

**** The public will be able to view this meeting via the following YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/@monroetownship>**

THE FOLLOWING IS A **PRELIMINARY AGENDA** AND THERE MAY BE CHANGES MADE TO THE AGENDA BEFORE OR AT THE MEETING, AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

**COMBINED AGENDA/REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

DECEMBER 4, 2023

1. **AGENDA MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** (6:30 p.m.)

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG.**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Councilman Charles Dipierro
Councilman Michael Markel
Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel
Council Vice President Terence Van Dzura
Council President Miriam Cohen

4. Township Clerk Patricia Reid reads the **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, 2022 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and the **CRANBURY PRESS** on December 30, 2022;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. 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.

5. **PROCLAMATIONS:**

Acknowledging the Efforts of the Sewa Diwali Food Drive 2023

6. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **SECOND READING** at the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting:

O-11-2023-026 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO CONVEY A DEED OF EASEMENT OVER PROPERTY AT 210 CRANBURY HALF ACRE ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 41, LOT 14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.**
(JCP&L easement – Veterans Housing Project)

7. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **INTRODUCTION** at the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting:

O-12-2023-027 **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT”, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 50 ENTITLED “DIVISION OF POLICE.** (Increase from 5 to 6 Lieutenants)

8. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under CONSENT AGENDA at the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting: (R-12-2023-253 – R-12-2023-271)**
- R-12-2023-253** **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. (2024 - \$105,061.15, 2025- \$107,162.37)**
- R-12-2023-254** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO GABEL ASSOCIATES, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.**
(Beginning of Municipal Energy Aggregation bid process)
- R-12-2023-255** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS.**
- R-12-2023-256** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR THE LITTER PICK UP PROGRAM.**
- R-12-2023-257** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TWIN RIVERS ANIMAL HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL CARE OF STRAY ANIMALS FOUND WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.**
(As needed - per unit pricing; same terms as 2023)
- R-12-2023-258** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO NORTHSTAR VETS FOR MEDICAL CARE OF STRAY ANIMALS FOUND WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.**
(As needed - per unit pricing; same terms as 2023)
- R-12-2023-259** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE AND TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.**
(Administrative Monthly Fee: \$1,300; Daily Boarding Fee: \$30)
- R-12-2023-260** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO UNIVAR SOLUTIONS USA, INC. FOR CONTRACT 528 – “SODIUM HYDROXIDE 50%” BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”). (per unit pricing)**
- R-12-2023-261** **RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL PROPOSALS FOR COMPETITIVE CONTRACT RFP “WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE REPAIR PLANS FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS” BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”),**
- R-12-2023-262** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH NJDOT 2022 INWOOD ESTATES ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS. (Preliminary Project Design -\$50,000)**
- R-12-2023-263** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH BUILDING DEMOLITION AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT BLOCK 75, LOT 15 (GARVEY’S) AND BLOCK 28, LOT 14 (1565 PERRINEVILLE RD.). (\$27,000)**

- R-12-2023-264** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, LOCAL FREIGHT IMPACT FUND FOR SOUTH MIDDLESEX INDUSTRIAL PARK ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 2.**

- R-12-2023-265** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEES.**

- R-12-2023-266** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY FOR HEALTHCARE INSURANCE AND PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.**

- R-12-2023-267** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.**

- R-12-2023-268** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATIONS TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH LOUIS RAINONE, ESQ. OF THE FIRM RAINONE, COUGHLIN, MINCHELLO FOR 2023 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES AND DANIEL ANTONELLI ESQ. OF THE FIRM ANTONELLI AS TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE. (Rainone -increase of \$55,000; Antonelli – decrease of \$55,000)**

- R-12-2023-269** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE POSTED FOR MAJESTIC WOODS – REMAINING LOTS PB-975-05.**

- R-12-2023-270** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO WATER REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES, LLC. (WRT) FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH WELL 21 FILTER #7 AND #8 REPAIRS BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”).**

- R-12-2023-271** **RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE HOLD HEARINGS TO ADVANCE SAFE STAFFING STANDARDS AND PRACTICES AT NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.**

9. **Public Comments.** (Limited to **Agenda items only** - 5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

10. **Agenda Meeting Adjournment.** Time: _____

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

THE FOLLOWING IS A **PRELIMINARY AGENDA** AND THERE MAY BE CHANGES MADE TO THE AGENDA BEFORE OR AT THE MEETING, AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

DECEMBER 4, 2023

AGENDA

1. **REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Time: _____
MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes ___ Nays ___

2. **MOTION** to approve the payment of **CLAIMS** per run date **NOVEMBER 30, 2023**.
MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes ___ Nays ___

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
MOTION to approve the **MINUTES** of the following meetings as written and presented:

November 8, 2023 - Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes ___ Nays ___

4. **ORDINANCE(S) for SECOND READING:**

O-11-2023-026 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO CONVEY A DEED OF EASEMENT OVER PROPERTY AT 210 CRANBURY HALF ACRE ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 41, LOT 14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.
(JCP&L easement – Veterans Housing Project)

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes ___ Nays ___

5. **ORDINANCE(S) for INTRODUCTION:**

O-12-2023-027 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT”, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 50 ENTITLED “DIVISION OF POLICE.
(Increase from 5 to 6 Lieutenants)

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes ___ Nays ___

6. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under the CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-12-2023-253– R-12-2023-271)

R-12-2023-253 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. (2024 - \$105,061.15, 2025- \$107,162.37)

R-12-2023-254 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO GABEL ASSOCIATES, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.
(Beginning of Municipal Energy Aggregation bid process)

- R-12-2023-255 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS.**
- R-12-2023-256 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR THE LITTER PICK UP PROGRAM.**
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- R-12-2023-259 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE AND TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.**
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- R-12-2023-267 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – December 4, 2023

The Council of the Township of Monroe met at the Monroe Township Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza, for the Combined Agenda/Regular Meeting.

The Combined Agenda/Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Miriam Cohen with a Salute to the Flag.

UPON ROLL CALL by the Township Clerk, Patricia Reid, the following members of Council were present: Councilman Charles Dipierro, Councilman Michael Markel, Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel, Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura, and Council President Miriam Cohen.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Stephen Dalina, Business Administrator Alan M. Weinberg, Assistant Business Administrator Kevin McGowan, Utility Director Joseph Stroin, Township Attorney Louis Rainone, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz and Deputy Clerk Tanya Pannucci.

There were approximately thirty-five (35) members of the Public in attendance.

Township Clerk Patricia Reid 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, 2022 and remains posted at that location for public inspection.
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and noticed to the **CRANBURY PRESS** on December 30, 2022;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. 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 rolling time unless further time is granted by the Council President.

Council President Cohen read aloud, by title, the following proclamation:

Acknowledging the Efforts of the Sewa Diwali Food Drive 2023

Council President Cohen read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **SECOND READING** at the **MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023** Regular Council Meeting:

- O-11-2023-026** **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO CONVEY A DEED OF EASEMENT OVER PROPERTY AT 210 CRANBURY HALF ACRE ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 41, LOT 14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.**
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Council President Cohen read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **INTRODUCTION** at the **MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023** Regular Council Meeting:

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(Increase from 5 to 6 Lieutenants)

Council President Cohen reads the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023** Regular Council Meeting: (R-12-2023-253 – R-12-2023-271)

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UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Council Vice-President Van Dzura, the PUBLIC COMMENTS portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

Public Comments:

George Gunkelman, 5 Kelly Ct. – Mr. Gunkelman asked if there were any significant increases in regards to R-12-2023-255; Administrator Weinberg answered that it was a small transfer of \$6,000.

Mr. Gunkelman asked in regard to R-12-2023-261 why all of the bids were rejected; Administrator Weinberg answered that the amount came in higher than expected and this has not been a positive experience with this contractor. Director Stroin went on to give more background.

Mr. Gunkelman asked for clarification regarding the energy aggregation program to which Administrator Weinberg explained further stating that the rates had come in higher, so it was not a good idea to move forward.

Lastly, Mr. Gunkelman asked what the award amount was for R-12-2023-270 to which Administrator Weinberg answered \$117,700.

Christian Cane, RWJ Nurse – Mr. Cane shared that he was a nurse for Robert Wood Johnson and he recommends that the resolution as presented be amended as it is insufficient to the need for safe staffing. Mr. Cane went on to explain the importance of fully supporting the bills as they are presented.

Prakash Parab, 33 Dayna Dr. – Mr. Parab asked for an explanation of the shared services agreement with Middlesex County for health services noted as R-12-2023-253; Administrator Weinberg explained that twenty-three municipalities are in a shared service agreement with the County for inspections, environmental, etc. He went on to explain there is a 2% increase, but it works very well for the purpose that we need it for.

Lucille Panos, 1208C Lindera Plz. – Mrs. Panos asked for what the cost to the Township is regarding R-12-2023-254; Administrator Weinberg answered that there is no cost to the Township if we go out to bid and do not award but if we do award it is .00059 which is already built into the program.

Mrs. Panos asked how much the administrative fee increased to regarding R-12-2023-259; Administrator Weinberg answered that it is a \$100 per month increase.

Mrs. Panos asked how many proposals were received regarding R-12-2023-261; Administrator Weinberg answered that two proposals were received but we are rejecting them.

Mrs. Panos asked what the health insurance increase was regarding R-12-2023-266; Administrator Weinberg answered that there was a 3.9% increase overall.

Alan Gould, 518B Hazen Rd. – Mr. Gould stated that he agrees with an earlier comment to amend the resolution supporting the nurses as the bill has been sponsored by both Linda Greenstein and Dan Benson and asked the Mayor and Council to amend to support the bills fully.

Mary Santo, 9 Union Dr. – Ms. Santo stated that she is a nurse for Robert Wood Johnson and has been on strike for the last 4 months. She shared that these bills have been in the legislature for twenty years and the time has come to fully support these bills as written because nursing has become a corporate business with no care going into taking care of those in need.

Emerita Rabe, 312 Spotswood-Gravel Hill Rd. – Ms. Rabe stated that she is also a nurse and explained why the need for safe staffing is so important as there is a public health concern with nurses being burnt out and having undue stress. She went on to say that nurses want safe staffing practices because safe staffing equates to greater success and decreases a patient's stay and admittance. Ms. Rabe stated that she loves her job and cares for the community and those who are sick and in need of help.

Councilwoman Siegel interjected asking if the Council would consider amending the resolution as recommended to which Attorney Rainone stated that the resolution could be amended. Councilwoman Siegel asked if Attorney Rainone would amend based on the public comments.

Council Vice-President Van Dzura commented that the first speaker noted other legislation that we were not privy to and would like to see that the addition of the appropriate language to make our resolution stronger in support of the bills as proposed.

Attorney Rainone stated that the resolution would be amended to add a second whereas hereby supporting and endorsing the bills.

Councilman Dipierro asked if we were voting on the amendment to which Administrator Weinberg answered we would be amending the resolution to endorse the bills.

Council President Cohen commented that she has received information from Mr. Cane and has dispersed amongst Council.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Council Vice-President Van Dzura, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the **CLAIMS** per run date of **11/30/2023** were approved for payment as written and presented.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Abstain
	Councilman Michael A. Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel the **MINUTES** of the **November 8, 2023 Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting** were approved as written And presented.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael A. Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

UPON ACTION made by the Council the following Ordinance was **moved on SECOND READING for FINAL ADOPTION** as follows:

O-11-2023-026 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO CONVEY A DEED OF EASEMENT OVER PROPERTY AT 210 CRANBURY HALF ACRE ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 41, LOT 14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.
(JCP&L easement – Veterans Housing Project)

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5, the Township has the power to acquire any real property for a public purpose through a negotiated agreement process; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe (hereinafter referred to as the “Grantor”) is the owner of a certain parcel of land identified on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Monroe’s (hereinafter referred to as the “Township”) as Block 41, Lot 14, more commonly known as 210 Cranbury Half Acre Road (hereinafter referred to as the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to convey an easement in perpetuity to Jersey Central Power and Light Company (“JCP&L”) and Verizon of New Jersey Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Grantees”) for the purpose of constructing and maintaining utility facilities along the eastern side of Cranbury Half Acre Road that will connect to a new JCP&L transformer located within the property of the Grantor to service the new Veterans housing project being constructed by Conifer; and

WHEREAS, the Grantor has been asked to execute a Deed of Easement on the property providing the Grantees with an easement over the Property as described in the Dead of Easement appended hereto as Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney and Township Engineer have reviewed the Deed of Easement and agreed that it is in the best interests of the Township to convey the easement in a form substantially similar to the form attached hereto as Attachment A, subject to the review of the Township Attorney.

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Deed of Easement in substantially the form appended hereto as Attachment A, subject to the review of the Township Attorney, which sets forth the terms and conditions pertaining to the conveyance of an easement to Jersey Central Power and Light Company and Verizon of New Jersey Inc., and all documents necessary for the acceptance.
2. If any section or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Ordinance.
3. All ordinances or part of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

SO, ORDAINED as aforesaid.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Council Vice-President Van Dzura, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-11-2023-026** was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-11-2023-026** was **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilman Markel, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

O-11-2023-026 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO CONVEY A DEED OF EASEMENT OVER PROPERTY AT 210 CRANBURY HALF ACRE ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 41, LOT 14 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.

(JCP&L easement – Veterans Housing Project)

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael A. Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was Introduced on First Reading for Final Passage:

O-12-2023-027 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT”, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 50 ENTITLED “DIVISION OF POLICE.

(Increase from 5 to 6 Lieutenants)

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael A. Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA:** (R-12-2023-253– R-12-2023-271)

R-12-2023-253 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. (2024 - \$105,061.15, 2025- \$107,162.37)

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. _____, 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, 2024 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the base cost for the provision of the aforesaid health services for Year 2024 is projected to be **\$105,061.15**. The cost for Year 2025 is projected to be **\$107,162.37**.

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-12-2023-254 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO GABEL ASSOCIATES, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.
(Beginning of Municipal Energy Aggregation bid process)

WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolution R-8-2013-181 the Township Council awarded a professional service contract to Gabel Associates, Inc., as the result of a Request for Proposals process, to provide energy consultant services for the administration of the Township's municipal energy aggregation program referred to as the Monroe Township Community Energy Aggregation ("MTCEA"); and

WHEREAS, Gabel Associates, Inc. is a duly registered energy agent and energy consultant in good standing with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, has provided high quality services and has successfully administered several rounds of the MTCEA program, resulting in millions of dollars in electricity cost savings for participating Township residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to continue to utilize Gabel Associates, Inc. to administer the procurement process for a replacement contract for electric power supply for Round V of the MTCEA in order to continue this successful program; and

WHEREAS, the fee structure proposed by Gabel Associates results in an energy agent fee paid by the winning supplier, with no out-of-pocket consulting services payments made or owed by the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with **Gabel Associates, Inc. 417 Denison Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904**, under the terms and conditions as reflected in the attached agreement, for a term ending December 31, 2026 with the option to extend for an additional two (2) years upon mutual consent of Monroe Township and Gabel Associates Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Notice of this actin shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-255 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS.

WHEREAS, there are certain 2023 budget appropriations of the Township of Monroe which may be insufficient to meet the requirements of the Township's affairs; and

WHEREAS, there are certain other budget appropriations where there are unexpended balances which will not be used for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, Revised Statutes 40A:4-59 provides for the transfer from such accounts that have unexpended balances to those accounts which have deficiencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe that the transfers itemized below are hereby authorized among the following 2023 accounts:

CURRENT FUND TRANSFER FROM	TRANSFER AMOUNT
Ambulance OE	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL CURRENT FUND:	\$ 6,000.00

TRANSFER TO:	AMOUNT
DCRP	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL CURRENT FUND:	\$ 6,000.00

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-256 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR THE LITTER PICK UP PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Middlesex County has undertaken a Clean Communities program for the residents of Middlesex County; and

WHEREAS, the Program will be implemented by the County Division of Environmental Health/Solid Waste Management (DSWM) in certain municipalities in the County; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the Program, Middlesex County will provide funding to municipalities to pick up litter on County maintained roads; and

WHEREAS, Middlesex County and Monroe Township are authorized to enter into this Agreement, pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, is desirous of contracting with Middlesex County, as more fully set forth in the attached "Litter Pick Up Program Agreement".

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 above referenced and attached Agreement with Middlesex County be executed by the Mayor and Township Clerk, effective January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2028, or for such shorter period as may be dictated by the exhaustion of available funds or unless earlier terminated as provided within attached Agreement.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-257 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO TWIN RIVERS ANIMAL HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL CARE OF STRAY ANIMALS FOUND WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.
 (As needed - per unit pricing; same terms as 2023)

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe has a need to acquire services related to the Medical Care of stray animals found within the Township of Monroe for Calendar Year 2024, as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Contract will be open-ended and based on unit pricing as outlined in the Contract, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one (1) year, effective January 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Twin Rivers Animal Hospital, 650 NJ 33, East Windsor, NJ 08520 has submitted a Contract indicating they will provide the referenced services; and

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

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 to enter into a contract with Twin Rivers Animal Hospital, 650 NJ 33, East Windsor, NJ 08520 in accordance with the contract attached hereto as Exhibit "A", effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024;

(2) The Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for services rendered by Twin Rivers Animal Hospital, as outlined within the Contract during the 2024 contractual year;

(3) This contract is awarded without competitive bidding 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) This contract is awarded with the stipulation that the Twin Rivers Animal Hospital contract shall include mandatory Affirmative Action language, and Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists shall submit to the Township of Monroe any appropriate Affirmative Action documents within the time period prescribed by law.

(5) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-12-2023-258 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO
NORTHSTAR VETS FOR MEDICAL CARE OF STRAY
ANIMALS FOUND WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.
(As needed - per unit pricing; same terms as 2023)**

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe has a need to acquire services related to the Medical Care of stray animals found within the Township of Monroe for Calendar Year 2024, as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5*; and

WHEREAS, the Contract will be open-ended and based on unit pricing as outlined in the Contract, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is one (1) year, effective January 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, NorthStar VETS, 315 Robbinsville-Allentown Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 has submitted a Contract indicating they will provide the referenced services; and

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

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 to enter into a contract with NorthStar VETS, 315 Robbinsville-Allentown Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691 in accordance with the contract attached hereto as Exhibit "A", effective January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024;

(2) The Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for services rendered by NorthStar VETS, as outlined within the Contract during the 2023 contractual year;

(3) This contract is awarded without competitive bidding 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) This contract is awarded with the stipulation that the NorthStar VETS contract shall include mandatory Affirmative Action language, and Veterinary Surgical and Diagnostic Specialists shall submit to the Township of Monroe any appropriate Affirmative Action documents within the time period prescribed by law.

(5) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-259 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE AND TOWNSHIP OF MONROE FOR ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.
(Administrative Monthly Fee: \$1,300; Daily Boarding Fee: \$30)

WHEREAS, the Township of Old Bridge owns and operates a municipal animal shelter (the “Shelter”); and

WHEREAS, the Shelter complies with all New Jersey State Health Department regulations and Middlesex County Health Department regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe has a need to acquire services related to the housing and feeding of stray animals found within the Township of Monroe; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Old Bridge and the Township of Monroe would like to enter into a shared services agreement wherein the Township of Old Bridge will provide animal impoundment services to the Township of Monroe; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4 of the Uniform Shared Services Act, the Township of Old Bridge and Township of Monroe are authorized to enter into a shared services agreement provided the agreement is duly authorized by the governing bodies of each municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Old Bridge and Township of Monroe have each adopted resolution authorizing the execution of this shared services agreement (the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the term of this Agreement is January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with the cost of service being \$15,600.00 per year (\$1,300.00 per month) as an administrative fee and \$30.00 per day Daily Boarding Fee, \$32.00 per day Daily Boarding Fee (Quarantine), \$45.00 per day Daily Boarding Fee (vicious/potentially dangerous dog) and transportation to the Township of Monroe’s veterinarian at \$25.00 per occurrence; and

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

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 to enter into a Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Old Bridge, 1 Old Bridge Plaza, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857 in accordance with the Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024;

(2) The Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for services rendered by the Township of Old Bridge in the amounts outlined within the Agreement.

(3) This Agreement is entered into without competitive bidding as a shared service in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4 of the Uniform Shared Services Act;

(4) A certified copy of this Resolution and Agreement shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services;

(5) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-260 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO UNIVAR SOLUTIONS USA, INC. FOR CONTRACT 528 – “SODIUM HYDROXIDE 50%” BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”). (per unit pricing)

WHEREAS, November 9, 2023, two (2) sealed bids were received, and publicly opened and read aloud, by the Monroe Township Utility Department for Contract 528, “Sodium Hydroxide 50%”, required by the M.T.U.D.

WHEREAS, Univar Solutions USA, Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder for each of the (2) two years bid, and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Purchasing Agent reviewed Univar’s bid and found it to be responsive and responsible, and has recommended in a letter dated November 13, 2023, a one (1) year contract with a one (1) year optional extension be awarded to the low bidder Univar Solutions USA, Inc. based on their unit price bid for Sodium Hydroxide 50% of 2.2776 for year 1, and 2.5166 for optional extension year two, per gallon respectively, and estimated quantities contained within their bid documents, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “B”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, the Township Chief Municipal Finance Officer has certified availability of funds in Certificate No. M-230023 a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, Univar Solutions USA, Inc. has submitted all the required documents with their bid; and

WHEREAS, by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that it has rendered its advice and hereby consents to the award of a contract to Univar Solutions USA, Inc. for “Sodium Hydroxide 50%” for Monroe Township Utility Department; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(d)(1)(ii), multi-year contracts entered into for periods in excess of twelve (12) months shall be certified and charged to the respective budgets in accordance with the time(s) at which the respective work or services are performed or liability for payment is otherwise incurred. Accordingly, commitments and payments required in excess of the initial twelve (12) months are contingent upon necessary funds being appropriated in future budgets by a subsequent governing body.

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 one (1) year with an optional one (1) year extension contract Univar Solutions USA, Inc. in accordance with their submitted bid.
- (2) The Township Chief Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for material delivered by Univar Solutions USA, 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 Univar Solutions USA, Inc. shall provide a properly executed certificate of insurance as required by the specifications.
- (5) Payments required in excess of the initial twelve (12) months are contingent upon necessary funds being appropriated in future budgets by the governing body.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-261 RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL PROPOSALS FOR COMPETITIVE CONTRACT RFP “WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE REPAIR PLANS FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS” BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”).

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2023, two (2) sealed proposals were received, publicly opened, and read aloud, by the Monroe Township Purchasing manager for Competitive Contract RFP “Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Repair Plans for Monroe Township Residential Property Owners”; and

WHEREAS, as permitted by statute, the Township requested and was granted by both submitting firms, a ninety (90) day extension to the sixty (60) day award period; and

WHEREAS, the Township has decided to abandon the project for the RFP services.

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 proposals submitted by American Water Resources, LLC and Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. d/b/a/ Service Line Warranties of America be rejected as per N.J.S.A. 40a:11-13.2(c).

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-12-2023-262 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER
STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH NJDOT 2022 INWOOD
ESTATES ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS. (Preliminary Project
Design -\$50,000)**

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe seeks professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with the *NJDOT 2022 Inwood Estates Roadway Improvements*; and

WHEREAS, Center State Engineering possesses the technical expertise required to perform said professional engineering services for this project; and

WHEREAS, the fees for such services will not exceed fifty thousand dollars (**\$50,000.00**); and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for such an engagement in Certificate No. C-2300082, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) authorizes the award of contracts for "professional services" without competitive bids and further provides that the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

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 for the professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with *NJDOT 2022 Inwood Estates Roadway Improvements* in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (**\$50,000.00**).
- (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-12-2023-263 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER
STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH BUILDING DEMOLITION
AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT BLOCK 75, LOT 15
(GARVEY'S) AND BLOCK 28, LOT 14 (1565 PERRINEVILLE
RD.). (\$27,000)**

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe seeks professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with the *Building Demolition and Site Improvements at Block 75, Lot 15 (Garvey's) and Block 28, Lot 14 (1565 Perrineville Rd.)*; and

WHEREAS, Center State Engineering possesses the technical expertise required to perform said professional engineering services for this project; and

WHEREAS, the fees for such services will not exceed twenty seven thousand dollars (**\$27,000.00**); and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for such an engagement in Certificate No. C-2300083, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) authorizes the award of contracts for “professional services” without competitive bids and further provides that the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

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 for the professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with *Building Demolition and Site Improvements at Block 75, Lot 15 (Garvey’s) and Block 28, Lot 14 (1565 Perrineville Rd.* in an amount not to exceed twenty seven thousand dollars (**\$27,000.00**).
- (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-12-2023-264 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, LOCAL FREIGHT IMPACT FUND FOR SOUTH MIDDLESEX INDUSTRIAL PARK ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 2.

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe is desirous of filing an application for municipal aid under the Local Freight Impact Fund for certain municipal improvements which qualify for said funding;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Monroe hereby authorizes and approved submission of a Grant Application and execution of a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the South Middlesex Industrial Park Roadway Improvements, Phase 2; 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 LFIF-2024-South Middlesex Industrial Park Roadway Improvements, Phase 2-00043 for Monroe Township 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-12-2023-265 RESOLUTON AUTHORIZING REFUND OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FEES.

WHEREAS, the Construction Official, by copy of letter dated November 16, 2023, copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, has recommended the Council approve the following construction permit refunds:

Refund to:	Reason	Amount
Skyline Solar, LLC 4 Crossroads Drive Suite 116 Hamilton, N.J. 08691	Permit # 20231486 Requests refund due to permit cancelled. Homeowner at 5 Mountain Ash Court has cancelled solar panel installation.	\$ 636.00

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the recommendation of the Construction Official and finds the request for the above refund to be reasonable;

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 request is hereby authorized and that a refund be made to **Skyline Solar, LLC. in the amount of \$636.00.**

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-266 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH HORIZON BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF NEW JERSEY FOR HEALTHCARE INSURANCE AND PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 that Monroe Township and the Monroe Township Utility Department (“M.T.U.D.”) may procure a professional service without the necessity of advertising for bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (“Horizon BCBSNJ”), 1427 Wyckoff Road, Wall, NJ 07727 has prepared a proposal and schedule of rates and services which shall be the basis for payment for Healthcare Insurance; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law Regulations N.J.A.C. 5:34-1 et seq. the Township desires to retain Horizon BCBSNJ as the Healthcare provider, this Contract will be for a period of one (1) year effective January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, said services provided by Horizon BCBSNJ would be subject to contracting requirements for Extraordinary Unspecified Services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.1 et seq. only if they exceed the threshold amount established by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available in the Township budget per attached unit pricing, as evidenced by Certification No. C-_____, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer has further determined that sufficient funds are available in the Township Utility budget, per attached unit pricing, as evidenced by Certification No. M-_____, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “B”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the Prescription Rate Renewal Summary and Health Rate Renewal Summary with Horizon BCBSNJ Insurance for Healthcare services and prescription coverage for Calendar year 2024.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-267 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF 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 Thirty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Two dollars and Forty-Four cents (\$33,852.44) 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-12-2023-268 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATIONS TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH LOUIS RAINONE, ESQ. OF THE FIRM RAINONE, COUGHLIN, MINCHELLO FOR 2023 GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES AND DANIEL ANTONELLI ESQ. OF THE FIRM ANTONELLI AS TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.** (Rainone -increase of \$55,000; Antonelli – decrease of \$55,000)

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-1-2023-003, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on January 4, 2023, authorized a Professional Service Contract with Louis Rainone Esq and Rainone, Coughlin, Minchello for General Legal Services required by the Township of Monroe for calendar year 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$381,307.00; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-1-2023-004, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on January 4, 2023, authorized a Professional Service Contract with Daniel Antonelli of the firm Antonelli Kantor as 2023 Tax Appeal Attorney for the Township of Monroe in an amount not to exceed \$110,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Professional Service contract for 2023 General Legal Services shall be increased by \$55,000.00, with the new contract amount not to exceed \$436,307.00; and

WHEREAS, the Professional Service contract for 2023 Tax Appeal Attorney shall be decreased by \$55,000.00, with the new contract amount not to exceed \$55,000.00; 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 the availability of funds in Certificate Nos. C-2300013 and C-2300014 copies of which are attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, authorization is hereby given to increase and modify the 2023 Legal Services contract in the amount of Fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) and decrease and modify the 2023 Tax Appeal Attorney contract in the amount of Fifty five thousand dollars (\$55,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the amendments to the agreements attached hereto.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-269 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE POSTED FOR MAJESTIC WOODS – REMAINING LOTS PB-975-05.**

WHEREAS, Majestic Woods Associates, LLC has posted Performance Guarantees for the Block 60, Lots 21.06 & 21.07 project (PB-975-05); and

WHEREAS, a request was made for the 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 November 21, 2023, 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, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that release of the project performance guarantees shall be conditioned upon resolution of all outstanding escrow balances associated with the administration of this project by Township officials, as well as the posting of maintenance guarantees for 15% of the project total (\$27,603.09), or \$4,140.46. 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 in lieu of this, the Township Engineer's office recommends the developer post five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) at this time, into the existing engineering inspection escrow account which is more reasonable.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-270 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO WATER REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES, LLC. (WRT) FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH WELL 21 FILTER #7 AND #8 REPAIRS BY THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”).

WHEREAS, State regulations require only firms with particular certifications to perform the work required at Well 21; and

WHEREAS, WRT possesses such licenses to perform the required handling and disposal of said filtration media; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A.40A:11-6* authorizes the award of a contract without public bidding, notwithstanding that the contract price will exceed the bid threshold, when an emergency affecting the public health, safety or welfare requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Utility Department has indicated via correspondence dated November 29, 2023 that the services required are performed without delay is essential, so as to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Monroe Township, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Department has received a proposal from WRT to perform the required work for the amount of **\$117,700.00**, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “B”; 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 Township Council of the Township of Monroe hereby authorize the emergency contract Water Remediation Technologies, LLC, *non pro tunc*; for the emergency services in connection with the well 21 repairs.
- (2) The Township Chief Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for services provided by Water Remediation Technologies, LLC in an amount not to exceed **\$117,700.00** in accordance with their proposal.
- (3) This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as an “emergency contract” in accordance with *N.J.S.A.40A:11-6* to meet the immediate needs of the emergency caused by the failure of Filter #7 and Filter #8 at Well 21.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-12-2023-271 RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE HOLD HEARINGS TO ADVANCE SAFE STAFFING STANDARDS AND PRACTICES AT NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe recognizes the importance of all health care workers, including professional registered nurses, in providing quality patient care to residents of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, many nurses throughout the State have expressed concern regarding inadequate nurse staffing at hospitals, ambulatory surgery facilities, and other facilities, and its potential to result in dangerous medical errors, patient infections, and increased injuries to patients and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, many nurses throughout the State have expressed concerns that inadequate nurse staffing practices jeopardize the delivery of health care services and adversely impact the health of patients; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe recognizes that safe staffing practices are essential for the welfare of patients, nurses, and all health care workers; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature and the New Jersey Department of Health are best suited to investigate and evaluate staffing standards and practices across the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4536 and Senate Bill No. S304 have been proposed in the New Jersey Legislature to address minimum standards for registered professional nurses; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey urges the New Jersey Legislature to hold hearings regarding safe staffing standards and practices at New Jersey health care facilities, and call upon experts within the health care industry and the New Jersey Department of Health to outline the safest staffing practices to ensure the highest quality patient care and the protection of health care workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe hereby supports and endorses Assembly Bill No. 4536 and Senate Bill No. S304; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Township of Monroe send a copy of this resolution to all Legislative District 14 representatives.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael A. Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Resolutions Duly Filed.

Administrator's Report – Administrator Weinberg reported that the health care costs have increased by 3.9%; he went on to thank the employees for their support and hard work.

Managing legal fees as BFI has sued the Township over the landfill.

Shared Services with Middlesex County helps with savings.

Water and sewer program is no longer municipally sponsored.

Roadway improvements design for Inwood Estates is being worked on.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Rasimowicz reported that the EMS drainage and concrete improvements are completed. The sidewalks are in progress.

The Old Bridge-Englishtown Road and Mounts Mills roadway improvements are complete.

Applegarth Road and Joan Warren Way improvements are scheduled for Spring 2024.

Council's Reports –

Councilman Dipierro –

- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.
- In listening to the nurses, he fully supports their plight with safe staffing practices and thanked all for sharing their knowledge. He extended thanks to Council President Cohen for her knowledge and support on this issue.
- Reported that the cones are still there from when the gate was ran into at Linx Drive and Costco Drive and asked when this would be fixed; Administrator Weinberg answered that they are in the process of replacing, noting that our insurance will go after the person to pay for the damages but the process to fix is underway.
- Reported that several streetlights need to be addressed on Avenue K, Grano Street, Matchaponix Avenue, Texas Road and Spotswood-Gravel Hill Road. Administrator Weinberg stated that these have been passed to our regional representative to address and Mayor Dalina has brought them to the attention of the Board of Public Utilities. He noted that significant progress has been made but the issues still need to be addressed as the lights should be fixed quicker. He also noted that some have underground wiring which is more complex in fixing.
- Shared that there will be a ribbon cutting at the new Monroe Bagel and Pastry Shoppe located at 627 Spotswood-Englishtown Road on December 7th at 8:00am.
- The menorah lighting will be December 7th on the corner of Prospect Plains Road and Perrineville Road and again on December 10th at the Senior Center.
- Attended the tree lighting and Christmas parade on November 29th and thanked everyone involved.
- Also attended the Thanksgiving luncheon along with the Mayor and Council at the Senior Center.
- Noted that two employees have left the Township, Alicia Gonzalez who worked in the Clerk's Office and Samantha Rampacek who worked in the Tax Office. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the Township and wished them well on their future endeavors. Also noted that Christine from MTUD is retiring and Wayne Horbatt from our DPW is retiring as well.

- Asked for an update on the status of purchasing a new server; Administrator Weinberg stated that all meetings are streamed live on YouTube and recorded and available to watch on the Township website. Councilman Dipierro responded that those with Comcast and Verizon cannot watch the Township channel and this issue needs to be resolved.
- Questioned the bill list and the use of Home Depot and Lowe's credit cards as he believes this to be problematic and wants a letter of authorization from the Township Auditor and Township Attorney stating that the use of credit cards are permissible. Administrator Weinberg responded that we do not have credit cards with these establishments and has explained in writing to Councilman Dipierro that we use state contracts which Home Depot and Lowe's are under. Council President Cohen asked for clarification of the "appropriate use of Home Depot and Lowe's" to which Attorney Rainone stated that a local finance notice opinionizes this.
- Asked about the amount of taxes collected for 2023 noting that the response received is that the money collected in surplus with each budget including the Board of Education and Fire Districts do not disperse that money to anyone other than County. Administrator Weinberg confirmed it goes to the County Tax Appeals. Councilman Dipierro stated that the last time we had to borrow money but the County gives us money as well. An extra \$4 million goes into the General fund and then surplus.

Councilman Markel –

- Attended the Diwali event at the Senior Center which was fantastic and educational.
- Attended the Thanksgiving luncheon and tree lighting and reminded all about the menorah lighting.
- Stated that he has received a lot of questions asking his opinion of the Israel/Palestine War and shared that we all need to keep those affected by this war in our thoughts and prayers especially during this holiday season.
- Extended a heartfelt thanks to the nurses for all of their tireless hard work and dedication.
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilwoman Siegel –

- Attended the Diwali event on November 19th at the Senior Center which was wonderful and full of local vendors, food, crafts, and dance. She extended thanks to all who made this event possible and a huge success, DPW, Greg Slavicek, Police, EMS, Admin...
- Shared the Mayor's Youth Advisory had over 50 high schoolers apply with only 20 spots open.
- Attended the Thanksgiving luncheon at the Senior Center which was very nice.
- Our library finished the updating of their circulation desk which looks fabulous and invited everyone to visit the library to check it out.
- Reminded everyone that this is the season of giving, food, coats, toys, help etc.

Council Vice-President Van Dzura –

- Attended the Veteran's Day ceremonies, Diwali event and the tree lighting. Noted that the menorah lighting will be held on December 7th at the corner of Prospect Plains Road and Perrineville Road and again at the Senior Center on December 10th.
- Complimented all the nurses who attended tonight's meeting fighting for their cause in a respectful way. He thanked them for educating all of us and our ability to amend our resolution and pass unanimously is a testament to how strongly the nurse's stance was presented.

Council President Cohen –

- Extended thanks and appreciation for all the nurses and their hard work and tireless dedication to their craft.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dalina thanked the nurses and staff for all of they do as he admires their advocacy to their profession.

Shared his statement on the vandalism of the Jewish Center and subsequent arrest of the juvenile involved. Applauded the Acting Chief Banos on the investigation and catching the suspect.

Noted that the streetlights have been an ongoing issue and dealing with JCP&L is very difficult because it is a conglomerate that is not easy to traverse through. He noted that the system is archaic and he has escalated the issues to the Board of Public Utilities and attended ZOOM meetings to address. They have rolled out a taskforce and have chosen a few gated communities with success and he expects other areas outside of the gated communities to be addressed.

Shared that regarding the energy aggregation program the Township is looking to roll out again. He noted that the dollar rate has not been beneficial but looking forward to getting this going once again.

Costco Drive has a solar farm on the roof of their building as they are participating in the State's solar program which will also help residents of our community to take advantage of the cost savings.

Invited everyone to visit the Library to check out their new circulation desk.

Honored to celebrate the Veteran's during the ceremonies held throughout the Township as it gave an opportunity to truly say thank you to them.

Attended the Thanksgiving luncheon, Diwali event, tree lighting and holiday parade; he thanked everyone for their hard work in making all of these events a huge success, especially Councilwoman Siegel for her stewardship.

Reminded all that the menorah lighting will be held December 10th at 5:00pm at our Senior Center.

Thanked our EMS Department as they have answered 998 calls with 202 being answered just this past Sunday.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Council Vice-President Van Dzura, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

Public Comments –

Pat Schwalje, 586A Madison Dr. – Mrs. Schwalje extended thanks to Councilman Markel as she worked with him to get the streetlights fixed in the senior communities.

Questioned Councilman Dipierro as to what he did to help get signage out for the businesses affected by road closures; Councilman Dipierro responded that it should be the practice of the County, Township or contractor to put out signage letting travelers know that businesses are open in the affected area. He added that it is not up to him as Council to ensure that proper signage is given.

Council President Cohen asked Engineer Rasimowicz to follow up which Engineer Rasimowicz stated that it is common practice to bring signage.

Suggested to Councilman Dipierro that for Christmas he can give his mother a subscription to YouTube.

Prakash Parab, 33 Dayna Dr. – Mr. Parab wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mr. Parab extended thanks for the \$4 million towards renovating Applegarth School as it is a very important project.

Attended the Diwali event at the Senior Center, as well as, noted his appreciation for the Sewa Diwali Proclamation as they are in their 6th year of collecting food for the local food banks. He went on to share that 10 organizations have joined together collecting and delivering over 26,000lbs of food to three local food banks.

Addressed the ongoing streetlight issues.

Mr. Parab shared his concerns with the burglaries that have happened throughout the Township noting that recently three separate incidents have occurred in the early morning hours. He stated that this is a State and National issues and a national threat that needs to be addressed with the Senate and Legislators.

Ellen Panzer Schwartz – Mrs. Schwartz extended an invitation to everyone to attend the menorah lighting on December 7th at 3:30pm where there will be refreshments and live music. She also noted that this is the largest menorah lighting in the United States and was built by her husband.

Brian Fabiano, 19 Patricia Pl. – Mr. Fabiano addressed the public safety issues and stated that he is proud of our police department and reminded all that we need to safeguard ourselves the best we can as we are one of the safest townships in the state.

Thanked Mayor Dalina for the money towards improving Applegarth School as this fell into his lap last minute and he was able to turn it around.

Mr. Fabiano asked for an update at the last Citizen Review Board meeting; Administrator Weinberg stated that he did not have his notes in front of him to which Mr. Fabiano asked for the Council Chair of that board to give an update. Councilman Dipierro stated that he was not in attendance at the last meeting. Mr. Fabiano stated that he was concerned with the information given out by Councilman Dipierro that the boys home would be used as an asylum for the migrants and asked why there is such a breakdown in communication. Administrator Weinberg answered that eventually the facility will close as they are building three regional facilities. He went on to say that the rumors of any asylum seekers being housed there were squashed at that meeting as the facility is still operational, housing 90 juveniles there as of current. Administrator

Weinberg gave an update on the land negotiation for that location once it does close, stating that on the east side of Spotswood-Englishtown Road we were able to acquire 94 acres of land to become Green Acres. The buildings were taken down because Green Acres cannot own land with buildings on it. He noted that the area around the boys home is 575 acres and the State passed a law to put that into Farmland Preservation which the deeds have not been filed yet but hopes to have done in the next year.

George Gunkelman, 5 Kelly Ct. – Thanked the Township for taking care of an issue on the street as the Engineer handled and resolved as the street sign was damaged and then seemingly repaired.

In regard to the streetlight issues, Mr. Gunkelman asked why they are not being replaced with LED lights. Mr. Gunkelman stated that we have great public services but there will come a day where we will be under financial pressure and want to sell off utilities which he has had negative experience in and suggested that we hold onto them.

Mr. Gunkelman asked when the reorganization meeting is to which it was advised that on January 1st we will have an inaugural swearing in ceremony and on January 3rd we will hold our Reorganization/Council meeting.

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio choked up while thanking the nurses for their hard work and tireless dedication as she shared, they have saved the lives of her husband and her family members.

Mrs. Arminio asked for an explanation of R-12-2023-270; Director Stroin explained that WRT was contracted by the NJDEP to replace 2 filters. Mrs. Arminio asked if there was any contamination to which Director Stroin stated no it was shut down due to corrosion issues; Mrs. Arminio asked if it was tested and Director Stroin explained that it is tested monthly, quarterly, biannually, and annually.

Mrs. Arminio asked for further clarification regarding the acreage of the boy's home property; Administrator Weinberg explained further and Attorney Rainone added that the property has been conveyed to the State and the 94 acres has been successfully deemed Green Acres. Mrs. Arminio stated that it is very important to keep the trees.

Lastly, Mrs. Arminio implored that we put things on cable again as people over 60 use and rely on cable.

Betsy Nichols, 254B Belmar Rd. – Ms. Nichols asked what the fire district audit was to which Council President Cohen answered that the fire districts are not under our provision as they are a separate entity.

Chrissy Skurbe, 21 Preakness Dr. – Mrs. Skurbe thanked the Mayor and Council for passing the nurse's resolution.

Mrs. Skurbe shared that in the Colts Run development there were two homeowners who had several people trying to access garages with three vehicles stolen. She mentioned that a detective came out and gave a plethora of information to the homeowners stating that these perpetrators are following people and then posting where they live and coming back to then steal the vehicles. They are also using juveniles to do these crimes. She noted that the police have installed new license plate readers and asked the Mayor and Council to increase the budget to purchase additional ones. Also urges the State to adopt stricter laws on juveniles to prevent these thefts.

She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Councilman Markel, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 8:22pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Councilman Michael A. Markel	Aye
	Councilwoman Rupa P. Siegel	Aye
	Council Vice-President Terence Van Dzura	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Tanya Pannucci

TANYA PANNUCCI, Deputy Township Clerk

Miriam Cohen

MIRIAM COHEN, Council President

Minutes were adopted on February 5, 2024.