer ambulance squad and paid crew for doing an excellent job noting their average response time is less than five minutes from the time of the call to the door. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri reported attending the Environmental Commission Meeting on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, where general discussion took place concerning environmental issues. He extended wishes to the residents for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa and extended his appreciation to everyone who supported him for re-election. He noted he is hoping to earn his stripes over the next four years from those who did not support his re-election and that residents with problems/complaints can call him at home anytime, as it is an honor to serve as a Monroe Township Councilman.

**F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**G.) ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss **Cncl. Walter Bryson** made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of November 27, 2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan McCormick, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

  
Presiding Officer

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of November 27, 2012 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 12/11/12  
Date \_\_\_\_\_