

** The public will be able to fully participate in the meeting through their smart phone or computer by accessing this **Website:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/106827708>

Or you may call any of the following numbers with your phone. Meeting ID# **106 827 708**

+1 (312) 626 6799

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**** Please note: by calling in you will only be able to hear the meeting and will not be able to participate with any public comment.**

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 AND SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

MAY 18, 2020

AGENDA

1. Agenda Meeting Called to Order. (6:30 p.m.)

2. Salute to the Flag.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Councilman Leonard Baskin

Councilman Stephen Dalina

Councilman Charles Dipierro

Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider

Council President Miriam Cohen

4. Council President Cohen to request the **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 has been provided by the following:

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on May 1, 2020 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;

2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and **CRANBURY PRESS** on May 1, 2020;

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.

Council President Cohen to announce the Special Meeting is being held for the purpose of Introducing the 2020 Municipal Budget and any other business that may come before the Council.

5. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **INTRODUCTION** at the May 18, 2020 Special Meeting:

O-5-2020-009

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES”.

**O-5-2020-010 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “FEES”.
(Towing, Construction and Utility Dept. Fees)**

O-5-2020-011 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

6. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under CONSENT AGENDA at the May 18, 2020, Special Meeting: (R-5-2020-130 – R-5-2020-133)**

R-5-2020-130 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY OVERPAYMENT. (refund \$2,017.60)

R-5-2020-131 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INSURANCE DESIGN ADMINISTRATORS. (3-year contract - \$13,800.00 per year)

R-5-2020-132 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

R-5-2019-133 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

7. **Public Comments.** (limited to **Agenda items only** - 5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

8. 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.

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

MAY 18, 2020

AGENDA

1. **REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Time: _____

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

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

O-5-2020-009 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED "TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES".

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

O-5-2020-010 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED "FEES".
(Towing, Construction and Utility Dept. Fees)

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

O-5-2020-011 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

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

3. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under the CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-5-2020-130 – R-5-2020-133)

R-5-2020-130 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY OVERPAYMENT. (refund \$2,017.60)

R-5-2020-131 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INSURANCE DESIGN ADMINISTRATORS. (3-year contract - \$13,800.00 per year)

R-5-2020-132 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

R-5-2019-133 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

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

4. **RESOLUTIONS removed** from consent agenda for **CONSIDERATION (if needed)**.

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

5. Mayor's Report.

6. Administrator's Report.

7. Engineer's Report.

8. Council's Reports.

9. Public Comments. (5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

10. Adjournment. MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

Time: _____

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MAY 18, 2020

The Council of the Township of Monroe met remotely via Zoom for a Combined Agenda/Special Meeting.

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

A moment of silence was held for all who have perished around the world, the country and especially in Monroe Township due to Covid-19.

UPON ROLL CALL by the Township Clerk, Patricia Reid, the following members of Council were present: Councilman Leonard Baskin, Councilman Stephen Dalina, Councilman Charles Dipierro, Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider and Council President Miriam Cohen.

ALSO, PRESENT: Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, Business Administrator Alan M. Weinberg, Township Attorney Lou Rainone, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz, CFO George Lang, Utility Director Joseph Stroin, Director of OEM, Chief Michael Biennas and Deputy Township Clerk Christine Robbins.

There were approximately twenty-six (26) members of the Public who have joined remotely.

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

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

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on May 1, 2020 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and **CRANBURY PRESS** on May 1, 2020.
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.

Township Clerk Patricia Reid announced that the Special Meeting is being held for the purpose of Introducing the 2020 Municipal Budget and any other business that may come before the Council.

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **INTRODUCTION** at the **MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020** Special Meeting:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| O-5-2020-009 | ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES”. |
| O-5-2020-010 | ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “FEES”.
(Towing, Construction and Utility Dept. Fees) |
| O-5-2020-011 | ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK |

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020** Special Meeting (R-5-2020-130– R-5-2020-133):

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| R-5-2020-130 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY OVERPAYMENT. (refund \$2,017.60) |
| R-5-2020-131 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INSURANCE DESIGN ADMINISTRATORS. (3-year contract - \$13,800.00 per year) |

R-5-2020-132 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

R-5-2019-133 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comment.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 6:35pm.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the Special Meeting was Called to Order at 6:36pm.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilman Baskin, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was introduced on first reading for Final Passage:

O-5-2020-009 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED "TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES".

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.
O-5-2020-009

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dalina, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was introduced on first reading for Final Passage:

O-5-2020-010 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED "FEES". (Towing, Construction and Utility Dept. Fees)

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.
O-5-2020-010

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was introduced on first reading for Final Passage:

O-5-2020-011 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin Aye
Councilman Stephen Dalina Aye
Councilman Charles Dipierro Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider Aye
Council President Miriam Cohen Aye

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.
O-5-2020-011

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilman Dalina the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-5-2020-130– R-5-2020-133):

R-5-2020-130 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY OVERPAYMENT. (refund \$2,017.60)

WHEREAS, the Utility Department, by copy of a letter dated May 7, 2020, copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, has recommended the Council approve the following utility overpayment refund:

<u>Refund to:</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Harriet Levine 35 Turret Drive Monroe Twp., N.J. 08831	requesting credit balance	\$2,017.60

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the recommendation of the Utility Department 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 **Harriet Levine in the amount of \$2,017.60.**

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-5-2020-131 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INSURANCE DESIGN ADMINISTRATORS. (3-year contract - \$13,800.00 per year)

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe desires to retain an independent third-party administrator to review claims from Retired Employees and maintain substantially similar benefits for covered persons from the previous AETNA QPOS + Horizon BCBS Plans and the new AETNA Choice POS Plan; and

WHEREAS, Insurance Design Administrators a UHY Advisors Company specializes in such business and possesses such expertise; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe and Insurance Design Administrators wish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement, for a three (3) year period effective May 1, 2020 and expiring April 30, 2023, *nunc pro tunc*, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the execution of the Agreement is in the best interest of the Township of Monroe; and

WHEREAS, Insurance Design Administrators has submitted a proposal indicating the fees for such services shall be in accordance with the attached fee schedule and payment for such services shall be made to Insurance Design Administrators, 153 Bauer Drive, Oakland, NJ 07436; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4*, the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds in Certificate No. C-2000038, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “B”; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in Certificate No M-_____, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “C”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Agreement with Insurance Design Administrators, a UHY Advisors Company; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to Insurance Design Administrators for proper execution;

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-5-2020-132 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY 2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to payment of normal operating expenses and no adequate provision has been made in the 2020 temporary appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purposes above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary Resolutions adopted in Year 2020, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20), including this Resolution, is **\$23,172,790.14;**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

- Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made for payment of the following entitled operating expenses:

<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:	
<u>Mayor</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 500.00
<u>Council</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 250.00
<u>Township Clerk</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 42,000.00
<u>Elections</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 500.00
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE:	
<u>Administration</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 38,000.00
<u>Human Resources</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 20,000.00
<u>Insurance</u>	
General Liability	\$ 196,100.00
Workers Compensation	\$ 160,859.00
<u>Public Information and Public Advocate</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 14,000.00
<u>Parks</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 20,000.00
Other Expenses	\$ 20,000.00
<u>Finance</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 100,000.00
Data Processing	\$ 5,000.00
<u>Tax Assessor</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 26,000.00
<u>Police Department</u>	
Salaries & Wages	\$ 200,000.00
Other Expenses	\$ 150,000.00

Emergency Mgt.
Other Expenses \$ 50,000.00

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Vehicle Maintenance
Salaries & Wages \$ 20,000.00

DEPARTMENT OF LAW:

Municipal Prosecutor
Salaries & Wages \$ 13,000.00

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Animal Control
Salaries & Wages \$ 20,000.00

OTHER TOWNSHIP AGENCIES:

Planning Board
Salaries & Wages \$ 500.00

Division of Planning
Other Expenses \$ 20,000.00

Open Space and Farmland Preservation Commission
Salaries & Wages \$ 200.00

Shade Tree Commission
Salaries & Wages \$ 2,500.00

Environmental Commission
Salaries & Wages \$ 200.00

Cultural Arts Commission
Salaries & Wages \$ 2,200.00

Historic Pres. Commission
Salaries & Wages \$ 200.00

OTHER TOWNSHIP AGENCIES:

Utilities \$ 180,000.00

Central Mailing Equipment \$ 5,000.00

Social Security System \$ 825,000.00

Storm water Management
Other Expenses \$ 40,000.00

Municipal Court
Salaries & Wages \$ 40,000.00

Public Defender
Salaries & Wages \$ 3,000.00

Shared Services - Recycling \$ 100,000.00

Library \$ 200,000.00

<u>Subtotal</u>	\$	2,515,009.00
<u>Water-Sewer Operations</u>		
Salaries & Wages	\$	200,000.00
Other Expenses	\$	3,500,000.00
Social Security	\$	25,000.00
NJEIT Loan	\$	126,775.00
<u>Subtotal</u>	\$	3,851,775.00
TOTAL	\$	6,366,784.00

2. That said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2020 Calendar Year Budget; and
3. That one (1) certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Government Services.

SO RESOLVED as aforesaid.

R-5-2019-133 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

Section 1.

Municipal Budget of the TOWNSHIP of MONROE, County of MIDDLESEX for Fiscal Year 2020.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the Year 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the HOME NEWS TRIBUNE in the issue of JUNE 10, 2020.

The Governing Body of the TOWNSHIP of MONROE does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the Year 2020;

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
	Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Resolutions Duly Filed.

REPORTS:

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Tamburro read into the record his 2020 Budget Address, which reads as follows:

“Allow me to begin my annual budget message by stating how proud I am of the people of Monroe.

Working closely with our essential first responders and our entire municipal workforce, we are squarely focused on prioritizing health and safety.

Make no mistake, this pandemic has caused plenty of sacrifice in all corners of Monroe Township. But I know that, together, we have acted in a way that saved many lives and we will see our way through this as a community.

I am proud to say Monroe was among the first communities in the state to shut down in the wake of this pandemic. And over the past two months, we have seen the importance of an organized emergency response and the efforts of our residents to be disciplined to protect each other. I believe it has made all the difference, preventing what could have been much worse.

But we still continue to face an unprecedented challenge ahead, even though I am hopeful that we are finally seeing the other side of the mountain.

So we now try to look to the future, as we prepare to slowly reopen our township. While overseeing the daily emergency response, my Administration has been diligently working on a proposed 2020 municipal budget.

As you can expect, there are enormous financial challenges and new uncertainties that have surfaced because of this pandemic. Revenues are down significantly, and we are evaluating expenses. It seems the world we live in changes each day.

Almost immediately, we took steps to manage the budget, identifying spending cuts, efficiencies and further belt-tightening to maximize every penny in our spending plan.

At my direction, the Business Administrator and CFO have been authorized to move forward on some difficult recommendations to mitigate the impact:

1. A hiring freeze that began in March and will continue through the end of the year.
2. The layoff of 20 part-time employees
3. The furlough of 10 school crossing guards, who we expect will rejoin us when school resumes.
4. Additional furloughs in Senior Services, Transportation, Recreation and other departments.
5. A proposed 10% cut in major Legal and Engineering Services for the remainder of the budget year.

But there are a few challenges that are beyond our control. They have fallen at our doorstep.

As a result of the pandemic, our Finance Department is projecting a \$2 Million revenue loss from a decrease in user fees across Township services. Since this is an ongoing situation, this is a difficult number to predict. In Addition, on the expense side, we face a challenge with recycling costs. It will cost Monroe an additional \$700,000 this year for recycling services, as the worldwide recycling market has completely collapsed.

We made many reductions in our budget, but these two uncontrollable factors have created a \$1.48 million hole in our budget. As many Monroe residents know, we usually keep taxes flat – bucking the trend of virtually every municipality in the state. In fact, we have been able to keep our average annual municipal tax increase at 1% over the past seven years combined. That is due, in part, to our 99% tax collection rate, stable leadership and careful, long-term planning.

But with the pandemic, and our need to continue to provide essential services, I feel we have no choice but to propose a slight increase in the municipal tax rate, equivalent to about \$61 for the average property taxpayer with the average assessed value (\$319k). The increase would have been much larger without our cuts, planned Cares Act aid, and the cooperation of our employees.

So today, I am submitting a proposed municipal budget to the Township Council that calls for a tax rate of \$0.493 per \$100 assessed value, this is an annual increase of \$19 annually per 100,000 of assessed value, or about \$5 a month for the average homeowner. This 1.9 cent increase is under the state-mandated 2% levy cap.

But we are not done. We will have to monitor revenues and expenses over the course of the entire year. We have to finalize the Cares Act funding and ensure our \$2.2 million in annual state aid is confirmed in the State Budget this September. Additional action would be necessary if circumstances change and we will be ready for those further difficult decisions should they become necessary.

We have always made our decisions with our long-term fiscal health and stable taxes in mind. Today is no exception. We should be proud of Monroe and the superb AA+ credit rating that continues to benefit our taxpayers.

I know, despite the challenges, we can do this. We have lifted each other up over these very dark two months. And we have served each other through our sacrifices to stay home. While I wouldn't have chosen this path and this pain for us – we will be stronger and more resilient as we move forward.”

Administrator's Report – Administrator Weinberg reported that there is no doubt that this has been a trying time over the past two months. He extended thanks to the Mayor, Council and all of the residents for helping the Township get through this. He noted that there are many challenges ahead but is looking forward to working together through them.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Rasimowicz reported that the Traffic Signalization/Intersection Improvement Project at the intersection of Spotswood Gravel Hill Road/Matchaponix Avenue/Pergola Avenue has begun and cautioned all who may be driving in that area to please be careful.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Vice-President Schneider –

- Commented that this has been one of the roughest times she has seen and praised the Administration and Mayor for their work on the budget.
- Extended thanks to all of the front-line workers for their hard work. Very happy to read about our Township EMS and the State Troopers who delivered a healthy baby on the turnpike.

Councilman Dipierro –

- Commented that it was great news to read about our EMS delivering a healthy baby on the turnpike.
- Noted that these are very difficult times for everyone as we continue to make adjustments to the ongoing changes we are facing. Stated that during these times there are many moving targets making it very difficult to put together this budget but is pleased with the work that has been done by all to keep Monroe moving in the right direction.

Councilman Dalina –

- Thanked the Mayor, Alan and George along with their respective departments for keeping everyone afloat. Mentioned that this is the 9th budget he has worked on and when compared to others this has been the hardest as it has been by far and hard to fathom in looking at these numbers on how exactly to move forward.
- Thanked all the residents for their vigilance in keeping to the social distancing guidelines.

Councilman Baskin –

- Stated that he was speechless as this is a very uncertain and difficult time.
- Commented that he is proud of all of the employees and the residents of Monroe as everyone has been working hard to cooperate and follow all of the rules.
- Shared that he is very saddened by the deaths within the Township and is hoping for some enjoyment this Summer and a vaccine by the Fall.

Council President Cohen –

- Stated that this budget has been very difficult and is looking forward to meeting with all to discuss. She added that we are going to do the very best that we can to support the Township as it is very important to all of us to get this budget done.
- Extended thanks to all who have spent many countless hours of labor working on this budget.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilman Dalina, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked for an explanation on R-5-2020-131; Administrator Weinberg explained that our current health insurance is different than what many have retired with many years ago. He added that an agreement was done through the court system and this group manages those differences to ensure that the employees are whole.

Mrs. Arminio asked why this resident is receiving a refund of over \$2,000 as stated on R-5-2020-130; Administrator Weinberg stated that the resident paid \$2,183.61 when they should have only paid \$83.61 therefore, a refund is warranted.

Mrs. Arminio commented that the other resolutions were then for the budget to which Council President Cohen confirmed that R-5-2020-132 was for budget appropriations and R-5-2020-133 is for the introduction.

Mrs. Arminio asked for confirmation that the taxes were going to be raised by \$19 per \$100 assessed value annually to which Administrator Weinberg confirmed. He also added that there were still a couple of items up in the air and that needed to be worked over in the next few weeks.

Mrs. Arminio asked if part time workers were still able to receive salaries to which Administrator Weinberg explained further noting that the Township has laid off 20 part time employees and now with the furlough program being implemented that would allow the Township to move in that direction. Mrs. Arminio asked if the budget had stipends for workers to which both Administrator Weinberg and Township Attorney Rainone explained further.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin, the Special Meeting was Adjourned at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL: Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Patricia Reid

PATRICIA REID, Township Clerk

Miriam Cohen

MIRIAM COHEN, Council President

Minutes were adopted on: June 22, 2020.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.