

**TOWNSHIP OF MONROE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING - OCTOBER 2, 2017**

The Council of the Township of Monroe met in the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza, for a Regular Meeting.

The Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Stephen Dalina with a Salute to the Flag.

Council President Dalina requested a moment of silence for those who are suffering and have lost their lives in the Las Vegas tragedy.

**UPON ROLL CALL** by the Township Clerk, Patricia Reid, the following members of Council were present: Councilwoman Miriam Cohen, Councilman Michael Leibowitz, Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider and Council President Stephen Dalina.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, Business Administrator Alan M. Weinberg, Township Attorney Joel Shain, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz and Deputy Township Clerk Christine Robbins.

There was approximately one-hundred (100) members of the Public present in the audience.

Council President Dalina requested the Township Clerk to read the following **SUNSHINE LAW** into the record:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the Minutes of this meeting that adequate notice has been provided by the following:

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on December 30, 2016 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and **STAR LEDGER** on January 6, 2017;
3. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Complex;
4. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
5. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

In accordance with Chapter 3, Section 17 of the Monroe Township Code, Public comment shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless further time is granted by the Council President.

The following **PROCLAMATION** of Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro was read into the record:

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
October

Mayor Tamburro introduced Jay Brown, Program Supervisor of the Monroe Township Recreation Department, to present the Mayor's Cup Awards. Before doing so, Mr. Brown thanked the Gardens at Monroe for their generous donations of tote bags, hats and gift cards, as well as, Rick Siemons and Al Carpenito for all of their hard work. He also thanked the Mayor and Council for all their support.

A brief recess was taken and the meeting reconvened at 7:45pm.

**UPON MOTION** made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilwoman Cohen, the **CLAIMS** per run date of **09/28/2017** were approved for payment as presented.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilman Leibowitz and seconded by Councilwoman Cohen, the **MINUTES** of the **September 6, 2017 Regular Meeting** and **September 25, 2017 Agenda Meeting** were approved as written and presented.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Leibowitz, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was moved on second reading for final passage: **O-9-2017-023 ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEED FROM PUSHTEL CONSTRUCTION, INC. ON LOTS 7.01, 7.02, 7.03 AND 7.04 IN BLOCK 169.** (River Road)

**ORDINANCE** as follows: (O-9-2017-023)

**WHEREAS**, Pushtel Construction, Inc. received final major subdivision approval of Application No. PB-1162-15, on March 26, 2015, memorialized on April 23, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, a condition of that approval required Pushtel Construction, Inc. to dedicate conservation easement(s) on any wetlands and/or identified flood hazard areas on the subdivided parcels to the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Pushtel Construction, Inc. has agreed to dedicate the conservation easement(s) to the Township of Monroe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has reviewed the attached metes and bounds description in the Conservation Easement Deed and has found same to be in conformity with the Planning Board approval and hereby recommends acceptance of the Conservation Easement Deed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has, after consultation with its legal and engineering professionals, determined that it is in the public interest to accept the Conservation Easement Deed from Pushtel Construction, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Attorney has reviewed the Conservation Easement Deed and found it to be legally sufficient;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Mayor, Township Clerk and Township Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps and execute any documents which are reasonably necessary to accept the Conservation Easement Deed from Pushtel Construction, Inc.

**SECTION 2.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 3.** If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

**SO ORDAINED** as aforesaid.

No Public Comment.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Leibowitz, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption: **O-9-2017-023 ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEED FROM PUSHTEL CONSTRUCTION, INC. ON LOTS 7.01, 7.02, 7.03 AND 7.04 IN BLOCK 169.** (River Road)

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Leibowitz, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was moved on second reading for final passage: **O-9-2017-024 ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEEDS OF DEDICATION FOR A RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT FROM COSTCO ON BLOCK 71.01, LOT 8 IN THE BOROUGH OF JAMESBURG AND FEE SIMPLE OWNERSHIP OF PORTIONS OF BLOCK 79, LOT 20 IN MONROE TOWNSHIP.** (New Street & Courtney Street)

**ORDINANCE** as follows: (O-9-2017-024)

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to approval from the Monroe Township Planning Board of Application No. PB-1121-11, by Costco Wholesale Corporation (the "Applicant"), the Applicant is required, as a condition of approval, to dedicate certain properties to the Township of Monroe; and

**WHEREAS**, more particularly, the Applicant is required to dedicate a right-of-way easement on property designated as Block 71.01, part of Lot 8 on the official tax map of the Borough of Jamesburg; and fee simple title to property designated as Block 79, parts of Lot 20 on the official tax map of the Township of Monroe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has, after consultation with its legal and engineering professionals, determined that it is in the public interest to assume the ownership of the above-described property;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

**Section 1.** The Mayor, Township Clerk and Township Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps and execute any and all documents which are reasonably necessary for the Township to accept dedication of a right-of-way easement on Block 71.01, part of Lot 8 in the Borough of Jamesburg, and fee simple ownership of Block 79, parts of Lot 20 in the Township of Monroe.

**Section 2.** All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**Section 3.** If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

**SO ORDAINED** as aforesaid.

**Hy Grossman, 15 Doral Dr.** – Mr. Grossman asked if we were getting property in Jamesburg; Engineer Rasimowicz answered that we are getting an easement off of Courtney Street which is owned by Costco which is located in Jamesburg.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Leibowitz, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption: **O-9-2017-024 ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEEDS OF DEDICATION FOR A RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT FROM COSTCO ON BLOCK 71.01, LOT 8 IN THE BOROUGH OF JAMESBURG AND FEE SIMPLE OWNERSHIP OF PORTIONS OF BLOCK 79, LOT 20 IN MONROE TOWNSHIP.** (New Street & Courtney Street)

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.  
O-9-2017-024

**UPON MOTION** made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilwoman Cohen, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was moved on second reading for final passage: **O-9-2017-025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED "LAND DEVELOPMENT". (Chapter 108, Article VII, § 108-7.3(M), "Locational preferences for new towers")**

**ORDINANCE** as follows: (O-9-2017-025)

**WHEREAS**, in the interests of safeguarding public health, safety and welfare and preserving the intent and the purposes of the Master Plan, the Monroe Township Land Development Ordinance sets forth specific goals with regard to the placement of wireless communication towers and related facilities within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has determined that an appropriate and important goal is to discourage the placement of wireless communication towers within 500 feet of any school property;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 108 of the Monroe Township Land Use Ordinance be amended and supplemented as follows:

**SECTION 1.**

**Chapter 108, Article VII, § 108-7.3(M)**, “Locational preferences for new towers,” is amended to read as follows:

- M. Locational preferences for new towers. The following are not conditions, standards and limitations for the location of wireless communication towers, but are preferences of the township:
- (1) To the greatest extent possible, no tower shall be located to be visible from any historic district or site as duly designated by Monroe Township, the State of New Jersey and/or by the federal government.
  - (2) To the greatest extent possible, no tower shall be located to be visible from any public street.
  - (3) To the greatest extent possible, any tower shall be located behind existing buildings and/or natural topographical elevations in order to screen the tower from view from adjacent properties and from any street right-of-way.
  - (4) **To discourage the placement of wireless communication towers within 500 feet of the property line of any school.**

**SECTION 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 3.** If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

**SECTION 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

**SO ORDAINED** as aforesaid.

**John Marullo, 7 Dominic Dr.** – Mr. Marullo asked what the reason for this Ordinance was and how it benefits us and asked that Councilman Baskin answer specifically, to which Council President Dalina advised that all questions would be directed to him as Council President and then answered by the appropriate official, which in this particular instance would be himself as he was directly involved in moving this Ordinance along. Mr. Marullo interjected asking that he would like to hear from the other council members since they just voted on this and why they voted on this. Mayor Tamburro added that the council has not voted on this Ordinance yet, they simply made a motion to open this up to the public for comment. Council President Dalina clarified that if Mr. Marullo wanted an answer to his questions he would be more than happy to answer them and any of the councilmembers who wished to add to the discussion would have the opportunity to do so. He explained that for many years he was on the Zoning Board and there was a lot of public outcry when it came down to where cell towers were. This Ordinance is to specifically let certain cell companies know that cell towers, especially by schools, are not permitted. Council Vice-President Schneider added that we do not want cell towers by schools and if we did not act there would be one by Woodland School. Councilman Baskin reminded Mr. Marullo that he is not the one running the meeting, the Council President does that.

**UPON MOTION** made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilwoman Cohen, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

**O-9-2017-025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT”. (Chapter 108, Article VII, § 108-7.3(M), “Locational preferences for new towers”)**

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

**RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under the CONSENT AGENDA:**

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA**

**R-10-2017-252            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CARGO VAN USING THE NEW JERSEY STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.").**  
(Purchase \$21,119.66)

**WHEREAS**, the Monroe Township Utility Department has the need for one (1) Cargo Van; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey, Division of Purchase and Property via its Cooperative Purchasing Program (NJCP1) has awarded Contract Index No. T-2103 for Cargo Vans to Mall Chevrolet, Inc. (Contract No. A88213), through a competitive bidding process, as equipped, in amounts indicated as follows:

One (1) Chevrolet Express 2500 Cargo Van - \$21,119.66  
;and

**WHEREAS**, it is required by law that any "state contract" purchase which exceeds the bid threshold of the Township (\$40,000.00) in aggregate, be authorized by the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount for these vehicles exceed the Township's bid threshold in aggregate; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, the Township Chief Financial Officer has certified availability of funds in Certificate No. M-170030 copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

- (1) Authorizes the Purchasing Agent of the M.T.U.D. to purchase said vehicles from Mall Chevrolet, Inc. using the State Contract Term No.: T-2103; and
- (2) The Township Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for said vehicles delivered by Mall Chevrolet, Inc., respectively.; and
- (3) The contracts are awarded through the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program are considered fair and open contract in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, as well as being exempt from public bidding by the Township.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-253            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES FOR W&S 1114, THE GABLES @ APPLGARTH VILLAGE, BA#5090-14 POSTED TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (M.T.U.D.).**

**WHEREAS**, Renaissance Properties has posted Performance Guarantees for The Gables @ Applegarth Village (W&S 1114); and

**WHEREAS**, Renaissance Properties has requested a 70% reduction in the Performance Guarantees posted for the project; and

**WHEREAS**, defined in 40:55d-53 et seq., the Monroe Township Utility Department (MTUD) has inspected the work performed and the work to be completed and has recommended that the Township Council approve the request for a 70% reduction in the bond, as detailed in a letter dated September 18, 2017, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A":

Performance Bond #5042238 for residential water in the amount of \$145,083.00 to be reduced to \$43,524.90.

Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$16,120.00 for water to be reduced to \$4,836.00.

Performance Bond #5042239 for residential sewer in the amount of \$128,606.00 to be reduced to \$38,581.80.

Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$14,290.00 for water to be reduced to \$4,287.00.

Performance Bond #5042235 for commercial water in the amount of \$120,717.00 to be reduced to \$36,215.10.

Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$13,413.00 for water to be reduced to \$4,023.90.

Performance Bond #5042236 for commercial sewer in the amount of \$124,604.00 to be reduced to \$37,381.20.

Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$13,845.00 for sewer to be reduced to \$4,153.50.

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has reviewed and hereby approves the MTUD Director's recommendations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that Cash Performance Guarantees posted for The Gables @ Applegarth Village be reduced as reflected above and the MTUD letter annexed hereto. This approval for a 70% Reduction is conditioned upon the provision of replacement guarantees and/or riders and the resolution of any outstanding balances attached to project escrow accounts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Monroe Township Utility Department is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the developer, and to his attorney, if applicant has been represented by counsel in this matter.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-254                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATION #4 TO A CONTRACT AWARDED TO SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. FOR VARIOUS PIPELINE GENERAL ENGINEERING FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.").**  
(Increase of \$22,100.00)

**WHEREAS**, The Monroe Township Utility Department ("M.T.U.D.") seeks additional Professional General Engineering Services in relation to various pipeline engineering services; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 3, 2014 at 11:00AM, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq, after advertisement on the M.T.U.D. website for not less than 10 days, Statements of Qualifications were publicly opened for calendar Year 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, after review of all the Statement of Qualifications by the review committee, Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. was determined qualified to perform said services; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 9, 2015 Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. was awarded a professional service contract for said work in an amount not to exceed \$87,529.00; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 8, 2016 Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. was awarded modification #1 professional service contract for said work in an amount not to exceed \$88,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 8, 2016 Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. was awarded a modification #2 to the professional service contract for additional services in the total amount \$20,790.00: and

**WHEREAS**, on September 7, 2016 Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. was awarded a modification #3 to the professional service contract for additional services in the total amount \$22,970.00: and

**WHEREAS**, Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. has provided a proposal dated September 20, 2017 for additional work required consisting of additional professional engineering services for additional irrigation main design services and NJEIFP qualification services in an amount not to exceed \$22,100.00 (Twenty-Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars) based on hours and rates in the agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director, by copy of memo dated September 21, 2017, has recommended the Council approve the modification #4 to the contact awarded to Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. attached hereto as Exhibit "C"; and

**WHEREAS**, as per the proposal, the fees for said additional services to be performed in an amount not to exceed \$22,100.00 will bring the new total of the contract agreement to \$241,339.00 (Two Hundred Forty One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, the Township's Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified availability of funds in Certificate No. 150033, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A",

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

- (1) The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a contract modification #4 with Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. for additional work, as outlined within the September 20, 2017 proposal;
- (2) The Township's Chief Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for additional services rendered by Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. in accordance with the attached proposal;
- (3) The contract modification is awarded without competitive bidding through a fair and open RFQ process as a "professional service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the contract is for a service performed by persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession that is regulated by law;
- (4) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-255                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO RIO SUPPLY, INC. FOR SECTION A OF CONTRACT NO. 466 "WATER METERS" FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.").**

**WHEREAS**, on September 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM, two (2) sealed bids were received, publicly opened, and read aloud, by the Monroe Township Utility Department Purchasing Agent for Contract 466, "Water Meters", required by the M.T.U.D.; and

**WHEREAS**, Rio Supply, Inc. has submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bids for Section A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent of the M.T.U.D. by copy of a letter dated September 27, 2017, has recommended that, subject to a positive review from the township attorney, a contract be awarded to Rio Supply, Inc. of 100 Allied Parkway, Sicklerville, NJ, based on unit pricing and estimated quantities, for the section and lines listed above, a copy of which is attached as exhibit B; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, the Township Chief Finance Officer has certified availability of funds in Certificate No. M-170032 a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

**WHEREAS**, Rio Supply, Inc. has submitted all the required documents with their bid; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

- (1) The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a contract Rio Supply, Inc. in accordance with their submitted bid;
- (2) The Township Chief Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for material delivered by Rio Supply, Inc. in accordance with their bid;
- (3) The contracts are awarded through the competitive bidding process as a fair and open contract in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law;
- (4) This contract is awarded with the stipulation that Rio Supply, Inc. shall provide a properly executed certificate of insurance as required by the specifications.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-255a                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO WATER WORKS SUPPLY CO., INC. FOR SECTIONS B, C AND D (LINE 1) OF CONTRACT NO. 466 "WATER METERS" FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.").**

**WHEREAS**, on September 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM, two (2) sealed bids were received, publicly opened, and read aloud, by the Monroe Township Utility Department Purchasing Agent for Contract 466, "Water Meters", required by the M.T.U.D.; and

**WHEREAS**, Water Works Supply Co., Inc. has submitted the lowest responsible and responsive bids for Sections B and C, and Section D (Line 1); and

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent of the M.T.U.D. by copy of a letter dated September 27, 2017, has recommended that, subject to a positive review from the township attorney, a contract be awarded to Water Works Supply Co., Inc. of 660 Highway 23, Pompton Plains, NJ, based on unit pricing and estimated quantities, for the sections and lines listed above, a copy of which is attached as exhibit B; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, the Township Chief Finance Officer has certified availability of funds in Certificate No. M-170031 a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

**WHEREAS**, Water Works Supply Co., Inc. has submitted all the required documents with their bid; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

(1) The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a contract Water Works Supply Co., Inc. in accordance with their submitted bid;

(2) The Township Chief Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for material delivered by Water Works Supply Co., Inc. in accordance with their bid;

(3) The contracts are awarded through the competitive bidding process as a fair and open contract in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law;

(4) This contract is awarded with the stipulation that Water Works Supply Co., Inc. shall provide a properly executed certificate of insurance as required by the specifications.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-256                    RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948).  
(Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund Grant - \$7,468.08)**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by budget; and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an appropriation item for equal amount;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of a special item of revenue in the budget for the Year 2017 in the sum of **\$7,468.08**, which item is now available as a revenue from the Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey – 2017 Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund pursuant to the provisions of statute; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a like sum of **\$7,468.08** be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of.....

**DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND**

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-257                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE POSTED FOR YESHIVA AT MONROE BA-815-08.  
(373 Schoolhouse Rd.)**

**WHEREAS**, **East Park at 8A** has posted Performance Guarantees for the Yeshiva at Monroe (BA-815-08); and

**WHEREAS**, **Yeshiva at Monroe** has requested a release of the Performance Guarantees posted for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 108-13.1 F and G of the Code of the Township of Monroe, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated September 1, 2017, has recommended, release of the Performance Guarantees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has reviewed and hereby approves the recommendations of the Township Engineer;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Performance Guarantees posted for the Yeshiva at Monroe Project (BA-815-08), be released as reflected in the Township Engineer's letter dated September 1, 2017, attached hereto. This approval for release of the Performance Guarantee is conditioned upon the posting of a maintenance guarantee in the amount of **\$10,392.95**. Such maintenance guarantee shall run for a period of not less than two years from the date of memorialization of such action by the Council.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in accordance with the Monroe Township Code, the developer shall maintain funds in the engineering inspection escrow account in the amount of fifty percent (50%) of the original deposit" however the Township Engineer's office feels at this time the funds currently being held in escrow with the township is sufficient.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-258                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY FAIGON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY CENTER GENERATOR PROJECT.**  
(Decrease of \$34,193.39)

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. R-6-2016-285, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on August 1, 2016, a contract was awarded to Faigon Electrical Contractors for the Community Center Generator Project; and

**WHEREAS**, said contract was in the original amount of \$397,484.59 for the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified in Certificate No. **C-160037**, a copy of which is attached hereto, that sufficient funds were available;

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer, in a letter dated August 29, 2017, requested approval of Change Order No. 1 and Final for the community center generator project reflecting a decrease in the amount of **\$34,193.39** which includes the additional work and reduction/deletion of work as referenced in Exhibit A (attached); and

**WHEREAS**, reflecting Change Order No. 1 and Final, the new decreased contract total is **\$363,291.20** for the Community Center Generator Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has reviewed the request and has found same to be reasonable; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute Change Order No. 1 and Final, attached hereto and made a part hereof, in the decreased amount of Thirty-four thousand, one hundred ninety-three dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$34,193.39).

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-259                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE POSTED BY FAIGON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY CENTER GENERATOR PROJECT.**

**WHEREAS**, **Faigon Electrical Contractors** have posted Performance Guarantees for the Community Center Generator Project; and

**WHEREAS**, **Faigon Electrical Contractors** have requested a release of the Performance Guarantees posted for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 108-13.1 F and G of the Code of the Township of Monroe, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated August 29, 2017, has recommended, release of the Performance Guarantees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has reviewed and hereby approves the recommendations of the Township Engineer;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Performance Guarantees posted for the Community Center Generator Project, be released as reflected in the Township Engineer's letter dated August 29, 2017, attached hereto. This approval for release of the Performance Guarantee is conditioned upon the posting of a maintenance guarantee in the amount of **\$36,329.11**. Such maintenance guarantees shall run for a period of not less than two years from the date of memorialization of such action by the Council.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-260            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN INTER-LOCAL/ SHARED SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH, OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.**  
(2- year agreement: 2018 - \$93,291.29; 2019 - \$95,157.12)

**WHEREAS**, the County of Middlesex has created the Middlesex County Office of Health Services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-1 et seq., to provide an array of public health services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, is desirous of contracting with the County for the furnishing by the County to the Township of Monroe, health services of a technical and professional nature as more fully set forth within the attached form of contract; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to enact an Inter-Local Services Contract with the County of Middlesex, Department of Public Safety and Health, Office of Health Services, for the Township to benefit from these services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township's Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified in Certificate No. **C-1700045**, a copy of which is attached hereto, that sufficient funds are available; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Local Services Contract to be entered into between the Township of Monroe and the County of Middlesex, Department of Public Safety and Health, Office of Health Services, a form of which is annexed hereto, shall have a duration of two (2) years, commencing January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the base cost for the provision of the aforesaid health services for Year 2018 is projected to be **\$93,291.29**. The cost for Year 2019 is projected to be **\$95,157.12**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized to enter into an Inter-local Services Contract with the County of Middlesex, Department of Public Safety and Health, Office of Health Services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, prior to the execution of said Contract, the Township Attorney is authorized to review said Contract as to form and substance, and to make any changes deemed to be necessary and/or appropriate.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-261            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS FROM BAKER & TAYLOR, INC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY.** (Purchase Amount: \$90,000.00)

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe has a need to acquire books and materials from Baker & Taylor, Inc., P.O. Box 7777, Philadelphia, Pa. 19175, for the Monroe Township Library; and

**WHEREAS**, Baker & Taylor, Inc. possesses the ability to provide said goods and services; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(q) any contract the amount which exceeds the bid threshold, may be negotiated and awarded by the governing body without public advertising for bids and bidding therefor and shall be approved by Resolution of the Township Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the total purchase amount is \$90,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as evidenced by Certificate No. **C-1700046**, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A";

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe hereby authorizes the purchase of books and materials for the Monroe Township Library in the amount of \$90,000.00;

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-262                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH 2017-2018 MONMOUTH ROAD PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS – CAPITAL PROJECT.**  
(Contract Amount: \$100,000.00)

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe seeks professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with the preparation of a project design, preparation of plans and specifications, contract preparation, contract administration and construction inspection for the following Capital Project:

**2017-2018 Monmouth Road Pedestrian Improvements**

**WHEREAS**, Center State Engineering possesses the technical expertise required to perform professional engineering, surveying and planning services regarding this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the fees for such services will not exceed One hundred thousand dollars (**\$100,000.00**); and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for such an engagement in Certificate No. **C-1400047**, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

**WHEREAS**, no agreement that is subject to the requirements of Article III of the Affirmative Action Regulations pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 127 (N.J.S.A. 17:27-1 et seq.) shall be awarded by the Township of Monroe, nor shall any monies be paid thereunder, to any contractor, subcontractor or business firm that has not agreed and guaranteed to comply with Affirmative Action Regulations and to afford equal opportunity in the performance of the contract in accordance with the Affirmative Action approved under the terms established in the above-cited regulations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

- (1) The Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached contract with ***Center State Engineering, 481 Spotswood-Englishtown Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831***, in accordance with the Agreement annexed hereto;
- (2) The Department of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to pay Invoices for services rendered by Center State Engineering in an amount not to exceed One hundred thousand dollars (**\$100,000.00**);
- (3) The Contract is awarded with the stipulation that ***Center State Engineering*** shall include within the Contract Mandatory Affirmative Action language and shall submit to the Township of Monroe any appropriate Affirmative Action document within the time period prescribed by law;
- (4) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-263                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH 2017-2018 VARIOUS MUNICIPAL ROADWAY AND CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE 1) – CAPITAL PROJECT.**  
(Contract Amount: \$80,000.00)

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe seeks professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with the preparation of a project design, preparation of plans and specifications, contract preparation, contract administration and construction inspection for the following Capital Project:

**2017-2018 Various Municipal Roadway and Concrete Improvements (Phase 1)**

**WHEREAS**, Center State Engineering possesses the technical expertise required to perform professional engineering, surveying and planning services regarding this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the fees for such services will not exceed Eighty thousand dollars (**\$80,000.00**); and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for such an engagement in Certificate No. **C-1700048**, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

**WHEREAS**, no agreement that is subject to the requirements of Article III of the Affirmative Action Regulations pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 127 (N.J.S.A. 17:27-1 et seq.) shall be awarded by the Township of Monroe, nor shall any monies be paid thereunder, to any contractor, subcontractor or business firm that has not agreed and guaranteed to comply with Affirmative Action Regulations and to afford equal opportunity in the performance of the contract in accordance with the Affirmative Action approved under the terms established in the above-cited regulations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

- (1) The Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached contract with ***Center State Engineering, 481 Spotswood-Englishtown Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831***, in accordance with the Agreement annexed hereto;
- (2) The Department of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to pay Invoices for services rendered by Center State Engineering in an amount not to exceed Eighty thousand dollars (**\$80,000.00**);
- (3) The Contract is awarded with the stipulation that ***Center State Engineering*** shall include within the Contract Mandatory Affirmative Action language and shall submit to the Township of Monroe any appropriate Affirmative Action document within the time period prescribed by law;
- (4) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-264                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND TOWNSHIP OF MONROE REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS FUNDS.**  
(FY 2018, 2019, and 2020)

**WHEREAS**, the County of Middlesex, Division of Housing, Community Development and Social Services, by copy of letter dated September 12, 2017, has advised that an amendment is needed to the 1994 Cooperation Agreements, which have automatic renewal clauses, to include a provision required in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2014;

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, upon review of the request dated September 12, 2017, does hereby agree that the Cooperative Agreement between the County of Middlesex and Township of Monroe, originally dated June 9, 1993 and now to be renewed for federal fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020, be amended as outlined within the Amendment attached hereto and made a part of: and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, that it hereby authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the Amendment to the Cooperation Agreement between the County of Middlesex and Township of Monroe; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that three (3) copies of the executed Addendum with three (3) certified copies of the Resolution authorizing the execution of the Amendment be forwarded to Paul Buckley, Middlesex County Administration Building, Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Office - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-265                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL FEES TO WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, P.A. FOR LEGAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS (OPRA) CONCERNING PERSONNEL MATTERS. (Additional \$7,500.00)**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe seeks professional legal services in connection with Open Public Records requests (OPRA) concerning personnel matters; and

**WHEREAS, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.** possesses the professional expertise required for said legal services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council, by Resolution No. R-9-2017-233, authorized the Contract and provided its advice and consent to the legal services of **Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.** at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 pending further authorization of the Township Council; and

**WHEREAS, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A** has incurred legal fees in excess of the original budgeted amount and has requested authorization for an additional \$7,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has reviewed the request and believes that an additional amount not to exceed Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (**\$7,500.00**) is reasonable at this time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for such an engagement in Certificate No. **C-1700038** a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that it has rendered its advice and hereby authorizes **Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.** be paid for legal services rendered in connection with Open Public Records (OPRA) requests in the amount of **\$7,500.00**.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-266                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, Premiums have been paid for various properties for the purchase of Tax Lien Certificates for properties listed on the Tax Map of the Township of Monroe, in the amount of One hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars and no cents (\$127,000.00),

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54: 5-33 said premiums must be returned to the purchasers upon redemption:

**WHEREAS**, The Tax Lien Certificates as outlined on Schedule A have been redeemed:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Monroe in the County of Middlesex in the State of New Jersey that the Township's Certified Municipal Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to draw a check from the Township's Trust Account in the amount listed on Schedule A and forward same to the Tax Collector for distribution to the purchasers.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-267                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe is the holder of various Tax Sale Certificates covering certain Blocks and Lots in the Township of Monroe; and

**WHEREAS**, redemption has been made to the following Tax Title Lien #13-00058 for the property known as Block 89 Lot 1 assessed to Frankey Lee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has requested that the aforesaid Tax Sale Certificate now be cancelled of record;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the authorization for cancellation of record for the above Tax Sale Certificate: Tax Title Lien #13-00058 assessed to Frankey Lee.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-268                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER TO PREPARE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR MONMOUTH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.**  
(NJ DOT 2017 Grant awarded \$310,000 towards this project)

**WHEREAS**, in the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, the Township has a need for the improvements to Monmouth Road; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4, every contract or agreement for the performance of any work or the furnishing of any materials or supplies, the cost of the contract price wherefore is to be paid with or out of public funds, subject to certain exceptions, shall be made or awarded only by the governing body after public advertising for bids and bidding therefor;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Monroe Township Engineer is hereby authorized to enter into the bidding process for the aforementioned project and may take any action necessary and consistent therewith.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-269                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTER-LOCAL COST SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO AND TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION AT THE OLD BRIDGE-ENGLISHTOWN ROAD AND MOUNTS MILLS ROAD INTERSECTION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe (“Township”) is desirous of providing for improvements to and installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old Bridge-Englishtown Road and Mounts Mills Road (the “Improvements”); and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Middlesex (“County”) has recognized the necessity and desirability of the Improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township and County, in discharge of their public duties, are desirous of jointly providing for the Improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and the Township have agreed to enter into a cost sharing agreement (Agreement”) to apportion the costs of the Improvements between them on mutually acceptable terms and conditions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit “A,” subject to the approval of the Township Engineer and Township Attorney.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-270                    RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX OVERPAYMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector for the Township of Monroe has recommended this Council’s approval to make refunds for tax overpayments in the amount of Twenty-five thousand two hundred fifty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$25,259.58) for the amounts described on Schedule A and attached hereto;

**WHEREAS**, good cause has been shown

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer be and is hereby directed to draw a check from the General Account refunding the Tax overpayments described above to be distributed as set forth on the attached Schedule A:

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-271                    RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GOVERNOR CHRISTIE TO RESTORE CUTS TO THE HOMESTEAD REBATE/BENEFIT PROGRAM AND THE SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, the Legislature enacted the Homestead Rebate Program to provide relief to citizens of New Jersey least able to afford our highest-in-the-nation property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, for several decades, the New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement Program, or "Senior Freeze Program" has provided for reimbursement checks to effectively "freeze" property tax rates for seniors and disabled persons living in Monroe; and

**WHEREAS**, hardworking Monroe Township families and senior and disabled citizens, many of whom live on fixed incomes, rely on these tax relief programs as a means to make ends meet and stay in their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, since assuming office in 2010, Governor Christie has made cuts to the Homestead Rebate Program, including eliminating the benefit altogether for the 2009 tax year, converting the benefit from a direct payment to a tax credit, and postponing payouts; and

**WHEREAS**, the state's annual reduction over the past seven years has cut the average homestead rebate from approximately \$1,200 to \$500 per qualified household; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the Legislature's intent that income eligibility thresholds under the Homestead Rebate Program and the Senior Freeze Program would be adjusted annually to account for cost of living increases, Governor Christie has consistently vetoed such measures and suspended income adjustments; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to raise annual income eligibility thresholds to keep pace with inflation has led to more and more Monroe families and senior and disabled citizens becoming disqualified from much-needed property tax relief or receiving significantly reduced benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2018 fiscal year budget signed into law by Governor Christie maintains cuts to these programs, continuing the progression of reducing benefits to Monroe's senior and disabled citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, these measures have progressively eliminated tax relief programs for those Monroe residents most in need of this help; and

**WHEREAS**, these cuts have negatively affected many senior citizens living in Monroe;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Monroe urge Governor Christie to restore cuts in the Homestead Rebate Program and the Senior Freeze Program to levels that account for rises in property tax rates in New Jersey.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-272                    RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT TRUMP AND CONGRESS NOT TO CUT OR ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION OR THE STATE & LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, under the current federal tax code, homeowners may claim a deduction on their federal income tax returns for mortgage interest paid; and

**WHEREAS**, the mortgage interest deduction a homeowner can take is capped at \$1,000,000 of mortgage debt; and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating or lowering the cap on the mortgage interest deduction would work a de facto tax increase on current and future Monroe Township homeowners and put home ownership further out of reach for many Monroe residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe residents may also deduct state and local taxes they have paid on their federal income tax return, known as the SALT Program; and

**WHEREAS**, in a recent study it was projected that, in 2018, 35.4 million households will claim itemized deductions for mortgage interest; and

**WHEREAS**, according to federal lawmakers, nearly 85 percent of those who currently claim the SALT deduction in New Jersey have household incomes below \$200,000; and

**WHEREAS**, elimination of the SALT deduction would primarily impact low- and middle-income Monroe residents, with an estimated hit of \$3,500 for the average Monroe resident; and

**WHEREAS**, elimination would also result in double taxation, as Monroe residents would be paying federal income taxes on the taxes paid to state and local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is already a “donor state,” meaning we only receive 48 cents from the federal government for every dollar our citizens pay in income tax, the fourth lowest rate of return in the country; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council hereby urge President Trump and Congress, as tax reform is being debated and proposals drafted, to be true to their mandate to deliver tax relief to the middle class by not cutting or eliminating the federal home mortgage interest deduction or the SALT deduction.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-273            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DANIEL ROAD & 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET PEDESTRIAN & ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS.**  
(From the concrete bridge deck to Avenue “K”)

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe is desirous of filing applications for municipal aid for certain municipal improvements which qualify for said funding;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Monroe hereby authorizes and approves submission of a Grant Application and execution of a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Daniel Road & 10<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian & Roadway Improvements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic Grant Application, on behalf of the Township of Monroe, identified as **MA-2018-Daniel Road & 10<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian & Roadway Improvements-00474** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Grant Agreement, on behalf of the Township of Monroe, and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and approval of the execution of the Grant Agreement.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-274            RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CAMELOT NEIGHBORHOOD PEDESTRIAN & ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS.**  
(Includes Forman Ave., Nathaniel St., Florence Dr. and Holly Rd.)

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Monroe is desirous of filing applications for municipal aid for certain municipal improvements which qualify for said funding;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Monroe hereby authorizes and approves submission of a Grant Application and execution of a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Camelot Neighborhood Pedestrian & Roadway Improvements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic Grant Application, on behalf of the Township of Monroe, identified as **MA-2018-Camelot Neighborhood Pedestrian & Roadway Improvements-00475** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Grant Agreement, on behalf of the Township of Monroe, and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and approval of the execution of the Grant Agreement.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2017-276                    RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1  
SUBMITTED BY AQUATIC TECHNOLOGIES, INC. IN CONNECTION  
WITH 2017 WET BASIN MAINTENANCE.**  
(Increase of \$3,500.00 for Treatment to Skeba Dr. Basin)

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. R-6-2017-157, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on June 7, 2017, a contract was awarded to **Aquatic Technologies, Inc., P.O. Box 769, Branchville, NJ 07826**; and

**WHEREAS**, said contract was in the original amount of **\$19,311.04** for 2017 wet basin maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Director of Public Works, Wayne Horbatt, in a letter dated July 6, 2017, has requested approval of Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$3,500.00 for additional treatment of water chestnut infestation to the Skeba Drive basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has reviewed the request and has found same to be reasonable; and

**WHEREAS**, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified in Certificate No. **C-1700027**, a copy of which is attached hereto, that sufficient funds are available to cover the additional expense;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute Change Order No. 1, attached hereto and made a part hereof, in the amount of Three thousand five hundred dollars (**\$3,500.00**). With this change order the total contract price will be **\$22,811.04**.

**SO RESOLVED**, as aforesaid.

Council Vice-President Schneider commented on R-10-2017-271, saying that this resolution is important because the Governor froze this program and at one time the seniors would receive up to \$1,500 and now are only receiving approximately \$200 and we are hoping that the Governor would reverse these cuts in his last few months in office.

She also commented in regard to R-10-2017-273 and R-10-2017-274 stating that she is happy to see that we are being aggressive with applying for State and County grants, also adding that having a strong relationship between the Township and the State is important.

Councilwoman Cohen commented on R-10-2017-258, stating that the generator is a wonderful addition to the Township, as it creates an increased blanket of security. She added that it is important to tell residents about the emergency generators at the Community Center and the Senior Center, especially those residents with special needs.

She commented in regard to R-10-2017-260, we were able to obtain a great price on public health services because we have an inter-local agreement with the County which is wonderful.

Councilman Baskin congratulated Engineer Rasimowicz for putting together the first phase of the Mounts Mills Road and Union Valley Road Paving Project, which will allow us to do very important improvements for that side of town.

Councilman Leibowitz commented on R-10-2017-262 and R-10-2017-268 stating that we have been working on that for a long time and it is very important since children walk to the schools and the playgrounds. He asked at the last meeting that the County to put a no left turn signal at the intersection of Englishtown-Old Bridge Road to keep it safe and thanks to Engineer Rasimowicz for talking with the County, they have agreed to put a signal at that intersection.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

Copy of Resolutions Duly Filed.

Council President Dalina announced that up for discussion tonight, as required per the 2017 State of N.J., D.C.A. Best Practices Inventory, is a discussion about our Municipal Authorities. He turned the discussion over to Administrator Weinberg who explained that as a requirement from the D.C.A. and D.L.G.S. included in their Best Practices Inventory is a requirement to have a discussion pertaining to Municipal Authorities. He explained that the Auditor has looked over the spending, debt and trend of where we are going as a Township and some of the highlights include looking over the tax levy for the fire districts over a period of five years from 2012 to 2017. He noted that it is concerning to look at Fire District #1 and seeing a 104% growth in their tax levy, whereas, Fire Districts # 2 and #3 only had a 23% and 19% growth. He added that he was not sure if that included a recent liability case and recent construction settlement for Fire District #1 but stressed that it is important for the Mayor and Council to look over the process. Another highlight is the outstanding debt to budget ratio with some concern with fiscal health, notably in Fire District #1 which went from \$0 to \$6,000,000, which equates to an increase of 253%. The other districts are at an 82% and 7% ratio. He added that he appreciates the Governor, D.C.A. and D.L.G.S for encouraging us to do this. Council President Dalina commented that it is striking to look at the numbers and asked when this must be submitted; Administrator Weinberg answered that the deadline for submission is October 20<sup>th</sup> which is when it will be submitted to the State. Council President Dalina reiterated that this was a new item on the Best Practices Inventory. Councilwoman Cohen asked if there were any benchmarks and recommendations noted to strengthen our performance where performance is lacking; Administrator Weinberg answered that this is the beginning of a discussion to help us make sure that these Municipal Authorities are successful at fulfilling their missions, as well as, efficient.

#### **REPORTS:**

**Mayor's Report** – Reported on a sad note that former Business Administrator, Gail Feist, has passed away. She was the Township Administrator from 1992-2001 and was a formidable presence of the women's role of leadership, being extremely active in many different roles of municipal government. Many of the initiatives she started are still in place today at the Township and are still in existence here today. He extended his condolences to her friends and family.

Mayor Tamburro reported that over the course of many years, at least since he has been involved with the Township, there have been tax rebates given by the state government to those earning under certain criteria. For those 65 years old and older earning up to \$150,000 and for those under 65 years old and earning less than \$75,000 they would be entitled to a tax rebate of up to \$1,200 per year. As a result of the Christie Administration, those who qualify and receive the tax rebate have lost approximately \$7,600 over the course of the eight years the Christie Administration has been in power. The Senior Property Tax Freeze is also a program, that for those who qualified, would have their taxes frozen and the increase each year would be paid by the State to the Township directly; that program has also been diminished and the tax payers, especially those in Monroe Township as we have over 8,000 residents who qualify for those programs, have been negatively impacted by these actions of the Governor. Because of these negative impacts, the Council has passed a resolution asking the President of the United States of America and Congress to not cut or eliminate the Federal Home Mortgage Interest Deduction or the State and Local Tax Deduction Program, as well as, a resolution to Governor Christie asking him to restore cuts to the Homestead Rebate/Benefit Program and the Senior Property Tax Freeze Program. Mayor Tamburro added that a major tax relief would be for the Township to receive their fair share in State School Aid and hopes that in going forward that will happen.

Mayor Tamburro reported that he has recorded two new shows airing on Channel 28; one that discussed the Energy Aggregation Program, which gives a 19.2% reduction in electricity costs to those residents who signed up to participate. He mentioned that there will be further discussion about the program on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at the Senior Center and again on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm at the Community Center. The other show recorded talks about our experienced Office of Emergency Management. We have generators at our Community Center and Senior Center, making them safe harbors in times when there is no power. We received a \$280,000 grant from FEMA which was used towards the purchase of those generators. Our Chief of Police does an amazing job, as well as, our Township Engineer Mark Rasimowicz who is also a part of the OEM and is an important part of the team as well.

**Administrator's Report** – Administrator Weinberg extended his thanks to the Mayor and Council for their work in the Energy Aggregation Program, highlighting that our residents will save approximately \$400 over the two-year period.

Impressed with the working relationship within the Township between our various departments, as well as, our relationship with County and State Agencies. We have a Shared Services Agreement with the County Health Department which is excellent for us, as it provides necessary services and helps save the taxpayers money. We have also partnered with the County on the Community Development Block Grant, saving us money in administrative costs. The County has taken a leadership role at the Mounts Mills – Englishtown Road intersection for the traffic signal. We have recently been working on transferring land for Fire District 3 and the Board of Education, and the cooperation and teamwork has been great.

In terms of the Global Agreement that we developed about two months ago with the Turnpike, we are pleased to move forward with acquiring 412 acres of Open Space. As part of that agreement, the Turnpike has agreed to take on the responsibility for the pump station. We also have settled the outstanding 2012 taxes which were \$90,000 and explained that we also received \$425,000 in rollback taxes which was over a period of two years. The Turnpike appealed, litigation ensued and we were successful in the Appellate Court. Importantly, the Turnpike cannot appeal that decision or pursue legally and that saves the taxpayers of Monroe Township an incredible amount of money.

He extended congratulations to Township Attorney Joel Shain, for being featured in the New Jersey Law Journal as the winner of the week and thanked him and his staff for their work.

He noted that the Township is continuing to pursue state grants; two of which were apart of tonight's meeting. An email was received today regarding local aide providing grants for freight railroads which the Township Engineer and himself will work together on.

Thanked Amy Rutherford from the Transportation Department for her work in bringing forth an opportunity for the Council to pursue acquiring two new buses through a grant from the Federal Transit Administration which will be used to help transport our seniors and the disabled to their medical appointments.

Lastly, he thanked the Mayor and Council for speaking up regarding the importance of eliminating cuts to the Federal Home Mortgage Interest Deduction or the State and Local Tax Deduction Program, as well as, the Homestead Rebate/Benefit Program and the Senior Property Tax Freeze Program.

Councilman Baskin asked Administrator Weinberg what the Turnpike spent to get the DEP approval on the land; Administrator Weinberg answered the cost was \$4,000,000 to purchase the land and they spent another \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 to build wetlands. DEP required that they build wetlands to replace what was filled in during their Road Widening Project that was done between Exits 6 and 9. They created a beautiful area which allows flooding to happen naturally; also planting 186,000 trees and shrubs.

**Engineer's Report** – Engineer Rasimowicz reported that the Library LED Project broke ground today. The project includes new light poles with LED efficient fixtures, reconstruction of the handicap parking and an electric car charging station.

Reported on the various Township Paving Projects, including updates on: Union Valley Road in the area of The Ponds which will be milled and repaved. Mounts Mills Road near the rear entrance of the Regency. Halsey Reed Road and Wykoff Mills Road near Brickyard Road which will start within two weeks. He added in conversation with the Mayor of Cranbury, the Mayor stated that Cranbury was looking to do improvements on Brickyard Road which is located in Cranbury. Middlesex County has expanded their paving project on Perrineville Road which has encompassed Prospect Plains Road down to the entrance of the Dog Park located at Thompson Park. He thanked the Mayor and Council for pushing that additional extension which now completes the paving being done from there to Federal Road. He added to Councilman Leibowitz's mention earlier of the design work being done for the Monmouth Road Roadway Improvement Project, that handicap ramps and crosswalks will be included as we have received a \$310,000 State Aid Grant. The Ellingham Avenue and Spotswood Avenue Roadway Improvement Project is currently under design and will be funded from a \$300,000 State Aid Grant with the project slated to start sometime in early Spring. He also added on to Council Vice President Schneider's mention of the two resolutions passed tonight for projects which will be encompassed under the new State Aid Program, one being Daniel Road and Tenth Avenue and the other being Camelot. The projects will be for roadway and pedestrian improvements, and if fortunate to receive grant monies for those projects, they will begin in the next year and a half.

An update was also given on the various traffic signal projects, including the traffic signal at the intersection of Matchaponix Avenue and Spotswood Gravel Hill Road; designs are being worked on now and currently construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2018. The traffic signal at the intersection of Old Bridge Englishtown Road and Mounts Mills Road has been expedited by the County so that project will get moving. Lastly, the Spotswood Englishtown Road and Mounts Mills Road traffic signal design has received final approval from the County and has been expedited to begin in coming weeks.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### **Council Vice-President Schneider –**

- On September 20<sup>th</sup>, participated in the Bag for Hunger Event held at the Spotswood Shoprite. Thankful to the people who generously donated to help fight hunger. The statistics are staggering, as 9 out of 12 children in New Jersey go to bed hungry and 5 out of 12 children in Middlesex County go to bed hungry. The United States produces the most food in the world which makes it hard to understand why anyone, children especially, go to bed hungry.
- There will be a free concert held in November at the Richard P. Marasco Performing Arts Center which will feature Academy Award songs being performed.
- The Senior Center is looking for members who are 90+ years old, as they are looking to start a group for those in that age category. Monroe Township has plenty of residents who are over 90 years old who are still very active and that are not ready to be cast aside. A meeting will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.
- The Annual Community Cares Thanksgiving will be on November 23<sup>rd</sup>; if interested in volunteering you can contact the Senior Center. The cost is \$10.00 per person and last year there were over 150 people in attendance.
- The Cultural Arts Commission is holding their Juried Art Show from September 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>. This is where local artists get to showcase their work
- A reminder that the Library's Book Mobile is available to any resident who is homebound. Anyone interested in this service can contact the library and they will then deliver to your home.

### **Councilman Baskin –**

- Attended the Wolverines 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Daniel Ryan Field which was a very impressive event. The boys played football while the girls were cheerleading, and it was a very entertaining event.
- Attended the vintage baseball game at the Dey Farm, where players dressed in old time uniforms and played by the 1864 rules of the game. John Katerba and the Historical Commission did a great job hosting this event. For anyone who has not been at the Dey Farm, Councilman Baskin urged to go as the property is very impressive with a variety of old fashioned farm equipment, a one room schoolhouse and barn with many different exhibits and historical pieces to view
- The Monroe Township Chorus will be performing a slew of Academy Award winning songs on Sunday November 12th at the Richard P. Marasco Performing Arts Center. This event is free with no tickets needed for entry.
- Mentioned that our library, PBA and Township came together for a very successful Hurricane Relief donation effort. A clothing drive was held at the Recreation Center, with over 8,000 pounds of clothing being donated. The donated clothing was recycled for a profit of over \$3,000 going to the Greater Houston Community Foundation. Our library has implemented a fine forgiveness program which has contributed to a donation of over \$1,000 going to the Red Cross and \$500 going to the Humane Society. Our PBA has sent five pickup trucks and one trailer full of non-perishable items to Texas as well. It is great to see the community coming together to help in this time of need. Also mentioned that relief efforts are being made to help those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

### **Councilman Leibowitz –**

- Thanked John Katerba for inviting him to throw out the first pitch during the vintage baseball game. Players wore vintage uniforms which do not include wearing gloves and they played by the rules from the early days of the game. Added that it was a blast to be a part of and recommended everyone attend next year.
- Reported that our PBA headed out to Newark Liberty International Airport to compete in an airplane pulling contest, where a handful of our officers successfully pulled an enormous Boeing 737 as part of a larger fundraiser that raises money for the Special Olympics.
- The Police Unity Tour Fundraiser will take place on November 7<sup>th</sup> at Baker's American Bar. During the hours of 11:30am to 10:00pm, 15% of your bill will be donated by Baker's American Bar to "Team Monroe Township" in their bike unity tour, which raises money for officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

### **Councilwoman Cohen –**

- The new buses we have acquired for medical transportation is a great gift which will help transport our seniors and medically disabled residents to their necessary appointments. An appointment is necessary but there is no charge to utilize this service.
- The Green Fair will be held Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at the high school from 10:00am to 3:00pm. There are almost 100 vendors slated to participate.
- Fall has officially arrived, so it is time to stop at the Recycling Department to pick up your leaf bags.

- A Flu Shot Clinic will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> at our Senior Center from 10:00am to Noon. There will be a \$15.00 charge for the vaccine and if you do not have a Medicare card the charge is \$65.00 and if you are unable to attend you can call to make an appointment.
- The Community Care Giver Retreat will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Forsgate Country Club from 9:00am to 12:30pm. Professionals and other caregivers will be on hand to discuss issues on this topic. If you are interested in attending, you can call the County's Office of Aging to reserve.

**Council President Dalina** –

- Our annual Octoberfest will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Community Center from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. There will be vendors, food trucks and a DJ and will be a guaranteed good time for everyone.
- The Soccer Complex on Prospect Plains Road is being improved and updated so currently soccer is being held at Veteran's Park on Avenue K. It is great to see the fields being utilized as there are over 1,000 children in our soccer program.
- The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee will be meeting this upcoming Wednesday in the Mayor's Conference Room. Last year we had a mock trial for drunk driving during prom season. They are a great group of kids involved and it gives them an opportunity to get involved in the community.

**Public:**

**Mark Klein, 7 Crenshaw Ct.** – Mr. Klein commented that he was a former football player, playing in the Army, and he is appalled and offended by what is going on in the NFL including the owners. He finds it extremely offensive and brings up that in today's Home News & Tribune on the front page it was reported that four players from our Township took a knee during the National Anthem. According to the article the students approached the coach with what their intention was and when the coach checked with the Board of Education they stated there is no policy that prevents them from doing so and they are protected under the First Amendment. He feels that there must be a policy that states they must stand during the anthem. He asked that the Mayor and Council contact the Board of Education and support the veterans who fought for the flag and the National Anthem and have them change their policy.

**John Marullo, 7 Dominic Dr.** – Mr. Marullo asked who is the legal retained counsel for Monroe Township; Council President Dalina answered that currently Shain Shaffer represent the Township. Mr. Marullo mentioned that through OPRA he was able to receive copies of Joel Shain and Marguerite Schaffer's direct deposits and asked if they are employees of the Township; Council President Dalina answered that they cover any legal matters that may arise within the Township, they attend our meetings and handle any extraordinary issues that come before us. Mr. Marullo asked for clarification as to what the direct deposit covers; Council President Dalina answered that it covers their services. Mr. Marullo asked where their office is located; Council President Dalina answered that they represent our Township from their office. Mr. Marullo commented that they are then receiving a pay check but their office is not even located with the Township. Administrator Weinberg added that in the Code it allows us to create the position of Law Director, which they attend meetings and advise the Council and the Township. We have this executed and it is not uncommon as other towns have done the same. He added that with that being said there are other needs of the Township that are large in scope and we do an RFP every year for those services. Council President Dalina added that even he as a councilmember does not have a desk or a chair in the municipal building. Mr. Marullo asked if Shain Schaffer receives health benefits, to which, Administrator Weinberg answered no. Mr. Marullo asked if they receive a pension; Administrator Weinberg answered that none of our elected officials are in a defined benefit program but there are other entities, such as, the fire districts where their elected officials are in PERS. Mr. Marullo asked if any member of Council receives a health benefits opt out check; Council President Dalina replied that that is different than receiving a pension. Administrator Weinberg answered that there may be one member that does but since we have eliminated the opt out program going forward and for new employees we have limited it to \$5,000 and as a Township have saved close to \$1.1 million dollars per year by allowing those who choose to opt out.

**Prakash Parab, 33 Dayna Dr.** – Mr. Parab commented that he appreciates R-10-2017-271 and R-10-2017-272.

He noted that Washington is looking to cut Medicare/Medicaid which will impact the citizens of Monroe as well as all of the citizens of the United States. They are also proposing tax increases and Mr. Parab urged everyone to call and write their congress, legislators and senators.

Commented that roadway improvements should be considered for Applegarth Road from Prospect Plains Road to the CVS Pharmacy as it is a heavily trafficked roadway.

Lastly, he added that we all need to stand united, as this is the United States of America.

**Gary Busman, 7 Monarch Rd.** – Mr. Busman asked regarding R-10-2017-256 who the money is coming from; Council President Dalina answered that this is an annual grant received from the Department of Treasury; Administrator Weinberg answered it is specifically from the Division of Law and Safety.

Commented that R-10-2017-258 regarding the generator project that was done has been wonderful and it is a very positive thing for the Township as it keeps the residents safe and secure.

Asked in regard to R-10-2017-265, why we are spending \$7,500 for a firm to deal directly with public records; Council President Dalina answered that because we received an OPRA request about our legal counsel we felt it necessary to utilize Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer for their help and keep our legal counsel out of it since it was an OPRA request about them. He added that over the last few years, the Clerk's Office has been inundated with requests, having to hire someone specifically for OPRA. Unfortunately, there is a cost involved with it. Administrator Weinberg added that because it was a targeted request having a different attorney to look into it was necessary. He added that a tremendous number of employees deal with these requests and we have a responsibility to be transparent, open and respond in a timely matter. He also added that we have received this year, 277 individual requests from Mr. Charles Dipierro and 702 requests total from him over the course of three years. That equates to more than one request per day from him and sometimes it takes extra time to respond because of our other responsibilities but we are committed to transparency. He stated that he is not sure if that was what the intention of OPRA was and unfortunately it costs the taxpayers. Mr. Busman added that he did not understand why one person would make that many requests.

**Hy Grossman, 15 Doral Dr.** – Mr. Grossman questioned R-10-2017-267 asking why are we cancelling the tax sale certificate; Administrator Weinberg answered that it is \$34 and was a clerical error in the Tax Office.

Commented that in regard to the Division of Local Government Services, this Township anticipated these requirements by consolidating the Utilities Authority so we no longer have to deal with the issue of having an outside Authority. Now that it is a part of our government we are probably saving some money.

Gave a Public Service Announcement to those with Medicare Part D drug coverage stating that his prescription went from \$130 per month to \$6.66 per month by switching over to generic medication. He emphatically stated that those who have this type of coverage should definitely try generic as it saves money.

Councilman Baskin commented that the Utilities Authority for the last 26 years has not increased their rates and he recently read an article that New Jersey American Water had just increased their rates by 18%, so Mike Barnes and everyone at the Utility Department is doing a great job.

**Phil Levy, 92 Kings Mill Rd.** – Mr. Levy questioned R-10-2017-261 stating that we have a wonderful library but asked why it is necessary to purchase \$90,000 worth of books and where will we put them; Council President Dalina responded that this is inclusive to a wide spectrum of goods and services, including books, DVD's and other services not just strictly books.

**Michele Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St.** – Mrs. Arminio commented that she is disappointed that the Business Administrator is disparaging an individual for their OPRA requests, adding that the intent under the Open Public Records Act is to satisfy an individual's responsibility and civic duty to understand what their government is doing supposedly as their representative. We have many people who get jobs in government, some who do not even show up for them and some of them are relatives of people who have jobs in the government to say you have to hire people to satisfy a right to every citizen in this country to oversee their government and to disparage an individual is just political dirty play. She added that if records were available online there may not be so many requests made and we as citizens have a common law right to avail ourselves of information from our local government as you are here to serve us and not vice versa. She added that it is unfortunate that when there is a disagreement they are disparaged as we all have a right to be heard. Councilman Baskin asked to respond to Mrs. Arminio but Council President Dalina asked that any response can be made after

her time limit is up. Mrs. Arminio commented back to that this is what happens when people take offense to an individual wanting information. She stated that she has always remained respectful, having a good moral and ethical background when asking questions and she should be allowed to continue to do so. Lastly, she stated that she believes everyone has the right to peacefully protest.

Mrs. Arminio asked a question in regard to R-10-2017-276, as to where the money was coming from and if it was out of the general fund; Administrator Weinberg answered that this is coming from our Wet Basin Maintenance Fund.

Councilman Baskin commented that she is entitled to her own opinion but she is not entitled to the facts and our Administrator was stating facts that we have received an extraordinary number of OPRA requests and many of them could be frivolous, asking how she would handle it; Mrs. Arminio commented back stating that the frivolousness is not a fact that is his opinion.

**George Gunkelman, 5 Kelly Ct.** – Mr. Gunkelman asked in regard to the Best Practices Inventory, what are the number of households represented by each of the fire districts; Administrator Weinberg answered that he has a valuation of assets which he shared, being 40% of assets are in Fire District 2, 35% in Fire District 3 and 25% in Fire District 1. Mr. Gunkelman asked how many hydrants are within each district; Mike Barnes answered there are approximately 800 hydrants in each of the districts. Mr. Gunkelman commented that each district pays a fee for each of the hydrants that are in their districts; Mike Barnes said that is correct. Mr. Gunkelman stated that a higher percentage of the districts with a smaller budget would go towards just the fees for the hydrants; Administrator Weinberg answered that those fees have not changed since 2012. Mr. Gunkelman added that we all pay taxes but we do not separate how it is being allocated as it all comes out of the same pocket so he feels that regarding the money that goes to the fire districts a lot of it goes towards hydrant fees. He feels that the artificial break out of certain items have a lot of distortion attached to it and it is not giving the full picture; Council President Dalina commented that this is just the start of the process.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 9:20pm.

ROLL CALL: Councilwoman Miriam Cohen	Aye
Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Stephen Dalina	Aye

*Patricia Reid*  
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PATRICIA REID, Township Clerk

*Stephen Dalina*  
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STEPHEN DALINA, Council President

Minutes were adopted on: November 8, 2017.