

COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE

MINUTES

AGENDA MEETING - MAY 25, 2011

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

The Agenda Meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Gerald W. Tamburro with a Salute to the Flag.

UPON ROLL CALL by Township Clerk, Sharon Doerfler, the following members of Council were present: Councilwoman Leslie Koppel, Councilmen Michael Leibowitz and Irwin Nalitt, Council Vice-President Henry L. Miller and Council President Gerald W. Tamburro.

ALSO PRESENT for Council were: Mayor Richard Pucci, Business Administrator Wayne R. Hamilton and Township Attorney Joel L. Shain.

ABSENT from this meeting was Township Engineer Ernest W. Feist.

There were approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) members of the Public present in the audience.

Council President Gerald W. Tamburro requested the following **SUNSHINE LAW** be read 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 of this meeting has been provided by the following:

1. Posted on January 7, 2011 on the Bulletin Board of the Office of the Township Clerk in the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and **CRANBURY PRESS** on January 7, 2011;
3. Posted on January 7, 2011 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.

Council President Tamburro introduced Les Adams, President, Public Safety Solutions, Inc. (PSSI, Inc.) for a presentation on the Fire Consolidation Study. He advised that Les Adams was engaged by the Township to do a study of the three fire districts. Mr. Adams will do a Power-Point presentation and after that there will be a public forum for questions. The regularly scheduled Agenda Meeting will follow where there again will be a public portion for the remainder of the items on the Agenda.

Mr. Adams began the Power-Point, speaking about PSSI, Inc., and their nationwide experience throughout the years, referencing specific towns in NJ where they specifically worked on merger study projects. Bio's were given on the various corporate staff members of PSSI. He advised the philosophy of the corporation is to provide an open and honest assessment, offer an objective approach, give attention to specific department mission, value customer input, place emphasis on safety first and prioritize the human element because there is always change involved when they do the work they do. He stated PSSI also relies heavily on laws and established standards, NFPA and State requirements. Mr. Adams went on to describe the scope of work done in the Monroe Township Study and went through the various findings outlined in the Fire District Consolidation Study and briefly described the recommendations that have been made. The Power-Point presentation went on for approximately 20-30 minutes, after which time Council President Tamburro entertained questions from the public.

Council President Tamburro stated that obviously what has just been presented is merely the tree-tops of a very thick report prepared by Les Adams. The Council received the report on Friday and has not had time to review more than the summary. With that said, if anyone has a general question they wish to ask Mr. Adams at this time, please come up. Rules are, state your name, address and whether you are a Commissioner or Firefighter. Each person is given five (5) minutes to speak.

Les Barta, 223 Rhode Hall Road, Fire Commissioner for Fire District #3 - asked Mr. Adams if this report is going to be made available in pdf form so it can be posted on the websites.

Council President Tamburro stated that at the conclusion of this portion of the meeting, each Chairman of the Fire Districts will receive the Report. Tomorrow Mr. Hamilton will make the necessary arrangements to have it posted on the township's website and copies will be available for purchase.

Anthony Prezioso, 8 Equestrian Way - asked if this is a Study that the Township paid for and Council President Tamburro replied "yes". Mr. Prezioso asked the cost and Administrator Hamilton advised the original contract awarded was \$38,850. Mr. Prezioso asked if there was no one in the township that could have done the Study and Council President Tamburro advised that 4 or 5 years ago the Township tried to do an internal report and it just never got anywhere. There were too many diverse opinions as to what to do and it was felt that in dealing with a new Master Plan it was time to have an outsider with the experience and background that Mr. Adams has. Mr. Prezioso felt that all of these studies feel like a template that everybody else uses.

John Kuehns, 11 Fox Run – stated that when Mr. Adams mentioned the Consolidation Committee he didn't notice any mention of taxpayers being involved and questioned why members of the general public weren't included. He also questioned why a Union representative would be involved in the Committee and, as a taxpayer that gives him some concern that the Township would ask the Union to advise them as to how to deal with this issue. He stated he is a retired Union person himself, not anti-Union at all and has 33 years experience in emergency response organizations and has never invited Union Reps to sit in on decision making at this level.

Council President Tamburro suggested Mr. Adams should respond to Mr. Kuehns, asking Mr. Adams if he had interviewed any ordinary citizens in compiling the report. Mr. Adams stated they did interview quite a number of stake-holders. Mr. Kuehns stated that Mr. Adams did, in fact, interview him. Council President Tamburro asked Mr. Adams to give the logic behind the persons that were recommended to the Committee. Mr. Adams stated he felt Councilman Leibowitz was a good representative of the public, the League of Women Voters representative is a member of the public and unless they don't live in the area, pretty much everybody is a taxpayer. He stated he did not specifically list taxpayers but felt this represented a wide range of people.

Council President Tamburro asked if Mr. Adams would answer the other question regarding why there is a Union representative involved. Mr. Adams stated that having a Union representative on these Committees is normal. It is not unusual to have Union representation on a planning committee. This Committee reports to the Mayor and Council and does not have specific decision making authority in terms of operations.

Mr. Kuehns stated his comments still stand. In the private sector a Union representative would certainly not be invited to an advisory committee of this nature. He understands that the Union President of the Firefighters Union in Monroe is also not a resident of Monroe Township and asked if that is true. This could not be confirmed and Mr. Kuehns reiterated that he feels members of the Committee should be residents and taxpayers of the town.

Maurice Mahler, Fire Commissioner, Fire District #2 – asked if Mr. Adams can elaborate on the Cherry Hill consolidation. Mr. Adams stated he can elaborate on the work that he did, which was to work with the Mayor of Cherry Hill and provide her with fire services advice, initially before there was a consolidation. Commissioner Mahler asked if Mr. Adams had been the consultant for Cherry Hill and had started the consolidation process there. Mr. Adams stated he was their consultant and it was probably around 1995. Commissioner Mahler asked if he had done any follow-ups after that and Mr. Adams stated "no".

Allan Kahn, 11 Crenshaw Court – stated he was one of the people that spoke with Mr. Adams, giving his thoughts on the subject. He stated he was very happy with his presentation until he got to the end when he threw it back at the township. Mr. Kahn reiterated the reason the township sent this out, hired a consultant at a high rate for this report, was because the Mayor and Council couldn't come to an idea as to how to do this consolidation and to him it sounds like his recommendation is for the township to get together and come up with an idea for consolidation. Stated he would hope the township would go back to the consultant hired and say "give us a recommendation".

Mayor Pucci stated that Mr. Adams will be retained as the professional and specialist, with the Committee members that he has appointed and who have agreed to serve. As to the final recommendations in the Report, it basically says this is a big decision to make and here is what you can do; A,B,C,D. Those choices range anywhere from keeping it the way it is, but strengthen it, to one municipal or one operational fire district. The Mayor stressed that with this Committee the taxpayers are most certainly represented. Wayne Hamilton, as the Business Administrator, will chair the Committee, Council member Michael Leibowitz certainly cares about the taxpayers as do many or all the people on the Committee who are also taxpayers in the township. Once the township goes through this analysis we will have some in-depth recommendations to move it forward in the decades to come and hopefully there will be a consensus by everyone. The Mayor assured the Public that he and the Council are going to make sure we have the very best services and that both employees and volunteers, when the decision is made, will hopefully be united together in the best interests of the community.

The Mayor advised the Public of his appointment of the following individuals to serve on the Fire Consolidation Study Advisory Committee and that all have confirmed their willingness to serve:

Chairman – Wayne Hamilton, Business Administrator

Michael Leibowitz, Councilman
Doug Martin, Fire District #3 Board Chairman
Maurice Mahler, Fire District #2 Board Chairman
Charles Dipierro, Fire District #1 Board Chairman
John Kraivec, Police Chief
James Grande, IAFF Local 3170 President
Ruth Banks, League of Women Voters
Lonnie Pipero, Chief, Monroe Volunteer Fire Company #1
Mark Davis, Deputy Chief, Applegarth Volunteer Fire Company
Rich Hayes, Former Fire Chief, Monroe Volunteer Fire Company #1

It will be up to Administrator Hamilton to structure the Committee from here and Les Adams will serve as a paid consultant during this on-going process.

Mr. Kahn again asked for a time-line. Mr. Adams believed the time-line is next April, at which time the Committee will report to the Mayor and Council.

Jeff Wood, 1166 Half Acre Road, Jamesburg, a paid Lieutenant in Fire District 3 - asked why the two (2) career chiefs are not involved on the advisory board. Mr. Adams advised that one of the recommendations within the Report is that there would be a township fire chief and thought they would be competing for that position and therefore, there might be a problem for them to serve.

Michele Arminio, 9 Nathaniel Street – asked if this is the second study done on this type of consolidation in the township. Administrator Hamilton stated it is probably the fourth or fifth, but many of them were very informal. The last two, one by the League of Women Voters and the other by a very informal group of people, representatives from all the districts in the township, ended without any resolution. Every year they hear concerns about the growing budgets of fire protection services in Monroe and the concerns of the taxpayers. It was time to bring a professional in and that is ultimately what the Mayor and Council did. As they went through the budget process last year \$100,000 was budgeted. RFP's were put out for nationwide consultants to respond. He believed four or five consultants did respond and Mr. Adams was selected on the basis of his expertise, his objectivity and his experience in the fire services field. Administrator Hamilton stated he believes there may have been one other fire study that either one of the fire districts engaged and/or the township. He thought the name of the company may have been Ed-Con. He wasn't sure how much expertise they had in the fire service end.

Ms. Arminio asked if this is the first time we are actually spending this type of money and Administrator Hamilton responded certainly within the last two decades. Council President Tamburro stated he thinks it is fair to say this is the first time the township has spent any money on it. The other reports may have been from the fire districts.

Ms. Arminio asked for confirmation on the fact that anything in the Fire Consolidation Report is merely a suggestion and Mr. Adams stated they are just recommendations and options that are laid out for consideration. Her suggestion was that one citizen from each district be appointed on the Commission as well and maybe one member of the general public that happens to frequently attend fire district meetings.

The Mayor stated that the people on the Committee do represent fire services or some relation to it and wants to keep it earmarked in that manner; however, a member of the League of Women Voters was appointed that is representative of someone with a non-fire interest but with a citizen's interest.

There was continued dialogue on the issue of appointing one citizen from each of the fire districts and as to whether these Committee meetings would be open to the Public. Administrator Hamilton stated that one of the thought processes of Les Adams and himself as well, was that by having a Council Member serve on the advisory committee and the three fire district Chairs, obviously there is the ability to take information back to their respective public meetings and communicate it to the public as well.

Patrick Hye, Mounts Mills Road thanked Mr. Adams for a very informative report and looks forward to reading it and talking about it. He did not feel it was fair that the Council made the decision to form the advisory committee, as recommended by Mr. Adams, without the Public having the ability to read the report beforehand. He too has a problem with the Union representative being on the Committee and took exception to the Mayor not taking the recommendations from the people in the Public indicating their wish to have somebody that doesn't have a ball in this game, on the Committee. The Mayor stated that the professional that did the report determined the structure of the advisory committee to best get the end result. He stated he is going to follow what the consultant is recommending and does not see anything wrong with the body of people on that Committee. One of the key considerations for the study is the wide discrepancy between the fire district rates and the boundaries.

Tom Nothstein, 15 Nathaniel St. - stated he is disappointed with the Report and didn't think there is anyone in the public tonight that wasn't expecting some sort of resolution or recommendation other than "let's form another committee". He took exception to not having had access to the report. Felt that everyone would have been able to ask intelligent questions had they had access to the Report prior to tonight.

Mayor Pucci stated he will repeat again for those who may have not heard it. These Reports, when dealing with three fire districts in a community, who have been serving the community for decades, it is a very serious decision to make. The official protocol of a Report is that a presentation is made and the elected officials have the right, as the Council President determined, to be the first ones to receive the Report, similar to the Master Plan or anything else. It is the body here that gets the Report and then, as stated, it will be on-line and then there will be about an eight month process, of which there will be extensive reviews, workshops, etc. Neither he nor the governing body are going to go on a whim and come up with recommendations and statements without having in-depth analysis and input from everyone, including the taxpayers. Once all the information and recommendations have been received, he and the governing body, together, will decide what is appropriate and where the township will go from those results. The whole purpose of this Report is to have a good analysis as to where we are today and what is out there professionally and how we will move forward in the next 7-8 months, gather all that information and consider everyone's interests and hopefully come up with an ideal program for Monroe. He stated he sees nothing wrong with that approach. This is too serious an issue and feels the township needs to tread slowly, properly and professionally.

Mr. Nothstein stated he thought that is what we were doing. All along he has been told it is a consolidation report, not a study as to what to do. He stated he expected recommendations and did not expect voting on this tonight but expected maybe to see a committee formed to see how the recommendations would be implemented.

Council President Tamburro stated the Report consists of 183 pages which he has looked at diligently and only got through the executive summary. There is a lot of information in the Report. There is no way they can take that Report and say "this is where we're going" because there are so many options in the Report that needs further discussion and study.

Administrator Hamilton advised that the mission that was given Mr. Adams and his company was to gather facts, prepare recommendations and available options that this governing body could review. That is where the process is at and we are in Phase 1 of that process. It would be an unfair characterization to say that the only thing we got out of the Report was a recommendation to form an advisory committee. There are a very, very large number of recommendations embodied in the Report that the advisory committee, in working with Mr. Adams, has to deliberate over and make ultimate recommendations.

Mr. Nothstein stated that sounds much better, but he also has a concern with the make-up of the Committee, particular with the Chairs of each fire district. In the Report it was brought out that they are against consolidation, so already they have their minds made up that this is not the right way to proceed.

Council President Tamburro stated he spoke with Councilman Leibowitz and asked him if he would serve as the Council representative on this Committee for several reasons. One, he lives in the first fire district and that is where we have the largest number of volunteers and Councilman Leibowitz has assured him that he could be both open-minded and fair in dealing with all the issues of consolidation.

Councilman Leibowitz stated that the day he was sworn-in he was surrounded by three members of the third fire district who wanted to talk about consolidation, so you can't say everyone is against it because they were actually for it.

Patricia O'Connor, 112 Old Church Road and a member of the Applegarth Volunteer Engine Company in Fire District 2. She stated she would like to know where Mr. Adams got his information. She doesn't know why they have fire trucks or fire apparatus in the firehouse if they are not making calls.

Mr. Adams stated they do not respond regularly, to his knowledge. Ms. O'Connor stated they are the volunteer part and the way the Report read, they didn't even get a little red dot, only a green one and it sounded like they were very inefficient type people. Her recollection was that they had had a meeting with Mr. Adams and had informed him at that time that they were getting new members. Mr. Adams confirmed that and said he is very impressed with what he has heard they are doing. Mr. O'Connor stated it would have been nice if that had been included in the Report so that the advisory committee knows the volunteers who went out and built that building and paid for it in full.

Mike Costello, 22 Garvey Drive, Fire Commissioner, Fire District #1 – complicated Les Adams on a job well done. He had an interview with him and he asked good insightful questions, seemed to listen and weigh things and did a good job with the report. Mr. Costello stated he does not have a problem with Mr. Hamilton, Councilman Leibowitz, Chief Piperio and Commissioner Dipierro representing his interests as a Commissioner and as a citizen on this committee. However, if you look at what is being said tonight and the history that has done on and the misinformation and the conflicts that have occurred, he did not think it was such a bad idea to have one citizen from each district on that committee. He stated Vinnie LaFata, Steve Gorbe, come to all Fire District 1's meetings, where they have differences with them. It is sometimes a little uncomfortable but there are questions asked and answers. He felt it would be a good idea to have these people on the committee just get the message around town and to get a feel for what the general public's ideas are on the issue.

A ten minute recess was called at 8:50 PM at which time the Chairman of each of the three Fire Districts (Charlie Dipierro, FD#1, Maurice Mahler, FD#2 & Doug Martin, FD#3) was given a copy of the Fire District Consolidation Study.

The Agenda Meeting was reconvened at 9PM.

Council President Tamburro read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **SECOND READING** at the **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011** Regular Council Meeting:

- a. **ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 109.03, LOTS 2, 3 AND 20 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.**
- b. **ORDINANCE ACCEPTING LANDS TO BE DEDICATED FOR PURPOSES OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE "LAUREL ESTATES" RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION.**

Council President Tamburro read the following **ORDINANCES** for **INTRODUCTION** at the **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011** Regular Council Meeting:

- a. **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 79 THEREOF ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT, RULES AND REGULATIONS", ARTICLE XII ENTITLED "QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS".**
- b. **ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SALARIES AND WAGES OF POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.**

Council President Tamburro requested the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011** Regular Council Meeting be reviewed:

- a. **RESOLUTION REFUNDING THIRD PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**
- b. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT TO HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C., FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH PUMP STATION #1 LIGHTING & VENTILATION REPAIRS FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.").**
- c. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE POSTED FOR ROAD OPENING PERMIT NO. 03-45.**
- d. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND GRANTING PERMISSION TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS.**
- e. **RESOLUTION CERTIFYING AMOUNT OF TAXES TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.**
- f. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 SUBMITTED BY R&B BUILDERS, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERRINEVILLE ROAD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS.**
- g. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CELLULAR LEASES FOR WIRELESS CARRIERS LOCATED ON TOWNSHIP AND MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.") PROPERTY.**
- h. **RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948). (Clean Communities Grant - \$69,716.11)**
- i. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID FOR 2011-2012 MONROE TOWNSHIP PRINTING. (Bid to be opened 6/1/2011)**
- j. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID FOR 2011 MONROE TOWNSHIP HVAC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES. (Bid to be opened 5/27/11)**

- k. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SHAIN, SCHAFFER & RAFANELLO, P.C. TO HANDLE THE MATTER OF GARVEY ET ALS V. TOWNSHIP OF MONROE AS EXTRAORDINARY LITIGATION.**
- l. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE 2011 – 2012 LICENSE TERM.**
- m. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF CASH MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE POSTED WITH THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”) FOR S 991 – SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD SEWER EXTENSION.**
- n. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF CASH MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE POSTED WITH THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”) FOR W & S 264 – MONROE PINES, INC. (SECTIONS 1-5).**
- o. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”) TO PREPARE SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISE FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES.**
- p. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE. (Purchase of Personal Radiological Detectors)**

Council President Tamburro asked if there were any questions regarding the Resolutions. There being none, he turned to Mayor Pucci for the Mayor’s report.

Mayor’s Report – Nothing further this evening

Administrator’s Report – Nothing further this evening

Engineer’s Report – Absent this evening

Council Reports:

Councilwoman Koppel – reported that the NJ Symphony Orchestra will be performing on June 25th at 8pm. The summer series at the park will be starting on Thursday evenings at Thompson Park.

She also commented on the Consolidation Study stating that “We all need to work together”.

Councilman Leibowitz – spoke on the Memorial Day Services May 30th at the various locations in the town. Also, this Saturday, the Jewish War Veterans have requested that each temple read the names of the fallen Jewish War Veterans.

Councilman Nalitt – stated that he served on one of the past consolidation committees and was totally frustrated by the lack of co-operation between the various fire companies. Hopefully with this road map to work from, greater co-operation can be achieved and some resolution to the problem.

Council Vice-President Miller – complimented the appointment of Councilman Leibowitz to the committee. Also, complimented Less Adams on his presentation this evening.

Council President Tamburro – stated that there is a lot of good information in the Consolidation Study. The background for the comments that Mr. Adams made this evening are within the study and will enable the committee to look.

He also announced that the next Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8th due to the Primary Election.

PUBLIC:

Mark Klein, 53 Turnberry Dr. – felt that what went on this evening by the residents regarding the consolidation study was embarrassing to both the Mayor and Mr. Adams.

Tom Nothstein, 15 Nathaniel St. – Questioned Item #8.k. - Shain, Schaffer & Rafanella for Gravey v. Township of Monroe – Was advised the lawsuit is being brought against the town by a group of retirees regarding the change in health care coverage - questioned the amount - \$10,000.

Item #8.f. – Change Order - R&B Builders regarding Perrineville Road Sidewalks – Council President Tamburro explained that this was a Federal DOT Grant on a County Road with the County setting the standard for the number of Police to direct traffic. Due to problems, it was increased to a little over \$11,000. The money is returned to the Police Dept. by the contractor.

Mr. Nothstein also requested that the Council allow the public to sit in on the Consolidation Study meetings for transparency.

Marcia Kastan, 107 Leeds Lane - League of Women Voters – thanked the Mayor for recognizing the Leagues past consolidation study and for appointing a League member to the Committee.

She also questioned the meeting of the Planning Board on the Master Plan. Council President Tamburro stated there will be a Special Meeting of the Planning Board on June 6th for the sole purpose of dealing with the Master Plan.

Charles Petretti, 4A Wingate Court, Community of Concordia – had a few suggestions regarding Community signage for retirement communities; signs located off of Route 130 should be alphabetized; need new lines on roadways, especially Centre Drive, and public work on the roadways on Centre Drive should be moved to the weekend when it is less disruptive.

Questioned Items #8.i. & j. - Bid Awards – Administrator Hamilton explained they are upcoming bid awards. The bids have not yet been received.

Traffic light – last year there was mention of a traffic light being installed at Union Valley & Perrineville Roads and asked the status. Council President Tamburro explained there have been some land acquisition problems delaying the project. The next traffic light will be at Perrineville & Federal Roads. Administrator Hamilton also added there is also insufficient right-of-way at Perrineville & Union Valley Roads.

Mr. Petretti then asked if we already had the grant money from Middlesex County for the Dey Farm and will it be utilized for this specific purpose. Administrator Hamilton explained there will be an Ordinance on next month's meeting for another \$300,000 to allow for a host of improvements to the Dey Farm property.

Mr. Petretti stated he understands there was a delay in the receipt of snow removal monies to the senior communities. Administrator Hamilton explained that as soon as the proof of the amount of monies expended is received, it is processed for payment.

Item #8.o. – purchase of goods and services by individual departments – Administrator Hamilton explained this is actually regarding maintenance and repair of an ion exchange system for the Monroe Township Utility Department.

Item #8.e. – amount of taxes to be raised by taxation for school purposes – Council President Tamburro explained the amount to be raised from taxation was reduced by a little over one million dollars.

Mike Konowitz, 415 Hoffman Station Rd. – questioned Mr. Adams recommendation for the relocation of the Schoolhouse Road Firehouse. Council President Tamburro stated that he read the report and remembers a recommendation for a satellite firehouse on Route 33. Mr. Konowitz recommended that the Chief's be required to attend fires to perhaps organize the manpower.

He also questioned if permit fees were being charged for Colin Pascik's house. No one knew but an answer will be gotten by the June 8th Regular Meeting.

Michele Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Questioned the following Items on the Agenda:

Item #8.e. – Amount to be raised by taxation – Advised Eighty-eight million, four hundred fifty two thousand dollars.

Item #8.f. - Grant for the Police for the Perrineville Road Sidewalks – originally calculated at \$15,000 and they are now asking for an additional \$11,000.

Item #8.m. – MTUD Release of Cash Maintenance Guarantees – M.T.U.D. Director Mike Rogers explained that the work is complete and the developer is Mr. McDaid.

Item #8.o. – MTUD Resolution for Goods and Services – Administrator Hamilton explained it is for “iron exchange systems maintenance & repair”.

Item #8.p. – Township Agreement with the County for the purchase of Personal Radiological Detectors. Administrator Hamilton explained this is a Grant that the County received for radiation detectors to be distributed among various Police Departments.

Ms. Arminio also asked Mr. Hamilton to explain the “Community Services Act” regarding snow removal, which is part of the services provided by the Township, for non-gated/non-community association parts of the community.

Steve Gorbe - 113 Gravel Hill-Spotswood Rd. – spoke on the need for consolidation of the fire districts and the need for one (1) new tax rate for all of Monroe Township. He proceeded to describe the fire departments with their needs and the changes that should be made within each district. He then spoke of the (3) fliers put out by Fire District # 3 prior to the election.

Les Barta – 223 Rhode Hall Rd. – Fire Commissioner for Fire District #3 – Thanked the Mayor, Council & Mr. Adams for the Report. He asked that as the town moves forward to please do it with deliberate and careful steps.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Koppel and seconded by Council Vice-President Miller, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 9:40 pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilwoman Leslie Koppel	Aye
	Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
	Councilman Irwin Nalitt	Aye
	Council Vice-President Henry L. Miller	Aye
	Council President Gerald W. Tamburro	Aye

SHARON DOERFLER, Township Clerk

GERALD W. TAMBURRO, Council President

Minutes adopted on _____