

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
NOVEMBER 25, 2013**

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., Daniel Teefy** in the Court Room of the Municipal Complex located at 125 Virginia Avenue, Williamstown, New Jersey.

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 thru 10:4-21). Notices were placed in the official publications for Monroe Township (i.e.: South Jersey Times, the Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy 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 **Doug Spencer** of Williamstown United Methodist Church offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

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

RECOGNITION - Girl Scout Troop 63553

Cncl. Pres. Teefy acknowledged the presence of Girl Scout Troop 63553 and noted the girls are in attendance this evening to learn about how local government works and will earn a merit badge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of October 28, 2013 and the Special Council Meeting of November 7, 2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Garbowski** who **Abstained** on the minutes from the Special Council Meeting of November 7, 2013.

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B.) CORRESPONDENCE

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

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve the Junkyard Licenses for the above listed facilities. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cheryl Ognissanti approached Council regarding Resolution R:206-2013 (Activation of Trio Tavern Liquor License). She noted she is here to get answers to her questions that have not yet been answered regarding Trio Tavern's building practices and code/ordinance violations. Council is about to adopt a resolution to activate their license and as a resident she wanted to know how that can occur when for the last eight months Council has had much to review regarding their business practices and how they continue to build illegally without following ordinances and codes. She noted according to the ABC Handbook there would have been several ABC violations if the complaints were properly reported, as ABC has jurisdiction over finalizing their licensing. She noted she has yet to get the answer on how this business got a Place to Place Transfer on an illegal building with no CO. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** explained when a Place to Place Transfer is done it is not for a building it is for an area to be used and then that structure can be built and approved. The Township Clerk explained ABC approved the footprint of the area. Ms. Ognissanti questioned whether it was okay for that outside bar to be occupied by the public when the August 2007 Pineland's letter stated it should be removed or proper applications filed with the Pinelands. She noted she has yet to get an answer to how a building can be relicensed each year after that, sell liquor, have a cash register, fully stocked bar and expand occupancy when the seating was inherited at 62 seats. **Solicitor Fiore** noted to correct the record; Ms. Ognissanti has attended at least half a dozen Regular Council Meetings and had a special committee meeting with members of Council to address all of her concerns. He noted quite frankly, she does not like the responses that have been given to her, which is okay because she is allowed to disagree, as that is what this process is all about. However, the scope of Council's review tonight under R:206-2013 is simply whether or not their current license is appropriate for activation this evening. He noted he was crystal clear at the last meeting that the scope of review is about activation of the license; all of the other things, whether correct or incorrect, or whether you are satisfied with the answers are not part of this review. Council is only acting upon the reactivation of the license and that is it. Ms. Ognissanti noted just for the record, your choice of words of me being satisfied is a poor choice of words. She noted let me correct you, my repetition of attending meetings is that you have not addressed my issues and I have gotten no answers so if you call that disliking answers or problem solving, that is not problem solving. Mr. Fiore noted he would repeat it one last time that the scope of review this evening, unless the Council President directs him otherwise, is whether or not the applicant has provided a completed application to the Township Clerk for the sole purpose of reactivation of the license. All other matters that you are talking about are not relevant for R:206-2013. Ms. Ognissanti noted it is relevant when a bar continues to operate for six years without violations or fines imposed from the complaints of the residents. She spoke of attending Council meetings and meeting with the Mayor regarding her complaints about Trio and the Mayor told her she was only one person and was all alone. Mayor Gabbianelli noted he did not say she was all alone; he said that she was the only one we were really getting complaints from. He noted he had his secretary at their meeting because he did

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not want her to twist what he said. At this point the Mayor noted he was leaving, he does not have to sit through this like Council does. Ms. Ognissanti went on to say she does not twist things and that she is looking for creditable leadership and what was told to her was disturbing because of what she has been through with this situation. She noted she still has not gotten signed and dated fire inspections and when she pulled public records she received unsigned or undated occupancy reports permitting 200 people, when 62 people was supposed to be inherited. She noted she has the new Pineland COF that says there is to be no more outside building and there is only to be 62 seats because of water quality issues. She requested to know who she can call in the future when laws are broken, what is going to be done about it and who is going to uphold the law. Cncl. Pres., Teefy advised she can start by calling and filing complaints with the Police Department if there are ongoing activities and can follow up with him, the Council President until the end of this year. Ms. Ognissanti noted there have been no reports to ABC of what has been discussed over the last eight months. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted phone calls have been made to ABC and they have never brought up any problems from the past; they have just stated what needs to be complied with and what they need to see in moving forward in the future. At this point the paperwork is all in order and they are waiting to hear whether Council will be approving or disapproving this resolution. Ms. Ognissanti requested clarification that ABC was not concerned with selling of liquor on the outside structure that had no CO or Pineland approvals as she found that disturbing. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted Ms. Ognissanti would have to contact ABC on that matter, as ABC is not considering past issues at this time. Ms. Ognissanti went on to speak of ABC holding high standards and how they just imposed numerous fines to bars watering down drinks and how she found it disturbing that they would allow a bar to operate for six years without a CO. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted she would have to contact ABC, as Council does not govern them. Ms. Ognissanti noted essentially Council is the governing body for ABC, not with their laws and regulations but to regulate what goes on in your town under the jurisdiction of liquor sales Council is the issuing authority. Cncl. Pres., Teefy replied, yes, Council approves this and the other liquor licenses in town. He added Trio has their temporary CO, Pinelands compliance, zoning permits and what was previously a deck will now be fenced in and used as a consumption and smoking area. Ms. Ognissanti questioned if they were activating a Place to Place Transfer. Cncl. Pres. Teefy replied no, they are not activating a Place to Place Transfer; they are activating their current license, which was a Place to Place Transfer in 2006, there is no change in their license. Ms. Ognissanti questioned if they were getting a Place to Place back on a building that should not have been there and if they would need to reapply for a Place to Place Transfer. Cncl. Pres., Teefy replied no; they designated the area, as an area of alcohol consumption and serving, they expanded that area from what was the one building to the deck area. That was approved by the ABC and tonight Council will be approving the reactivation of that license. The Township Clerk explained the original 2004 transfer was a Person to Person Transfer. After Trio received that license in 2006 they came forward for a Place to Place Transfer to extend that license to the outdoor area/adjacent ground and that was approved. The license then included the physical building and the extension/adjacent ground. That is how their license is written, that is how it has been reissued on an annual basis; the structure and the outdoor area and that is what they are applying for tonight to reactive the license as it stands. The application and sketch submitted includes the building and the adjacent ground area and that is what is getting reactivated. Ms. Ognissanti noted there is no building anymore. Solicitor Fiore explained it is a designated area; a designated smoking area and that is the extent of what Council will be voting upon this evening. Not any structure that may be built in the future. If a structure is built in the future they will need to go before the Planning or Zoning Board, whichever board would be appropriate. Ms. Ognissanti noted with all that has been discussed about them rebuilding illegally for several months there will be no fines or violations. Mr. Fiore replied no there is not; the scope of Council's review is whether or not their application is complete and it is consistent with their prior license. All the things that Ms. Ognissanti alleges happened in 2007 and 2005 or prior to this are not relevant to Council's deliberation and actions this evening. Ms. Ognissanti noted she was not alleging anything; she is going by the public records that she pulled, which do not add up or make sense. Mr. Fiore replied perhaps the Superior Court Judge can review it after whatever action Council takes tonight. He noted he has said it at least five or six times already but the scope of review this evening for the governing body is whether or not the application is complete. He added he said that at prior meetings and if there are issues in the future the Police Department will enforce our local ordinances and laws. The

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applicants are aware that there is going to be very close scrutiny, just as there is with all liquor licenses issued. He again reiterated the scope of review is whether or not the application conforms with ABC's regulations. The Clerk and I have reviewed the application, Construction and Zoning have reviewed their portions of it and if Council moves forward and approves it tonight it is a ministerial function that they are performing. We are not talking about what happened in 2007 or 2011, we are making sure everything is in order now. Ms. Ognissanti noted the law doesn't apply to people who broke the law in the past and there are no fines, no violations and no penalties for people that did not follow ordinances or building codes not once, but twice. This township allowed it to happen and it could not have happened without every entity. She noted if I am wrong prove me wrong. Mr. Fiore noted he is not here to prove her wrong; he is here to give the governing body legal advice and the scope of their review is what is in the application and that is what is relevant this evening. Ms. Ognissanti questioned whether the governing body picks and chooses criteria to meet standards and disregards laws that were broken in the past and turns a blind eye to penalties and violations for certain businesses. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted Council does not pick and choose; we rely on professionals to do their job and those that work for the township do it right and have provided Council with paperwork telling us that this is in compliance. Council has said from the beginning that whatever happened in the past is the past and from now on we will make sure everything is in line going forward so when they open their doors they are in compliance with our ordinances and laws. We have talked to the Chief of Police to make sure that if the noise ordinance is violated or if people drink outside of the designated areas they will be subject to penalties of the law going forward; we cannot go back and we do not pick and choose. Ms. Ognissanti noted she is still concerned that fire inspections were done yearly on a building without a CO or occupancy violations. Cncl. Teefy noted Council never received any documentation regarding that. Ms. Ognissanti spoke of fire inspection documents that did not have Skip Tomarchio's signature and he stated he will not speak to her unless Mr. Fiore, the township attorney, is present because he knows all about people like her. She noted she does have inspection documents from the Police Department that were signed and dated and she again questioned how the Council could reissue licenses year after year knowing there was no CO. She went on to explain a CA is given on minor building repairs and when all improvements are done for plumbing, electric and building there is a final inspection and a CO is issued. A building without a CO is very concerning and she has yet to get an answer on how that process occurred in the township while other bar owners have to follow laws, regulations and codes or else they are fined and penalized. She wanted to know why Trio Tavern had preferential treatment and noted that she had a councilman say he believed there was a vested interest. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted he does not have the paperwork that she showed to the camera and he never saw it before. He noted if there were some violations people should have communicated that and given Council better information when the approvals were granted. Going forward Council is trying to the best of their ability to have the laws enforced there now that it has been brought to our attention that they previously were not. He requested that in the future if Ms. Ognissanti has any complaints she come back to a council meeting or contact the police who will investigate the situation. Cncl. **Walter Bryson** noted initially Ms. Ognissanti made complaints by calling him and the police department about the noise and to his knowledge everyone of those complaints were answered by the police department. He noted her confirmation back to him was that Trio Tavern responded to the police the way the police wanted them to respond. If there was too much noise from a speaker, they moved that speaker so the complaints were handled by the authority that had jurisdiction. Cncl. Bryson noted the accusations towards Council are unfounded, unfair and as the Solicitor has said numerous times, Council's obligation is to pass or not pass the liquor license. The information given to Council is based upon what the State says is legal or illegal; we do not know everything that happens in this township or everything that goes through each department and if there is someone in another local government that says they do they are not telling you the truth due to the thousands of things that go on in a municipality. This could have been brought to us much sooner but you did it after their property burnt down and they had to go through the process to rebuild. He noted from his viewpoint, Council has done everything that we possibility can and we have listened to you for six to eight months since Trio has been closed. He questioned whether it was true that Ms. Ognissanti has gone to ABC regarding this and if so did they tell her that they would not grant Trio a license. Ms. Ognissanti noted she did not allege anything; these are facts and that she did go to ABC. She drove 70 miles to get there and first dealt with a

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man named Simonini who referred her to Investigator Don Golden. She gave him her ID but he kept her by the elevator doors and would not permit her behind the glass doors or to sit down to speak to anyone because he said the feds were there. He reviewed her documents at the elevator, saw one of the videos of public drinking on the shoulder of the highway and told her everything was fine, it was all legal and that the massive number of people under a roof with no CO was fine and he sent her home saying, have a nice day. Cncl. Bryson noted so according to the Alcohol Bureau no laws were broken. Ms. Ognissanti noted according to what that investigator told her, but when she called licensing after that, they said public drinking is not allowed so there are conflicting issues going on here and people were turning a blind eye to blatant laws being broken. Cncl. Bryson replied then you did not have enough evidence to substantiate a violation. You are always saying a blind eye and ABC or Council does not have a blind eye; we are doing our jobs for Monroe Township. However, when we specifically look at your situation every week for eight months, I have to question what your ax to grind is. You keep coming back with the same information and the local and state organizations have given you explanations and told you no laws have been broken yet you just keep coming back accusing this council and township of doing wrong. We are not doing anything wrong. You are questioning my integrity and the integrity of my fellow councilmen because we and our legal counsel have told you week after week after week what our function is. Cncl. Bryson noted your original complaint to me was of noise and that was handled, if you had a complaint relative to construction or zoning that could have been brought to anyone of us on Council and we would have looked into it. He noted he has sat here quietly for eight months as accusations were made time and time again on TV but Council never sees her at untelevised meetings. He noted the people of the township need to hear everything but they need to hear both sides of the story and nothing has been done wrong by this Council or township employees. Ms. Ognissanti noted if nothing wrong was going on, she would not have had to call again because that building was being rebuilt illegally for five months without Pineland approval or COF. She noted they were rushing to get that building up until she called Zoning and videotaped every phase of it going up. The Pinelands confirmed they had not approved it and no permits should have been issued but still no fines were imposed and you are telling me that I am making allegations; no I have video proof of what I am saying and can back it up so prove me wrong; I will accept that challenge any day. Cncl. Sebastian called for a "Point of Order" noting through the chair to the solicitor, would the solicitor explain to the Council what our options are in regards to receiving a completed application for a reactivation of a Plenary Retail Consumption License. Solicitor Fiore noted as he stated earlier the limited scope of review is whether or not the application is deemed complete. The application was deemed complete by the Clerk and that is why it was presented to you this evening. Council has no other alternative but to approve the reactivation of the liquor license. He explained when he refers to it as a ministerial function it is like voting for the bill list. Even though Council votes on the bill list, if a bill has been properly encumbered and there is money available to pay it, you must vote to pay that bill. This application has in fact been deemed complete, everything is in order moving forward and you are not to consider any prior issues that have been brought forward by the resident, whether they are allegations, whether they are true or not. Council must act upon the license as being deemed complete and cannot consider anything else that has been brought up tonight or at any other meetings. Cncl. Sebastian noted in as much as this public portion is dealing directly with resolutions I would prefer that the President move forward with the resolutions based on the statement of the Solicitor rather than have another marathon meeting with no results. Ms. Ognissanti noted she just wanted to say that if the proper violations and ordinances were upheld they would not have a liquor license. She went on to read the following codes and ordinances from the ABC Handbook: N.J.A.C. 13:2-23.5 (A3), deals with licenses being revoked because of the business being a nuisance, police intervention, public safety or rights being violated. N.J.A.C. 13:2-9.3 deals with violations of any ordinances, resolutions or regulations of the issuing authority or governing body and provides for a 10, 20 and 30 day suspension and failure to maintain continuing possession and exclusive control of a licensed premise is an indefinite suspension and final revocation. N.J.S.A. 33:1-25 states an undisclosed person not otherwise disqualified with a beneficial interest in a liquor or licensed business provides for a suspension of 30 and 60 days with a final revocation at 90 days. N.J.S.A. 33:1-12 states conducting other mercantile business on a licensed premise is a 5, 10, and 20 day suspension. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted Council has no paperwork or anything else that says they were in violation of any of the State Statutes that Ms. Ognissanti brought up and that is why

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Council was moving forward with the paperwork they have this evening. Ms. Ognissanti noted she wanted it to be clear, that nothing was going to be done in regards to how they conducted their business in the past, as she felt someone needs to answer why people's public health, safety and the quiet, peace and enjoyment of their residences were jeopardized. No one has answered and no violations or penalties were given. In closing she noted preferential treatment was given; she does not know how that could occur, but she will continue to get to the bottom of it.

Mike Marsh, owner of the Trio Tavern noted everything she stated tonight was a total lie, as they have never failed any inspections, never failed to get an inspection and never been cited or broken any laws. She took us to court on noise and the judge threw it out. We have done everything we possibly can to keep her off our backs and away from us. She refuses to call us, she refuses to do anything except come up here and complain to Council. He noted the inspection bureaus were thorough, did a fine job and held us to what was required to pass us. Everything we did was legal and legit. Mr. Marsh extended his appreciation to Council for putting up with this.

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to close the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks**

R:199-2013 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:199-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:200-2013 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Second Change Order For VCI In The Increased Amount of \$597.00 For The Remount #1 With New Chassis For The Township Of Monroe, Department of Public Safety, Gloucester County

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:200-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:201-2013 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Third Change Order For VCI In The Increased Amount of \$199.00 For The Remount #2 With New Chassis For The Township Of Monroe, Department of Public Safety, Gloucester County

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:201-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:202-2013 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Fourth Change Order For VCI In The Increased Amount of \$1,270.00 For The Remount #1 With New Chassis For The Township Of Monroe, Department of Public Safety, Gloucester County

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:202-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:203-2013 Resolution Authorizing The Chief Financial Officer To Open A Bank Account For Recreation Trust Background Investigations

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:203-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Pres., Teefy explained the township ordinance requires youth coaches to get background checks and initially when the ordinance was adopted the Megan's Law Grant paid for background checks for approximately 700 coaches. Money has been collected by the youth sporting organizations and this resolution gives them a vehicle to pay for the background investigations going on through this year and into next year.

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R:204-2013 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Developer's Agreement With Peach Country Tractor, Inc. For Site Plan #459-SP, Block 14301, Lot 10

Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:204-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:205-2013 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Establishing Active Bus Stops Within The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:205-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:206-2013 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Activation Of Plenary Retail Consumption License For Trio Tavern, LLC Within The Township Of Monroe, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:206-2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:206-2013
6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Caligiuri)**

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Resolution R:206-2013 was duly approved for adoption.

D.) ORDINANCES

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

O:19-2013 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"

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:19-2013 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted Ordinance O:19-2013 deals with electronic signs and designates the Black Horse Pike and Glassboro Road (Route 322) as sign corridors because Council did not want those signs just popping up anywhere in town. At the current time we have no digital billboards but probably will in the future and they will be restricted to these areas. This ordinance requires future digital sign owners to register with the Office of Emergency Management so their signs can be utilized to get information out to the public in the event of an emergency situation, such as an amber alert. Anyone who already has one of those signs will not be mandated to register, but hopefully, they will volunteer so their signs can also be utilized to get emergency information out to the public as well.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported the Parks and Recreation Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 7th at 6:00 PM. This will be followed by festivities at the Pfeiffer Center that will include a winter wonderland with Santa and Mrs. Santa. At the same time the Historical Society will open the Ireland House for residents to visit the beautiful

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Christmas decorations and an N Scale train display provided by John Tomczak of the Strasburg Railroad Club. On December 14th the Historical Society will also host a G Scale Garden Model train display on the lawn area of the Hall Street School. That exhibit will be set up by Brian Steager, owner of the Green Planet Nursery in Mullica Hill and Christmas plants will be on sale with some of the proceeds going towards the Historical Society. In the event of rain the trains will be displayed in the old Reading Room next to the Grand Theatre. Restoration is well underway on the old Radix Train Station. Carpenters have repaired the roof and siding outside and the debris from inside was removed. When the building was being cleaned out a Pennsylvania Railroad paper label dating back to around the late 1800's was found attached to a box. The Historical Society looks forward to having the station completed soon and having it become another historical asset for our community to enjoy. On behalf of the Redevelopment Committee Cncl. Bryson welcomed the new Rush Fitness Center, which is located behind CVS Pharmacy and noted the grand opening will be held on Saturday, November 30th. Cncl. Bryson noted State elections are over and he hoped to see the governor and State legislators take the issue of high real estate taxes seriously this time instead of pointing the fingers of blame on local governments. He noted local government spending is not the problem; the problem is how the State spends the revenue it takes in. Instead of issuing a 10% reduction in income tax, our governor and legislators should address a better way to finance and consolidate public school systems rather than funding them on the backs of local homeowners and businesses. He urged they seriously look at county school districts with one administration and one set of services, as that might be a real cost savings. Cncl. Bryson referred to the federal government and noted leaders need to read and understand legislation they vote into law, have the interest and good of all paramount in any law they pass and they need to work together with the executive branch to honor the pledge they made to the people when they were sworn into office. He noted the National Healthcare Law is a great example. It is now a drag on all of us creating worry for too many. Except for the pre-existing condition and older children mandates it does nothing to reduce medical insurance cost or to insure more of the uninsured. So far this law has cost five million individual policy holders their coverage and they are unable to get replacement coverage. The most costly will be the employer mandates that will kick in next year, as that will cause more cancellations and higher costs due in part to its 40% excise tax on policies costing more than the mandate. The new employer's minimum coverage could cause the loss of a hundred million worker's health insurance, which is now provided as a benefit. He questioned whether wages will increase to make up for the loss of that benefit and cautioned that people may not be able to have the same doctors, use the same hospitals and get the same treatment. He suggested this healthcare law be scrapped and that legislators unilaterally sit down and work out a solution to benefit all US citizens, as many proposals already exist from various parties. The next issue is immigration reform, which is also legislation of 2400 pages. HR Departments from one hundred of America's largest corporations signed off on that in a letter. Should our legislators listen to these special interests when at the same time they are laying off thousands of US workers and transferring their jobs to facilities outside the US. These same corporations are the same ones who moved entire plants to Mexico and overseas and received the benefits of substandard pay and reduced taxes to the point of paying no income taxes. Why do we want to flood the country with new foreign workers when a record number of US citizens struggle to find jobs. This legislation will allow twenty million more foreign workers, many of which are professionals, to enter our workforce. We need to protect our sovereignty and give all US citizens the chance for gainful employment in manufacturing and construction and create more advanced educational opportunities for our trade and labor population that have been forgotten for too long. What kind of future will our children and grandchildren have if there is an open door and Wall Street is favored more than Main Street. He noted as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of President Kennedy more than ever we should take heart to his famous words "Ask not what your Country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your Country".

Cncl. Dilks extended best wishes for a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Cncl. DiLucia also extended Thanksgiving wishes to everyone and reported attending the Monroe Township Ambulance Association Banquet on Friday evening along with the Mayor and other members of Council. He extended best wishes to the new officers and spoke of the outstanding dedication the volunteers have shown over the years and commended them

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

for providing a great service to this community without pay and on their own time. He referred to the New Jersey State Election for governor and legislators this year and the Presidential election last year and noted one thing that concerns him is the lack of progress. In Washington and Trenton it is more fashionable for people to blame one another for the inequities that exist in our society today and he appealed to them to focus on national and state issues and forget about their personal ambitions to go to the next office. The day after the governor was elected he was more focused on getting to the White House than in governing this State and others are aspiring to be the next governor. He noted he is afraid there will again be too much gridlock in this State. People watching this meeting on television tonight saw gridlock in action because the Council President and Council allowed democracy and someone to stand up here every week saying the same thing. He noted in his opinion, it really boils down to that person not getting the answers they wanted this Council to give. As a result of that they were allowed under a democratic process to make accusations against this Council that in some way, somehow, for whatever, we were supposed to have received something and were favorable towards Trio Tavern. Cncl. DiLucia apologized to the Girl Scouts that were in attendance this evening; noting because as adults we just demonstrated to them, that government does not flow too well. We allowed someone to speak that was out of order under strict rules of parliamentary procedure. They were not speaking on the resolution before us, they were speaking on issues that had no bearing on a yes or no vote on the resolution. He explained he is raising that because in a greater degree it happens in the halls of Washington and Trenton and nothing gets done. He noted he thinks about issues that should be addressed, such as jobs, healthcare, education, the cost of education on the local and college levels and taxes on local and national levels because all these issues intermesh and nothing is done. He noted he wishes some of these legislators walked in the shoes of people unemployed, who don't have healthcare, who are undereducated and over taxed and maybe they would understand how important it is to address these issues. He noted he is not an economist but when a Country has to buy everything and has no ability to export anything because we do not manufacture anything, how will the balance of trade ever work out. We need to start looking at building our infrastructures again, producing things that we can sell not only in this country to provide jobs, but to sell to the other societies in the world. He noted in his opinion, our balance of trade is so messed up that our economy cannot survive. We need jobs in this country, we can no longer run a country that is run on the premise that we don't manufacture anything and companies like Facebook and Twitter that produces no goods or services becomes a multibillion dollar company from people just looking into computers means there is something wrong in the direction this country is going. He noted in looking at higher education, the cost of private schools is in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year range. Kids from Monroe Township are prohibited because they can't compete with wealthy kids due to the annual income of people here being in the \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.00 a year range. State institutions cost \$18,000 to \$20,000 a year and those numbers are pretty close according to what his grandchildren are paying for their education. People cannot afford this and now are moving their children to community colleges for the first two years to try to minimize the cost of getting an education. At the end of the process when they get their degree they can't find a job. He spoke of seeing an advertisement on TV from an on-line college that stated at the bottom in small print that 90% of their graduates get a job in their field within six months of graduation. He felt that is not saying much of our economy. Cncl. DiLucia noted he did not want to get into a debate with Cncl. Bryson over the national healthcare program but there are other things in the plan that have benefited people immediately. Not only that, the fact that insurance companies have policies for people who otherwise could not get them before. One of the biggest issues is that a child who graduated from college and cannot get a job can now come under their parent's plan until they are 26 years old and that is a tremendous thing. What needs to be looked at, are those things that are deficient and together they need to decide how to fix them. He noted he recalls going to his first national convention in 1970 where they talked about national healthcare. It was a dream at that time and ever since it has been talked about because many people in this country have no healthcare. At least now, there is a basis providing a vehicle for people to get healthcare; is it great now, no, it was a hurried bill and pushed through prematurely and that was done because they wanted to get enough votes from the other side of the aisle so they changed and switched things, but at least we have a basis. Cncl. DiLucia referred to Social Security and Medicare and noted should they be scrapped because they are not perfect, absolutely not. There are a lot of things that are not perfect and are built upon by critiquing

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them and five years from now we will be saying this healthcare is a good bill but it needs some improvement. He urged the people in Washington and Trenton to start working together and stop fighting each other. Debate and disagreement is good because out of that comes good ideas but at some point in time there must be some form of compromise, you cannot have just the left and the right, black or white, green or blue, at some point in time you have to blend those things together to find a way to make it work and then as time goes by, improve upon it. The last issue Cncl. DiLucia wanted to discuss was the cost of education in New Jersey, which has taxpayers upset. In Monroe Township approximately 56% of our tax dollars go to the school district. He noted he is very happy with the education the children get here but the people he represents that don't have children question him every day on why they should be paying for education. The problem is we are not getting enough money from the State, which should fund part of education. The State constitution guarantees every child a meaningful education and that does not mean they can wash their hands of it and put money in other areas. They need to put money in the areas of education to offset the municipal tax base. Last year the Mayor said it and he was right. We had a zero tax increase, there were no increases to any services so our budget stayed the same yet we had to raise taxes considerably and the reason for that is there was no ability to get money from anywhere. Cncl. DiLucia noted the State needs to find a way to address the issue of taxes, whether it is through a tax rebate for income tax or whether it is just finding money. The State has a way of never finding money that they do not absolutely have to fund such as the pension. They blamed the teachers and the municipal workers for the funding liability of the pension when everybody knows it was them that underfunded the pension. Now, they are the great fixers of the pension plan, which is still a busted system and still not fixed. The next governor will be blaming the last governor and so on but the workers are the ones that suffer. Cncl. DiLucia noted it is time that we insist that legislators forget about the politics after they're elected and do the job they are elected for and that is to focus in on those issues that adversely affect the people in this State and in this County. If they begin to do that, even if they end up being one termers because what they did was unpopular, at least if they try to do the right thing, they did what they were elected to do and that is to work in the best interest of the people, not to put their party before their obligations to the people that elected them.

Cncl. Garbowski reported attending the Open Space Committee Meeting on November 4th where the committee finalized the open space recommendations for Council. The committee's recommendation is to extend recreational facilities and the bike path and to make changes to the committee's responsibilities and to the Land Management Code. He also reported attending the Ambulance and Rescue Association Banquet on November 15th and extended his appreciation for the invitation, congratulated all the new officers and thanked all the volunteers and their families for their service. He spoke of attending the Library Board Trustee Meeting on November 20th and reported the Library is sponsoring the following programs: Toys for Tots Program, unwrapped toys can be donated by December 7th; Holiday Mail for Heroes to send holiday greetings to US military service members, veterans and their families, deadline Monday, December 2nd; collecting donations for the Williamstown Food Pantry; a holiday concert on December 2nd at 7:00 P.; a tweens Christmas craft to make rubber band bracelets on December 7th; a ceramic class for ages 8 and up on Saturday, December 14th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; and, the Friends of the Library Holiday Arts and Craft Fair on Saturday, December 14th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at which time kids of all ages will be able to have their picture taken with Santa.

Cncl. Sebastian reported attending the Ordinance Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 7th along with the other members of Council. Normally the Ordinance Meeting is held on the first Wednesday of the month and is open to the public but the November meeting was moved to Thursday because of the General Election that week. He reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on November 14th and the Ambulance Banquet on November 15th. He noted as a 33 year member of the Ambulance Association he knows exactly what the volunteers are up against and the amount of time and effort they put in to areas that most people do not want to be involved in. He reported attending the Economic Development Committee Meeting on November 18th. The committee is researching a program called "Buy Monroe". This program provides payments to be made to real estate taxes when people shop in local businesses within the township. The committee has been in contact with Marlboro, a

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municipality in North Jersey that has the program and is very pleased with it. Cncl. Sebastian noted he will report on this as more information becomes available. He referred to Cncl. DiLucia's points regarding how manufacturing has fallen in the United States over the years and noted older people remember the manufacturing output during World War II and for those of us fortunate enough to miss that war, it was learned in history class what manufacturing output can be seen when there is government backing. If the government is behind manufacturing in the United States anything can be done because we have the talent, the number of people and the equipment to do it. The problem we have is the government is the one saying that we are going to allow everyone to purchase and move outside of the country and not affect any tax base or other items in that respect. Cncl. Sebastian felt that if the government really got behind bringing manufacturing and production back into the United States it would put many people back to work. He also referred to Pres. Teefy's comments about the sign corridor and noted during his visit to Radio City Music Hall in New York City he noticed a number of hot dog carts on the corners with scrolling LED signs. He noted this is not New York City and that is why Council, when drafting the ordinance, wanted to restrict the zones and areas for those signs within Monroe Township. Those signs are fine for New York City and Las Vegas but not for Monroe Township.

Mayor Gabbianelli noted he was just going to talk about Monroe because that's his job, not New Jersey, not Washington, DC or President Obama. The Mayor reported attending Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Holiday City on November 9th and the Township's on Main Street on November 11th. Holiday City had a very nice turnout but the Township's was not very well attended and that is sad. During the Halloween Parade the street was mobbed but for Veteran's Day Ceremony we can't even get one block filled. On Friday, November 15th, the Mayor attended the Monroe Township Ambulance and Rescue Banquet and administered the oath of office to the new officers and members. He expresses his appreciation for being given that opportunity. He also attended the Firemen's Banquet that same evening and administered the oath of office to their new officers. He extended his appreciation to both volunteer organizations for their service because without them the tax base of the township would be much different. He reported attending the New Jersey Conference of Mayor's at the League of Municipalities and thanked the Boy Scouts for sponsoring a food drive on November 17th. Due to their efforts the food pantry received many donations. He also thanked the residents of Jefferson Village that donated multiple tubs of food and frozen turkeys, the Rotary Sunrise Club for their donation of \$500.00 worth of food, Oak Knoll Council for their donation of \$600.00 for food and Shop Rite for donating five \$10.00 gift cards and the brown bags used to distribute food at the pantry. These donations came in time for the holidays plus St. Mary's received three tractor trailers of food. Police Officers delivered food baskets to needy families this afternoon so we are trying to help our own residents. He extended best wishes and urged everyone to enjoy their families during the upcoming holidays.

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart urged everyone to think of safety when they put their Christmas trees up so that they will not need the services of the volunteers throughout the holidays.

Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted this evening we went maybe a little long on the public portion for resolutions but this issue has become a saga that people have been watching over a period of time. Mrs. Ognissanti has the right to come up here and speak and she has many times in past months. She has the right to say what she wants; it has been a little combative at times but tonight is the season end to the show that has been ongoing. He felt next year she will be back and Council will probably see more of it and have to deal with it. He felt at this time when we are at the point to approve a resolution allowing that liquor license to move forward, to cut her off and not let her have her say would not look good for us as council people because just to try to prove something it would look like we did not let her have her say. We certainly let her have her say and do things above board, the way we have always done, as we try to be consistent. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted he feels it would have looked a little funny if we had just cut her off tonight saying you can't talk about this or that so that is why it was done. Similar to the Mayor he noted he likes to stick to local matters, which is important and how government moves forward. Going into the national things is good at times but we need to stick to our local policies, procedures and ordinances and things like that which help move this town forward.

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That is the important thing for us and if we can do that at local government, hopefully it pushes out to the County and moves forward to get our town going in the right direction. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted he has his Christmas tie on tonight because it will be the holidays when this meeting is seen on TV and hopefully everyone will have had a great Thanksgiving. Moving forward, the holidays are coming up at the end of December and hopefully everyone will have a good time and enjoy time with their families. As the Mayor stated some people do not have the necessities that everyone else has so take time out of your day during the month of December to give back to the community by donating food or helping someone in need. Doing good things for people and helping the needy is an act of kindness that is needed at this time of year.

Mayor Gabbianelli noted one request, if you listen to it for an hour you should not have to listen any more. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted we stayed, you came back. The Mayor noted he felt bad for the little girl scouts, that was terrible, they did not learn anything about government. Cncl. Pres., Teefy felt they learned that government at times can be a little testy, it is not always a breeze up here at night. The Mayor added Council is better than him because he will not listen to that again because you can only do what you can do.

Cncl. Sebastian noted "*for the record*" regarding the young lady that came forward about Trio Tavern, I felt that it should have been cut off on that particular public portion for resolutions because what she was speaking about had nothing to do with the resolution. She had the opportunity to come back under the General Public Discussion to continue her discussion on the matter and I would have had no problem sitting here listening to her; but at that particular time, we had as was presented by the Solicitor, an obligation to read the resolution. I felt just listening to her talk about what was already done was just a moot point. Cncl. Sebastian noted he just wanted to get that on the record. **Cncl. Pres. Teefy** responded you are on the record Bill, but if I would have cut her off we would have looked suspicious and that's not what we want to do here. We want to be up front and let the person have her say and if we would have listened to her afterwards the vote would have already been taken. She was trying to get us to change our point, which she is allowed to do. So you can stick to the order, which is fine, but it is my right as Council President to allow her to speak on this matter, which has been going on for months. As we know she only comes to TV nights but to cut her off and stick to the point of order would really not have looked correct. **Cncl. DiLucia** noted Dan, as I said when I was talking, I know parliamentary procedure very well ... Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted no parliamentary procedure, I'm doing what's right for the citizens that's my job, not the national part, I do what's good for the local people. Cncl. DiLucia questioned if Cncl. Pres., Teefy was done. Cncl. Pres., Teefy replied no you jumped in, you did not ask ... Cncl. DiLucia interrupted indicating he raised his hand. Cncl. Pres., Teefy questioned did I acknowledge you. Cncl. DiLucia replied you did, but then you interrupted. Cncl. Pres., Teefy responded I didn't turn to you and say, Rich go ahead, no you just jumped right in so, if you want to jump in, go right ahead. Cncl. DiLucia replied no, I want to be recognized and if you don't recognize me then you can adjourn the meeting, you're the chairman, just for a month. Cncl. Pres., Teefy replied just for a month, that's right. Cncl. DiLucia responded Dan, I don't know why you are looking for an argument because all I'm Cncl. Pres., Teefy responded because you took a shot at me. Cncl. DiLucia replied no, I didn't, I agreed with what you did if you would have listened and if you listen to the tape I said that was democracy. I said the chairman could have cut her off because it was against parliamentary procedure but he didn't, we sat here and we listened because we tried to demonstrate democracy and sometimes democracy is counterproductive but we allowed democracy. I'm sorry you misunderstood it; I would suggest that you read the minutes and you will see that I agreed with what you did. Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted he will read the minutes, I heard what you said, so what you are saying is that by me letting her speak is counterproductive. Cncl. DiLucia replied no, no, I said what she did Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted that is what I just heard. Cncl. DiLucia noted what she did was counterproductive, what we did although we could have stopped her, I agreed that by not you did the right thing because you demonstrated that it is a democratic process and we go beyond what we should do. No, I agreed with you and I'm sorry you misunderstood it because I can assure you Dan, when the time comes that I disagree with you, you'll understand it. Cncl. Pres., Teefy replied okay, let me know, thank you. With no one else wishing to speak Cncl. Pres., Teefy requested a motion to adjourn.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

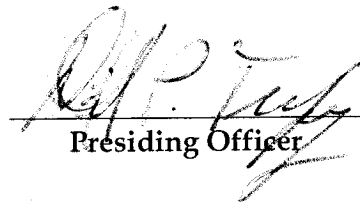
G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Garbowski made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of November 25, 2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks 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 November 25, 2013 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 12/9/13
Date _____