

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 25, 2022**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at 7 p.m. by **Cncl. Pres., Gregory Wolfe** in the Courtroom 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 (*N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 thru 10:4-21*). Adequate notice was placed in the official publications for the Township of Monroe (i.e.: South Jersey Times, Courier Post and The Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and on the Monroe Township website.

Cncl. Pres., Gregory Wolfe stated, the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet in the rear of the meeting room. If anyone would like to address Council, please sign-in and raise your hand and you will be asked to come forward to the microphone. Kindly state your name and address for the record.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Cncl. Falcone led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag. **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Cncl. Katherine Falcone	Present	
Cncl. Vice-Pres. Carolann Fox	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski		Excused
Cncl. Steven McKinney	Present	
Cncl. Patrick O'Reilly	Present	
Cncl. Chelsea Valcourt	Present	
Cncl. Pres. Gregory Wolfe	Present	
Mayor Richard DiLucia	Present	
Deputy Mayor, Joseph DiLolle	Present	
Solicitor, John Trimble	Present	
Business Administrator, Jill McCrea	Present	(arrived @7:03pm)
Dir. of Code Enforcement, Joseph Broderick	Present	
Dir. of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux	Present	
Dir. of Finance, Lorraine Boyer		Excused
Dir. of Parks & Recreation, Brent Salvadori	Present	
Dir. of Public Safety, Joseph Kurz	Present	
Dir. of Public Works, Nicholas Mercado	Present	
Dir. of Real Estate, Angelina Matese	Present	
Police Chief Craig Monahan	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Aileen Chiselko	Present	

PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

- Certificate of Recognition – Eagle Scout, Isabela Tahmazian

Mayor DiLucia and **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** presented Isabela Tahmazian of **Troop #234G** with a Certificate of Recognition for completing her Eagle Leadership Project of planning and building a gazebo at Owen's Park and attaining the highest and most coveted rank in scouting, "Eagle Scout".

- Certificate of Recognition – 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year Recipients

Mayor DiLucia and **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** presented Certificates of Recognition to Donna Fong of Williamstown High School, Cynthia Smith of Williamstown Middle School, Rhonda

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McCoy of Holly Glen Elementary School, John Ford of Oak Knoll Elementary School, Kelly Goneau of Radix Elementary School and Tara Shannon of Whitehall Elementary School for being recipients of the Gloucester County Teacher Recognition Program for the 2021-2022 School Year.

- Recycling and Earth Day Presentation – Monroe Township Environmental Commission / Rocky the Recycling Raccoon

Environmental Commission Chairperson, Dan Kozak addressed the Mayor and Council to explain what the Commission has done and is currently doing within the community, in honor of Earth Day. The Community Garden is now under the direction of the Environmental Commission. The Commission is also looking into having a bike rack installed outside of the municipal building, are reinstating the town's Tree City status, and promoting recycling with the help of Debra Bender and Tiffany Carney of Clean Communities. Clean Communities has applied for a mini-grant to help clean up the township and have a community-wide clean-up to be held on Saturday, April 30th. The Commission is looking into a student exchange program and are distributing reusable bags to help prepare the residents for "Ban the Bags", which is scheduled to take place on May 4th. Mr. Kozak stated that the Environmental Commission is looking for new members and invited everyone that is interested to contact the Clerk's Office. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Environmental Commission this evening.

- The Botanist Presentation

Brian Sickora the General Manager of The Botanist addressed the Mayor and Council to speak regarding The Botanist, which is now open for the purchase of adult-use recreational marijuana as of April 21st. He explained, for the medical patients, there are protocols in place to ensure that the patients have preferential treatment, from reserved parking spots to specific lines within the store, which allows the medical patients to move through the store more quickly; pre-orders are also available for the medical patients. On April 21st, The Botanist served approximately 425 customers, as opposed to the previous average of 100 medical patients a day. Mr. Sickora stated, they have hired security guards, who are retired state police officers, to be on site for now. As far as handling the crowds, there are currently six (6) cash registers, with six (6) more to be installed, with the hope that they can get the customers in and out as fast as possible, so there will be little disruption to the community. There is quite a bit of security within the building with cameras and the facility is secured in the evening. They have served 4,000 patients over the last five (5) days with only one (1) incident, which was handled quickly. Mr. Sickora spoke regarding the tax structure pertaining to marijuana within the state, noting the state has adopted a tax structure for medical, requiring that 2% of the retail sales go back to the local municipality. He stated that The Botanist does approximately \$60,000.00 a day in sales, noting business has been good and they expect it to continue to be good and possibly get even better. **Cncl. Falcone** asked if the \$60,000.00 a day is an estimate on the recreational, to which Mr. Sickora stated it is combined between both medical and recreational. She spoke regarding the lines inside the store being divided between recreational and medical, asking if the lines will be divided outside of the store, to which Mr. Sickora stated they have learned a lot over the past few days and they are making the lines longer inside for the adult-use to lessen the outside lines along with earmarking certain cash registers just for the medical patients. Cncl. Falcone mentioned the hours for medical patients. Mr. Sickora said, all of their hours are clearly advertised on their website, noting the State has required each licensee to have a minimum of fourteen (14) hours a week available for medical patients only and those fourteen (14) hours have to be spread throughout the days and times of day. The Botanist is open daily from 10:00am to 7:00pm every day and medical patients can come in at any time. He explained that the medical patients-only means that if a recreational customer comes in during the set medical patients-only hours, they will be turned away and asked to return during different hours. Currently, The Botanist has set Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am to 2:00pm as their medical patients-only hours, with Saturday not having any restricted medical patients-only hours set. The medical patients-only hours have been approved by the State, noting these hours are allowed to

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A.) OPENING CEREMONIES (cont'd)

be modified on demand as needed. **Deputy Mayor DiLolle** stated that there is a rumor that people feel they are being charged 2% extra to pay the Township, to which Mr. Sickora explained, they have actually lowered their prices and they are approximately \$0.12 to \$0.14 cheaper with the 2% tax included, noting previously the medical prices included the 2% tax and it was amended, because medical and recreational are taxed at different rates. The State mandates that the taxes are 2% on retail, 2% on cultivation and 2% on manufacturing, which are all passed on. A resident, **Jeremy Cerone**, asked how parking is being handled, to which Mr. Sickora explained, currently they have four (4) reserved spots for medical patients, plus the two (2) handicap spaces. Mr. Sickora noted, one of the contracted security guards is to be outside and help with the parking lot, as The Botanist is cognizant with the parking challenges and are working with their neighboring businesses and local law enforcement.

B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – None

C.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED – None

D.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED – None

E.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Meeting of February 28, 2022, Council Meeting of March 14, 2022, Closed Executive Session of March 14, 2022 and Council Meeting of March 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and approved by the majority of all members of Council in attendance; **Cncl. Falcone** and **Cncl. McKinney** voted Nay on the Council Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2022.

F.) CORRESPONDENCE – None

G.) RESOLUTIONS

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox made a motion to open the public portion for Resolutions scheduled. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Valcourt** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak, **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** made a motion to close the public portion for Resolutions scheduled. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to bracket for approval, by Consent Agenda, Resolutions R:116-2022 through R:119-2022. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS R:116-2022 THROUGH R:119-2022

R:116-2022 Resolution Adjusting Township of Monroe Tax Records

R:117-2022 Resolution Approving the Bill List and Paid List for the Council Meeting of April 25, 2022

R:118-2022 Resolution Authorizing the Township of Monroe to Solicit Bids for the FY2022 Municipal Aid Whispering Woods Phase 2 Project

R:119-2022 Resolution Authorizing the Township of Monroe to Solicit Bids for the 2022 Drainage Improvement Project

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G.) RESOLUTIONS (cont'd)

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to approve Resolutions R:116-2022 through R:119-2022. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:120-2022 Resolution Appointing Member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to approve Resolution R:120-2022. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Falcone** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Falcone nominated Jeremy Cerone as a Member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. **Cncl. McKinney** seconded the nomination.

Cncl. Valcourt nominated **Richard Adams** (current Alternate #2 Member) as a Member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made.

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE NOMINATION OF JEREMY CERONE AS A
MEMBER TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
2 AYES (Falcone, McKinney), 4 NAYS (Fox, O'Reilly, Valcourt, Wolfe),
1 ABSENT (Garbowski)**

Tally: 2 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Nomination of **Jeremy Cerone** to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission does not carry.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE NOMINATION OF RICHARD ADAMS
AS A MEMBER TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
4 AYES (Fox, O'Reilly, Valcourt, Wolfe), 2 NAYS (Falcone, McKinney),
1 ABSENT (Garbowski)**

Tally: 4 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. **Richard Adams** was duly approved as a member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission.

R:121-2022 Resolution Appointing Alternate #1 Member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to approve Resolution R:121-2022. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to open nominations. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Valcourt nominated **Jeremy Cerone** as Alternate #1 Member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made.

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Valcourt** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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G.) RESOLUTIONS (cont'd)

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE NOMINATION OF JEREMY CERONE AS
ALTERNATE #1 MEMBER TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**4 AYES (Fox, O'Reilly, Valcourt, Wolfe), 2 NAYS (Falcone, McKinney),
1 ABSENT (Garbowski)**

Tally: 4 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Jeremy Cerone was duly approved as Alternate #1 Member to the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission.

H.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox made a motion to open the meeting to the public for the Ordinances listed on the agenda for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak on the Ordinances for Second Reading, **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:07-2022 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe to Amend Chapter 4 of the Code of the Township of Monroe, Entitled "Administrative Code"

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

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox made a motion to approve Ordinance O:07-2022 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:07-2022 FOR SECOND READING
AND PUBLIC HEARING –**

6 AYES (Falcone, Fox, McKinney, O'Reilly, Valcourt, Wolfe), 1 ABSENT (Garbowski)

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Ordinance O:07-2022 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:08-2022 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of Real Property Known and Designated as Tax Block 3205, Portion of Lot 3 on the Tax and Assessment Map of the Township of Monroe

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

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox made a motion to approve Ordinance O:08-2022 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:08-2022 FOR SECOND READING
AND PUBLIC HEARING –**

6 AYES (Falcone, Fox, McKinney, O'Reilly, Valcourt, Wolfe), 1 ABSENT (Garbowski)

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Ordinance O:08-2022 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:09-2022 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe to Amend Chapter 104 of the Code of the Township of Monroe, Entitled "Buildings"

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H.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

First Reading: A copy of this Ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox made a motion to approve Ordinance O:09-2022 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Solicitor Trimble spoke regarding the amendments made prior to this evening's meeting, noting that the only amendment was an addition of the enforcement revision that deals with notice requirements.

I.) NEW BUSINESS

Cncl. Pres. Wolfe asked Business Administrator, Jill McCrea, who handles the Township website and social media accounts, to which **Mrs. McCrea** responded, it varies. Cncl. Pres. Wolfe stated, he attended an event relating to the new Township bus and had put in a request to have some items placed on the website and he did not receive a response. Ms. McCrea explained that since the bus was not in the Township's possession, she felt it was not appropriate to be misleading to post that the Township had received the bus; in addition, on the same day, the Township's full-time bus driver had passed away, so she felt it would be in poor taste to post the pictures. **Mayor DiLucia** stated that he advised Ms. McCrea not to post the information on the website for the reasons Ms. McCrea stated and even more so, because of the lack of communication he has received from the County with regards to the status of the bus since September of 2021. Cncl. Pres. Wolfe asked that since the bus has been presented and is now in the Township's possession, if it can be posted to the Township website and social media, to which the Mayor agreed.

J.) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cncl. Falcone stated that Cncl. McKinney had asked about having a water fountain placed on the bike path. She has spoken with the MMUA and was advised that the water main runs down the bike path from Tuckahoe Road to Whispering Woods Drive and any of that area can be used for a water fountain. Cncl. McKinney asked if they spoke about the cost and the work required, to which Cncl. Falcone said that they did not go into cost or work detail.

K.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Mayor DiLucia stated that Dawn Hallowell, a long-time employee of the Township and full-time bus driver, passed away on April 12th. He attended her funeral services and at that time, Director of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux presented the new senior bus to her family, dedicating the bus in Dawn's honor. He noted how much Dawn will be missed by everyone, especially the seniors, who she drove daily to their various appointments and events. The Mayor attended the previous two (2) senior lunches at the Pfeiffer Community Center. He noted that in addition to the County lunches, the Department of Community Affairs is trying to upgrade the lunches by using the donated funds from performing wedding ceremonies. The lunches are being provided by ShopRite at a discounted cost and have been well attended, sometimes in excess of over 100 seniors. Mayor DiLucia attended a half-in-person and half-Zoom call regarding the Master Plan last week. He noted, when he initially negotiated the contract with the Planner to perform the work required for the Master Plan, the goal was to have the Master Plan completed by the end of 2021; however, there is much more work required than initially anticipated. He spoke regarding the roadblocks and the conversations with the Pinelands, noting some of the changes they would like to implement to change the configuration of the town, where they could allow some people who have expressed a desire to change their business models, which would require the town to change the Master Plan in those areas. It looks like that will be a tough sell with the Pinelands, but the town is going to continue to try.

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

Mayor DiLucia spoke in reference to one developer who had proposed a giant warehouse with a total of 1.6 million square feet, which would have brought tremendous revenue into the town, where the Pinelands advised that they would really prefer to have residentials on the property instead of businesses. The Mayor believes that Pinelands' decision is not in the best interest of the town, because at a minimum, the town would like to see mixed-use, with rooftops and houses as the town needs businesses in order to offset the taxes. He noted, the town has been trying to consciously shift away a little bit from rooftops to businesses and this developer's proposal would have been a golden opportunity to do that.

Deputy Mayor DiLolle attended the Easter Luncheon at the Pfeiffer Community Center, which was very well attended. On April 21st, he attended the opening of the recreational cannabis, noting it was very crowded, but The Botanist handled the crowds very well. He stated, the State mandated 2% tax is going to be a great windfall for the Township. On Saturday, April 23rd, he attended the Craft Fair, which had over eighty (80) vendors and was another successful event.

Solicitor Trimble explained that Ordinance O:08-2022 is an exchange of land wherein the Mayor was able to negotiate with Newfield Bank to donate the back portion of their lot to the Township. In addition, the town has taken steps to purchase another land-locked vacant property behind the old motel, which will provide additional parking along Main Street. He thanked the Mayor for negotiating the donation and purchase, and Council for voting to approve. Solicitor Trimble stated, as always, he and his firm continues to work hard for the taxpayers of Monroe Township.

Director of Code Enforcement, Mr. Broderick thanked the staff in the Construction Code and Housing Offices for their tireless efforts to keep the departments running smoothly and efficiently and serving the residents of Monroe Township.

Director of Community Affairs, Ms. Derieux stated, on April 12th, our Community Affairs Department was devastated by the loss of their 26-year bus driver, Dawn Hallowell. Dawn was a remarkable woman and will be missed by everyone especially all of the seniors. On April 22nd, the new Township senior bus was dedicated, in honor of Dawn, to her family. April 23rd was the 6th Annual Arts and Crafts Festival, which was a large success with over eighty-six (86) vendors, four (4) food trucks and there was not a complaint to be heard. Ms. Derieux reported that they will be holding a Family Scavenger Hunt on May 14th and Ties and Tierras, a dinner and dancing event for families on June 18th. She invited everyone to call the Department of Community Affairs at 856-728-9841 with any questions or concerns.

Director of Parks & Recreation, Mr. Salvadori reported, the Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 9th and it was a huge success, with 10,000 eggs being picked up in less than four (4) minutes. He mentioned the newly awarded Eagle Scout, Isabella Tahmazian and how the gazebo she constructed was chosen by the Easter Bunny to use for all of the pictures that day. Mr. Salvadori reported that the Music Festival will be held on June 4th.

Director of Public Safety, Mr. Kurz spoke regarding the Williamstown Fire Department project, noting the Demolition Bid is scheduled for May 10th. On Thursday, April 21st, they met with five (5) contractors who anticipate entering a bid, to walk them through the current firehouse and explain what the department is looking for during demolition.

Director of Public Works, Mr. Mercado attended Isabella Tahmazian's Eagle Scout Award Ceremony, noting he is proud of what she has done for the Township and for earning the honor of Eagle Scout. He attended the Arts & Crafts Festival, which was a huge success. He thanked and congratulated the Director of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux and her staff for a job well done. Mr. Mercado reported that the Township has accepted ownership of two (2) new auto car one-arm trucks this past week and they will be placed into the system as soon they receive tags and recycling logos, noting that two additional trucks are scheduled for August. Mr. Mercado mentioned that the Department of Public Works will have a tent at the June 4th Music Festival, where they will feature some giveaways and recycling information to the residents.

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

Director of Real Estate, Ms. Matese spoke regarding the property that Solicitor Trimble mentioned earlier, noting it is the property behind the Washington Motel and it is adjacent to the Newfield Bank property and will make for a very nice parking area for the Township. Ms. Matese attended the Craft Fair and thanked Ms. Derieux for the wonderful event.

Cncl. Falcone attended the Arts and Crafts Festival on April 23rd, noting this event is near and dear to her heart, as she started on the Main Street Committee six years ago, where she spearheaded the event. She spoke regarding The Botanist, referencing the \$60,000.00 daily value of retail sales, which she estimates on the low side will be approximately \$438,000.00 a year. She is happy to have The Botanist as part of the community. Cncl. Falcone worked both the St. Patrick's Day and Easter luncheons for the seniors.

Cncl. McKinney met with the Environmental Protection Commission earlier this evening and jokingly said that Rocky the Raccoon stole the majority of his report. He invited anyone who is interested in serving on the Commission to please come out, as the Commission is currently looking for new members.

Cncl. O'Reilly provided an update on the Joint Solar Initiative. He is pleased to announce that Radix Elementary School has finally gone live as of last week after approximately an eight (8) month delay with the power company updating their network. Radix Elementary School, prior to solar, had an annual estimated electric bill of approximately \$150,000.00 a year, which is now dropping down to between \$0.00 and \$5,000.00 a year, based on the estimates. The Middle School and High School are slated to go live by the end of the summer, pending the Atlantic City Electric connection piece. Based on the estimates, the High School pays approximately \$600,000.00 a year in electric and that will drop to between \$0.00 and \$20,000.00 a year and the Middle School pays approximately \$500,000.00 a year in electric and that will drop to between \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 a year. Cncl. O'Reilly clarified, the Township does not own the infrastructure, but are buying the electricity that it consumes; the solar developer is paying for the infrastructure and making their money by the Township buying the power at 1.1 cents a kilowatt, noting that the average resident pays approximately \$0.20 a kilowatt on their electric bill. He further explained that this is not a taxpayer funded initiative.

Cncl. Valcourt attended the Craft Fair on April 23rd. She congratulated the Director of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux and her team of volunteers for putting on such a vibrant and successful event and bringing back a sense of community after a very long pandemic. She expressed her condolences on the passing of Dawn Hallowell. Cncl. Valcourt attended the Board of Education Meeting, where they recognized the Teachers of the Year. She congratulated all of the teachers honored, noting she, personally had two (2) of the teachers and spoke to the fact that they are people of wonderful character and are great examples of the incredible, positive teachers in the educational system. Cncl. Valcourt noted, she recently spoke with the owners of Grindstone Restaurant and after resolving some of their staffing issues and undergoing some renovations, they are expected to re-open on May 11th.

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox congratulated all Teachers of the Year. She was honored to have attended Isabella Tahmazian's Eagle Scout ceremony, noting Isabella did a terrific job with the gazebo. Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox attended the Easter luncheon for the seniors, which she said was an awesome event. She attended the Veterans' Honor Flight last week, where the veterans travel to Washington DC, after a beautiful send-off in the morning, and are welcomed back in the evening.

Cncl. Pres. Wolfe expressed his condolences to the Hallowell family. He congratulated the teachers who were awarded with Teacher of the Year. He congratulated Isabella Tahmazian for obtaining her Eagle Scout. On April 7th, he attended the Public Safety meeting and there is nothing new to report at this time. On April 9th, he attended the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which was a huge success and thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission. On April 12th, he attended the Sports Advisory Board meeting and there is nothing new to report at this time. On April 13th, he attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, where they are working

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

on their next event, which is the Monroe Township Appreciation Day, also known as the Music Festival and will be held on June 4th with a rain date of June 5th at Owens Memorial Park.

L.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. Valcourt made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Marlene McMahon, 173 Palomino Place thanked the Director of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux for all of the work she does for the seniors, Mayor DiLucia for donating the funds for the luncheons and the members of Council for helping with the luncheons. Mrs. McMahon spoke regarding the new bus, asking when it was donated and if it was presented to the County or the Township. **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** explained, in 2021, Council approved the Resolution to partner with the County to purchase the bus for the community and it has not yet been presented to the Township. There was a small ceremony at the County last week and was delivered to the Township a few days later. **Business Administrator, Jill McCrea** explained, the County had possession of the bus for the last six (6) months. **Director of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux** stated, after attending the Public Safety Meeting on April 7th and speaking with the Police Department about how long she has been waiting to receive the bus from the County, it was not a half of week later that Cncl. O'Reilly and Cncl. Pres. Wolfe had been presented with the bus. Mrs. McMahon asked who she could contact to find out why the County held the bus in their possession for so long, to which Cncl. Pres. Wolfe advised that she should call her County Commissioner. **Cncl. Falcone** asked who invited Cncl. Pres. Wolfe and Cncl. O'Reilly to receive the bus, to which Cncl. Pres. Wolfe stated, he received a phone call from the County Board of Health advising there would be a ceremony to present the bus. **Mayor DiLucia** spoke regarding the County and the Fries Mill Road and Route 322 project, which has been in the process for years and delayed due to the deliberate actions by the County. He noted, as Mayor, he never received any notifications that the bus was available. He believes, this is just another example of the County's games and how the County continues to hurt the residents of Monroe.

Michael Burke, 317 Taylor Lane expressed his appreciation to the Council and the Mayor for opening the Public Works yard for the residents on the weekends throughout the year. He stated how organized, efficient and helpful the yard and the employees are.

Fernando Powers, 717 Meade Court spoke regarding the new bus, asking why other Commissioners were not present for pictures at the presentation of the bus, to which **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** advised that he contact the County. Mr. Powers asked why Jeremy Cerone was appointed as an Alternate Member of the Economic Development Commission, as opposed to a full member. **Cncl. Valcourt** explained, as a way of honoring the members who currently serve on the Boards and Commissions, Council will move an Alternate Member to a full member when the position is available. Mr. Powers noted that Richard Adams' schedule has recently changed and is not able to attend the meetings. **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** explained the appointment process of the Boards and Commissions.

Brooke Rivello, 1017 Suffock Drive stated she is currently a member of the Economic Development Commission and Richard Adams has not attended any meetings. She questioned why he was moved to a full member. **Cncl. Pres. Wolfe** explained that Council has not received any attendance records from the Economic Development Commission. **Cncl. Falcone** asked if he was the husband of the candidate that is running on the Democratic side, to which Ms. Rivello replied no. Cncl. Falcone stated that Council can reach out and ask for Mr. Adams' resignation and once that is received, they will move Jeremy Cerone to a full member.

Marlene McMahon, 1713 Palomino Place addressed Cncl Valcourt to express her concerns with how she voted without the proper information.

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L.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

Fernando Powers addressed Council to state that he had Mr. Adams on the phone and he is only available to attend meetings on Thursdays and Fridays.

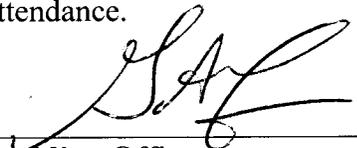
With no one else wishing to speak, **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

M.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, **Cncl. Valcourt** made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of April 25, 2022. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.



Aileen Chiselko
Municipal Clerk



Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the recorded proceedings, as well as hand-written notes taken, of the Council Meeting of April 25, 2022 and serve only as a synopsis of the proceedings. The official recording may be heard in the Office of the Township Clerk upon proper notification, pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

Approved as submitted asc
Approved as corrected _____

Date 5/23/2022
Date _____