

CHANGES TO LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2026

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Effective after March 1, 2026, the complete text of each legal notice for the Township of Monroe may be obtained or viewed by the public on the official internet website <https://www.monroetwp.com/index.php/services/legal-notices>, as well as hyperlinked on the Secretary of State's legal notice webpage <https://nj.gov/state/statewide-legal-notices-list.shtml>. The aforementioned is in accordance with P.L. 2025, c.72. Christine Robbins, RMC, Township Clerk

**** 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**

MAY 4, 2026

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

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG.**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

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

4. Township Clerk Christine Robbins 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 26, 2025 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and the **CRANBURY PRESS** on December 26, 2025;
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 and PRESENTATIONS:**

Proclamations:

“Military Appreciation Month” – May

“Building Safety Month” - May

“National Day of Prayer” - May 7, 2026

“Apraxia Awareness Day” - May 14, 2026

“Om Parikh Day” – May 17, 2026

“Municipal Clerk’s Week” – May 3-9, 2026

“National Police Week and Peace Officer’s Memorial Day” – May 10-16, 2026

“Emergency Medical Services Week” – May 17-23, 2026

“National Public Works Week” – May 17-23, 2026

Presentation:

Human Relations Commission Annual Ceremony Honoring and Presenting Awards to those students who exemplify the 6 pillars of Character: Caring, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Citizenship and Trustworthiness.

Barclay Brook

Pre-K- Maya Chan
Kindergarten- Chase Sidler
1st Grade- Keerthisha Santhos Raajhen
2nd Grade- Harper Warwick

Oak Tree

Kindergarten- Chloe Yoon
1st Grade- Mithran Dinesh
2nd Grade Aarav Singh
2nd Grade- Sai Ritu Prasath
3rd Grade- Sophia Dalere

Brookside

3rd Grade- Abigail Paturi
4th Grade- Harshini Komatipally
5th Grade- Emma Babicki

Middle School

6th Grade- Matthew Barrio
7th Grade- Ethan Appiah
8th Grade- Isabelle Maglio

Mill Lake

Pre-K- James Hrankiowskyj
Kindergarten- Jase Germain
1st Grade- Nora Rinehart
2nd Grade- Isha Sarkar
3rd Grade- Alexia Simon

Applegarth

4th Grade- Lakith Silaparasetti
5th Grade- Shaivi Prathap

Woodland School

4th Grade- Shrey Patel
5th Grade- Everly Toth

High School

Freshman- Sanvi Gill
Sophomore- Om Donga
Junior- Aaliyah Rajabali
Senior- Josephina Corona

6. **ORDINANCE(S) for SECOND READING** at the May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| O-4-2026-007 | ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP CODE, AMENDING VC-2 OVERLAY FOR PARCEL INCLUDED IN MONROE TOWNSHIP’S ROUND FOUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN. |
| O-4-2026-008 | ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK. |
| O-4-2026-009 | ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “FEES”.
(Fee adjustments to MTUD water & sewer fees, construction fees and EMS fees) |

7. **BUDGET RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION** at the May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| R-5-2026-104 | RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BE READ BY TITLE AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. |
| R-5-2026-105 | RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET. |

8. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION** under **CONSENT AGENDA** at the May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting: (R-5-2026-106 – R-5-2026-110)

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| R-5-2026-106 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR HOMETECH HOMES LLC. – W-1244 POSTED TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (M.T.U.D.) |
| R-5-2026-107 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS. |
| R-5-2026-108 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2026 DODGE DURANGO’S FROM NIELSEN OF MORRISTOWN UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. (\$111,348.45) |

- R-5-2026-109

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATION TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE FOR THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.
(Additional \$4,036)
- R-5-2026-110

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO DISCOVER CONSTRUCTION, LLC. FOR THE 2026 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PROJECT.
(\$1,615,605.94)

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**

MAY 4, 2026

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 **April 27, 2026**.
MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
MOTION to approve the **MINUTES** of the following meetings as written and presented:
April 6, 2026 - Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting
MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

4. **ORDINANCE(S) for SECOND READING:**
O-4-2026-007 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP CODE, AMENDING VC-2 OVERLAY FOR PARCEL INCLUDED IN MONROE TOWNSHIP’S ROUND FOUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN.
PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

- O-4-2026-008 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.**
PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

- O-4-2026-009 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “FEES”.**
(Fee adjustments to MTUD water & sewer fees, construction fees and EMS fees)
PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

5. **2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**
R-5-2026-104 RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BE READ BY TITLE AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.
MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET INTRODUCED ON APRIL 6, 2026

ROLL CALL: Ayes____Nays__

ROLL CALL: Ayes____Nays__

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

ROLL CALL: Ayes____Nays__

6. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under the CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-5-2026-106– R-5-2026-110)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATION TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE FOR THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN. (Additional \$4,036)

ROLL CALL: Ayes Nays

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

ROLL CALL: Ayes____Nays____

8. Administrator's Report.

9. **Engineer's Report.**

10. Council's Reports.

11. Mayor's Report.

12. Public Comments. (5 Minutes per Speaker)

SECOND:

Time: _____

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
COMBINED AGENDA/REGULAR MEETING –WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026 @ 6:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – May 4, 2026

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 Rupa P. Siegel with a Salute to the Flag.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Business Administrator Kevin McGowan, Township Attorney Lou Rainone, Engineer Ernest Feist, CFO Lori Olah, Auditor Ralph Picone, Deputy Township Clerk Tanya Pannucci and Mayor Stephen Dalina.

There were approximately one hundred (100) members of the Public in attendance.

Township Clerk Christine Robbins 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:

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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 Siegel read aloud the following proclamations:

Proclamations:

“Military Appreciation Month” – May

“Building Safety Month” - May

“National Day of Prayer” - May 7, 2026

“Apraxia Awareness Day” - May 14, 2026

“Om Parikh Day” – May 17, 2026

“Municipal Clerk’s Week” – May 3-9, 2026

“National Police Week and Peace Officer’s Memorial Day” – May 10-16, 2026

“Emergency Medical Services Week” – May 17-23, 2026

“National Public Works Week” – May 17-23, 2026

Council President Siegel introduced Ms. Harjeet Viridi of the Human Relations Commission, Mayor Dalina and Superintendent Dr. Layman to open the Annual Human Relations Commission Ceremony honoring and presenting Awards to those students who have been selected by their teachers as exemplifying the 6 Pillars of Character: Caring, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Citizenship and Trustworthiness.

Ms. Viridi thanked everyone for coming out to support these outstanding students and thanked the Mayor and Council for their support, all the teachers, administrators and especially the parents for raising, guiding and empowering these amazing children.

Awards were presented to the following students:

Presentation:

Human Relations Commission Annual Ceremony Honoring and Presenting Awards to those students who exemplify the 6 pillars of Character: Caring, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Citizenship and Trustworthiness.

Barclay Brook

Pre-K- Maya Chan
Kindergarten- Chase Sidler
1st Grade- Keerthisha Santhos Raajhen
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Sophomore- Om Donga
Junior- Aaliyah Rajabali
Senior- Josephina Corona

Mayor Dalina stated that this award ceremony is something that not only himself but all of Council and Administration looks forward to; he thanked all the students and their families for their hard work and commitment to exemplifying the 6 Pillars of Character.

A brief recess was taken for pictures with the meeting reconvening at 7:00pm.

Township Clerk Christine Robbins read the following entitled **ORDINANCE(S)** for **SECOND READING** at the **MONDAY, May 4, 2026** Regular Meeting:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| O-4-2026-007 | ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP CODE, AMENDING VC-2 OVERLAY FOR PARCEL INCLUDED IN MONROE TOWNSHIP’S ROUND FOUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN. |
| O-4-2026-008 | ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK. |
| O-4-2026-009 | ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “FEES”.
(Fee adjustments to MTUD water & sewer fees, construction fees and EMS fees) |

Township Clerk Christine Robbins read the following entitled **BUDGET RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **MONDAY, May 4, 2026** Regular Meeting:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| R-5-2026-104 | RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BE READ BY TITLE AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. |
| R-5-2026-105 | RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET. |

Township Clerk Christine Robbins read the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** under **CONSENT AGENDA** at the May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting: (R-5-2026-106 – R-5-2026-110)

- | | |
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| R-5-2026-106 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR HOMETECH HOMES LLC. – W-1244 POSTED TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (M.T.U.D.) |
| R-5-2026-107 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS. |

- | | |
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| R-5-2026-108 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2026 DODGE DURANGO'S FROM NIELSEN OF MORRISTOWN UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. (\$111,348.45) |
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| R-5-2026-110 | RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO DISCOVER CONSTRUCTION, LLC. FOR THE 2026 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PROJECT. (\$1,615,605.94) |

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

Public Comments:

Bob Valentine, 68 Union Valley Rd. – Mr. Valentine thanked the Mayor and Administrator for their presentation at last month's meeting, as well as the generous assistance received with questions he had pertaining to the budget. Mr. Valentine went on to say that he reviewed the proposed 2026 budget and the 2025 and 2024 financial reports on the Township's website and stated that he supports the budget and general tax increase as difficult as it is. He went on to say that while the Township's finances are stable, both the general fund operating budget and general fund balance are trending lower. Mr. Valentine went on to note that the Township enjoys an excellent credit rating which yields savings on borrowing costs and validates the Township's status as a dependable financial partner, and there is a significant value in taking action to ensure that continues and feels that the increase tax revenue is part of ensuring that happens. He went on to share that in addition to the standard inflation adjustments built into the tax revenue formula, the Township is raising additional funds to cover two significant expenses: health insurance premiums and debt service. Noting that health insurance is a statewide problem, Mr. Valentine states that he hopes in the future to hear about what options are available to manage this in the Township and asked if the Township has looked at options for servicing the insurance program. Regarding debt service, Mr. Valentine noted that debt service costs rose half a million dollars from 2024 to 2025 and is rising another half a million dollars in the 2026 budget; he went on to suggest that the Township consider assessing the rate at which it is issuing general fund debt so that these additional costs can be better absorbed into the existing budget tax structure. Mr. Valentine went on to give a variety of suggestions to help lower the debt service burden, as well as noting the importance of the Township showcasing how the debt obligation is being handled, the implementation of cross subsidizing general fund operations and lastly performance improvements. Council President Siegel invited Mr. Valentine to come back up during the next public portion as his five minute time limit was up.

Lucille Panos, 1208C Lindera Plz. – Mrs. Panos asked for an explanation of Ordinance O-4-2026-007; in regard to Ordinance O-4-2026-008, Mrs. Panos asked what the amount to be exceeded in the municipal budget is and what is the proposed CAP. Regarding Resolution R-5-2026-105, Mrs. Panos asked what the total cost of the health benefits are, how many employees the Township has and if there are any new employees scheduled to be hired this year. Lastly, Mrs. Panos asked for an explanation of the modification to Resolution R-5-2026-109. Administrator McGowan responded that Ordinance O-4-2026-007 makes amendments to our VC-2 Overlay Zone explaining that a project was included in our Round 4 Affordable Housing Plan that necessitated some changes to the buffers and to the widths along Route 33 as this was what we called the "Bald Eagle Site". He went on to explain that this is on the southwestern side of the town, bordering East Windsor, and this will enable that project to move forward in our Round 4 Affordable Housing obligation, further clarifying that we agreed to some changes to a couple of parking and buffer requirements, as well as design standards in order to make that project more viable for affordable housing. He noted that there are 186 units with 37 of them being affordable.

Administrator McGowan went on to explain regarding Resolution R-5-2026-109, that we previously agreed to participate in the Watershed Institute's Regional Study of our shared watershed and there were about eight or nine towns who agreed to participate in the process as well. Ultimately a few towns have dropped out, and representatives of the Watershed Institute appealed to the Township for an additional \$4,036 because of that. He went on to say that along with our Township Engineer, we determined that the additional money is worth it as if we chose not to participate, we would have to study the watershed on our own to fulfill the NJDEP requirement and it would be more conducive to do this in a regional setting instead.

Mrs. Panos asked in regard to the buffers noted in Ordinance O-4-2026-007, what is being changed, how many feet are they and if they are near any watershed, wetlands or anything of that nature; Administrator

McGowan responded that this does not change any of those landscape buffers along Route 33 as there was a 100 foot width requirement along Route 33 before to make this project viable. He went on to say that since this project is a part of our Round 4 Affordable Housing Plan, we have to do what we can to make the project viable, so the buffer is being shrunk to 50 feet and does not affect any wetlands. Attorney Rainone added that part of the reason why we did this was to keep the project away from any wetlands because the back of the property is where the Conservation Easement is for the bald eagle so we are trying to move it as far away as possible so it encroaches less.

Administrator McGowan invited Township Auditor Ralph Picone to explain Ordinance O-4-2026-008; Mr. Picone explained that this is a standard ordinance that every municipality in the State of New Jersey does each year as the State gives an amount that you are allowed to go up inside the CAP. He further explained that this year it was 2% and by passing this CAP ordinance the Township now has the ability to go up 3 ½ % which does not mean that the budget is going up by that much but instead gives you the ability to do so if needed. He added that it is prudent practice to pass this Ordinance in case the Township needs to tap into that banking in a future year, but the Township budget tonight does not have that banking even being used.

CFO Lori Olah responded to Mrs. Panos' question regarding the number of employees and total cost, answering that there are approximately 350 employees on health insurance with the cost for both the Township and Utilities being \$10,350,811 which is found on Sheet 3b (2) of the budget document. Mrs. Panos asked if there were any new employees in this budget to which the answer was no there are no new full-time employees in the budget.

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked if any part of the \$1,615,605.94 noted in Resolution R-5-2026-110 will go towards soft costs; Administrator McGowan responded that this is all hard costs as the design costs were not part of this resolution and the contract for that was done at a prior Council meeting. Mrs. Arminio asked what this construction was for, to which Administrator McGowan answered that this is for the 2026 Roadway Improvements Project.

Mrs. Arminio commented that the Resolution that allows for the Township to read the municipal budget by title does not seem to be either fair or transparent to the taxpayers. She stated that the Township asks for the taxpayers to pay their taxes on time and in return receive a high rate of compliance which in turn should be met with a more respectful, broader and understandable way to not only review the budget but have it deliberated with their elected officials. Mrs. Arminio stated that she feels like each year the residents receive less and less information during budgetary times and we are expected to weed through the website to find our own answers. She went on to say that she thinks it would be nice to have a better understanding of what we as taxpayers are paying for because as it stands currently it is not very transparent.

Pavan Tirunagari, 8 Lenmore Ct. – Mr. Tirunagari commented that the budget is very complex and should be made more concise and explained in one page so to answer resident questions.

Susan Smith, 618 Spotswood-Englishtown Rd. – Mrs. Smith inquired as to when the Watershed Institute's Plan would be made available, to which Administrator McGowan answered that per NJDEP rules, the plan would need to be completed by the end of the year. Mrs. Smith asked if it would be made available to the public to which Administrator McGowan answered absolutely.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 7:20pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 7:20pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the **CLAIMS** per run date of **4/27/2026** were approved for payment as written and presented.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **MINUTES** of the following meetings as written and presented:

April 6, 2026 - Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting

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

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

O-4-2026-007	ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP CODE, AMENDING VC-2 OVERLAY FOR PARCEL INCLUDED IN MONROE TOWNSHIP’S ROUND FOUR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN.
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BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, Middlesex County, New Jersey that Chapter 108 of the Code of the Township of Monroe is hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

Section 1.

Section 108-6.18 is amended to read as follows:

§108-6.18 HD Highway Development District:

- K. VC-2 Village Center Overlay
 - (3) Minimum Tract Size: 40 acres.
 - (4) Permitted principal uses:
 - (m) Is hereby is amended to provide that **the requirement that residential dwellings be located at least 500 feet from Route 33 shall not apply to Block 4, Lot 14.01. All other provisions of subsection (m), including the requirement that at least twenty percent (20%) of residential dwellings be provided as affordable housing as defined by the State of New Jersey, shall remain applicable.**
 - (7) Permitted intensities of development
 - (d) Maximum impervious coverage for residential uses of 50% shall be permitted.
 - (8) Bulk Standards
 - (b) Residential uses
 - [4] Maximum Building Height

Description	Requirement
Principal building, townhouse and multifamily	3 stories 45 feet
100 percent affordable multifamily	3 stories of occupied space 50 feet
Accessory building	1 story 25 feet

(9) Landscape buffer requirements:

- (a) **Is hereby repealed as applied to Block 4, Lot 14.01.**
- (c) **Is hereby repealed as applied to Block 4, Lot 14.01.**

(10) Traffic and circulation:

- (b) **A primary access road in the form of a boulevard with a treed center median that interconnects Applegarth Road through the VC-2 Village Center Overlay Zone with Route 33 at a signalized intersection, if required by and subject to approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, at the main entrance of the existing Renaissance age-restricted development located on the southern side of Route 33.**
- (c) No curb cuts for driveways shall be permitted along Route 33 and Applegarth Road. **This provision does not apply to Block 4, Lot 14.01.** All access from Route 33 and Applegarth Road shall be achieved by a primary access road with driveways and roads intersecting the primary access road within the internal areas of the development so as to create an internal road system.
- (d) **Is hereby repealed as applied to Block 4, Lot 14.01.**

(13) Parking and loading:

- (a) **Is hereby repealed as applied to Block 4, Lot 14.01.**

(16) Design standards:

- (a) General Standards
 - [1] **Is hereby repealed as applied to Block 4, Lot 14.01.**
 - [2] **Is hereby repealed as applied to Block 4, Lot 14.01.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any ordinance or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance with applicable law.

SO, ORDAINED as aforesaid.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-4-2026-007** was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

Public Comments:

Bob Valentine, 68 Union Valley Rd. – Mr. Valentine wished to continue his discussion on the budget but was directed by Council President Siegel to come back during the Budget’s Public Hearing as this Public Comment session was for Ordinance O-4-2026-007 only.

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio stated that she was in attendance at the Planning Board meeting where this was discussed and action was taken and wanted to inquire if anything had changed from that meeting or does the Ordinance remain intact as the Planning Board approved it; Township Attorney Rainone answered that the Ordinance remains intact as how the Planning Board approved it. Mrs. Arminio went on to say that she was given a great deal of information at that meeting as she asked a lot of questions, including about the 20% of residential dwellings provided by the affordable housing and was told at the time that the 20% was due to

Round Three but is now going towards Round Four. She inquired if it is no longer a part of the Round Three obligation, why we cannot raise this to 30% since this is what has been discussed to attempt to be done for Round Four. Administrator McGowan answered that in Round Four we have a percentage that is even higher than 30%, as this property challenged our affordable housing plan, explaining further that we went through the affordable housing program with the courts and were able to settle for a much lower number of total units than this property owner wanted to develop in Round Three, which was in the 240 unit range down all the way to 187. In order to get it settled we had to settle for this property to have a 20% set aside, so we will get about 37 units overall, but our affordable housing plan has actually more than 30% set aside for each new development on average. Mrs. Arminio commented that she is concerned with the promise of trying to get as much affordable housing, as the whole point of all this construction is to give people affordable housing not the market rate units that we see being overdeveloped in our Township. Township Attorney Rainone stated that both Round Three and Round Four are well over 20% as we made changes back in Fall to our Round Three plan which reduced the number of units by almost 500 but kept the same number of affordable housing units to be built. He added that the set aside for the one project being developed by Edgewood Properties is 28% so we agree that more affordable housing and less market units should be built. Mrs. Arminio asked for reaffirmation that this change was specific to this parcel of property only and that there were no changes to anything else, as well as no buffer changes, only justice based on the "Bald Eagle" lot; to which Township Attorney Rainone answered yes.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-4-2026-007** was **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, **Ordinance O-4-2026-007** was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

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

**O-4-2026-008 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to **3.5%** over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, finds its advisable and necessary to increase its **CY 2026** Budget by up to **3.5%** over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens: and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a **1.5%** increase in the budget for said year, amounting to **\$816,818.10** in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the **CY 2026** budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Monroe shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by **3.5%**, amounting to **\$1,905,908.90**, and that the **CY 2026** municipal budget for the Township of Monroe be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance, as introduced, be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within five (5) days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance, upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

SO ORDAINED, as aforesaid.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-4-2026-008** was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

Public Comments:

No Public Comment.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-4-2026-008** was **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, **Ordinance O-4-2026-008** was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

O-4-2026-009

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “FEES”.
(Fee adjustments to MTUD water & sewer fees, construction fees and EMS fees)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that Chapter 39 of the Code of the Township of Monroe is hereby amended as follows: (new text is in **red and underlined**, text to be deleted is ~~struck~~)

Chapter 39 FEES

§ 39-1. Title & Purpose.

§ 39-2. Fees enumerated by Department.

- A. General fees for all Departments**
- B. Division of Ambulance Services**
- C. Board of Education exemption**
- D. Licenses and permits from Township Clerk's Office**
- E. Construction fees**
- F. Department of Planning & Zoning**
- G. Department of Public Work fees**
- H. Division of Recreation**
- I. Division of Revenue Collection**
- J. Monroe Township Senior Center fees**
- K. Shade Tree**
- L. Transportation**
- M. Monroe Township Utility Department fees and charges**

§ 39-1. Title & Purpose.

This chapter shall be known as the "Codification of Fees and Costs of the Township of Monroe" which is adopted in order to advise the citizens of the Township, and any and all persons doing business with the Township, of the various fees charged for services rendered by the departments of Township government and to provide ready access to any and all such information.

§ 39-2. Fees enumerated by Department.

The following fees shall be charged by the Township for services rendered or licenses or permits issued. All license fees shall be annual unless otherwise noted.

A. General fees for all Departments.

B. Division of Ambulance Service.

Fees Enumerated.

(4) Ambulance third-party billing fees:

Transport:	Mileage:
\$950 <u>\$1,000</u>	\$25 <u>\$30</u> mile
<u>Itemized Equipment:</u>	
<u>Cervical Collar:</u>	<u>\$40</u>
<u>CPAP:</u>	<u>\$100</u>
<u>Epi-Pen:</u>	<u>\$150</u>
<u>Aspirin:</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<u>Albuterol Nebulizer:</u>	<u>\$75</u>
<u>AED:</u>	<u>\$75</u>
<u>Lucas Device:</u>	<u>\$75</u>
<u>Tourniquets/Hemostatic Dressing:</u>	<u>\$100</u>
<u>Treat and Refusal:</u>	<u>\$175</u>

E. Construction fees. See fees on the following Schedules I through VII.

Administrative and Certificate Fee Schedule
Schedule I

Item	Cost
A. Certificate of occupancy. Refer to Building Subcode Fee Schedule II.	
Schedule 1	\$190 <u>\$228</u>
Schedule 2	\$500 <u>\$600</u>
Schedule 3	\$500 <u>\$600</u>
Multiple	\$190 per unit <u>\$228</u>
Asbestos hazard abatement	\$18 <u>\$22</u>
Lead hazard abatement	\$125 <u>\$150</u>
B. Certificate of continued occupancy (R-5 are optional)	See above schedule
C. Certificate of continued occupancy pursuant to a change of use	\$250 <u>\$300</u>
D. Certificate of approval	No charge
E. Certificate of compliance (includes electrical C. of C. for commercial pools, spas or hot tubs)	No charge
F. Variations:	
Residential, R-5 single item	\$125 <u>\$150</u>
Residential, R-3, R-4, multiple within one unit or prototype to development	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
All other uses	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
G. Plan review portion of total permit fee	5%
Plan review fee to be paid at the time of granting the permit.	
Plan review fees are not refundable.	
H. Minimum fee per subcode applied for	\$60 <u>\$72</u>
I. State of New Jersey training fees	Per N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.19(b)
J. Annual permit	Per N.J.A.C.
Consistent with requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.18(A)4	5:23-4.18(A)(u)

- K.

There shall be an additional fee of \$45 per hour or any portion thereof for review of any amendment or change to a plan that has already been released.
- L.

Hourly charges and fees for development-wide inspection of homes after issuance of a certificate of occupancy shall be in such amount as may be reasonable and necessary in order to ascertain whether a violation exists or to verify that any work performed has abated the violation.

The hourly charge shall be \$57 per hour times the number of hours spent by the Code Official in determining whether a violation exists or verifying that any work performed has abated the violation.
- M.

Change of contractor per Subcode

Flat fee \$30

\$36
- N.

Temporary certificate of occupancy

Consistent with the requirements set forth in: N.J.A.C. 5:23–4.18(F)3, N.J.A.C. 5:23–4.18(F)3i, and N.J.A.C. 5:23–4.18(F)4

Per N.J.A.C. 5:23–4.18(F)
- O.

For the purpose of determining the estimated cost, the applicant may be requested to submit such data as may be available produced by the architect or engineer of record or by a recognized estimating firm or by contractor. A bona fide contractor' s bid, if available, shall be submitted. The construction official shall make the final decision regarding estimated cost.
- P.

The fee for the issuance of a building permit that a fee has not been determined shall be \$60 \$72.00, Building, Electric, Fire Plumbing and Mechanical.

Building Subcode Fees Schedule II					
Schedule #1 includes Use Groups: R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5 and U					
Schedule #2 includes Use Groups: F-1, F-2, S-1 and S-2, A-4, A-5					
Schedule #3 includes Use Groups: A-1, A-2, A-3, E, H, I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4 and R-1, B, M					
Retaining Walls:					
Up to 4 feet: \$95 \$114 Class 3 Residential					
Up to 8 feet: \$155 \$186 Class 3 Residential					
Other than Class 3 Residential \$25 \$30 per \$1, 000 or portion thereof					
Raised patio (flat fee): \$50 \$60					
	Type of Work	Based On	Schedule #1	Schedule #2	Schedule #3
A.	New buildings or additions	Cubic volume	\$0.064 \$0.077	\$0.063 \$0.076	\$0.064 \$0.077
	N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.18(c)vi. The unit rate for large, open-volume, single-story spaces in buildings, such as barns, silos, greenhouses, warehouses, distribution centers, and other agricultural, and storage-use occupancies, shall be less than the unit rate for other types of buildings and occupancy classifications. These type structures shall be priced using Schedule #2 (1) For the purpose of calculating the volume to determine the fee for these spaces, the height shall be limited to 20 feet notwithstanding the fact that the actual height of the space may be greater than 20 feet.				
B.	Alterations, Renovation or Repair work Duct work Schedule 2, 3 Decks New Cell Tower*	Est. cost of work per \$1,000 or portion thereof	\$40 \$48	\$45 \$54	\$45 \$54

Building Subcode Fees Schedule II					
Schedule #1 includes Use Groups: R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5 and U					
Schedule #2 includes Use Groups: F-1, F-2, S-1 and S-2, A-4, A-5					
Schedule #3 includes Use Groups: A-1, A-2, A-3, E, H, I-1, I-2, I-3, <u>I-4</u> and R-1, B, M					
Retaining Walls:					
Up to 4 feet: \$95 <u>\$114</u> Class 3 Residential					
Up to 8 feet: \$155 <u>\$186</u> Class 3 Residential					
Other than Class 3 Residential \$25 <u>\$30</u> per \$1, 000 or portion thereof					
Raised patio (flat fee): \$50 <u>\$60</u>					
	Type of Work	Based On	Schedule #1	Schedule #2	Schedule #3
	Windmill* <u>Solar System for Schedule 2,3*</u>				
C.	Site construction associated with pre-engineered systems of commercial farm buildings, pre-manufactured construction and external utility connections of same.	Est. cost of work per \$1,000 or portion thereof	\$40 <u>\$48</u>	\$45 <u>\$54</u>	\$45 <u>\$54</u>
D.	Roofing or siding Excluding Use Groups R-5 detached 1-2 family dwellings only: roof/siding permit not required, if using polypropylene siding material a permit is required.	Flat fee or est. cost of work per \$1,000 or portion thereof	\$125 <u>\$150</u> /per unit R-2, R-4, U R-5 (3 or more attached units) R-3	\$25 <u>\$30</u>	\$25 <u>\$30</u>
E.	Fence (over 6 feet)*	Flat fee	\$65 <u>\$78</u>	\$250 <u>\$300</u>	\$250 <u>\$300</u>
F.	Sign [not exempt under N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14(b)6]	Square foot of face	N/A	\$6 <u>\$7</u>	\$6 <u>\$7</u>
G.	Pool	Flat fee	\$250 <u>\$300</u>	\$435 <u>\$522</u>	\$435 <u>\$522</u>
H.	Asbestos abatement	Flat fee	\$90 <u>\$108</u>	\$90 <u>\$108</u>	\$90 <u>\$108</u>
I.	Lead hazard abatement	Flat fee	\$175 <u>\$210</u>	\$175 <u>\$210</u>	\$175 <u>\$210</u>
J.	Other:				
	Agricultural buildings under N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.2(d). Fees to be computed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.2012i(1).				
	Antenna/satellite dish/cell tower/ windmill	Flat fee	\$625 <u>\$750</u>	\$625 <u>\$750</u>	\$625 <u>\$750</u>
	Residential lawn shed* +	Flat fee	\$125 <u>\$150</u>		
	Other temporary structures	Flat fee	\$125 <u>\$150</u>	\$625 <u>\$750</u>	\$625 <u>\$750</u>
	N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A(c)1				
K.	Demolition	Flat fee	R-5: \$250 <u>\$300</u> U: \$30 <u>\$36</u> Single unit in R-2: \$30 <u>\$36</u>	\$440 <u>\$528</u>	\$440 <u>\$528</u>
L.	Pool Barrier	Flat fee	\$150 <u>\$180</u>		
M.	RTU	Flat fee	\$160 <u>\$192</u>		
N.	<u>Solar System Only for Residential 1-2 Family Dwelling (R-5)</u>	<u>Flat fee</u>	<u>\$250</u>		

Building Subcode Fees Schedule II					
Schedule #1 includes Use Groups: R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5 and U					
Schedule #2 includes Use Groups: F-1, F-2, S-1 and S-2, A-4, A-5					
Schedule #3 includes Use Groups: A-1, A-2, A-3, E, H, I-1, I-2, I-3, <u>I-4</u> and R-1, B, M					
Retaining Walls:					
Up to 4 feet: \$95 <u>\$114</u> Class 3 Residential					
Up to 8 feet: \$155 <u>\$186</u> Class 3 Residential					
Other than Class 3 Residential \$25 <u>\$30</u> per \$1, 000 or portion thereof					
Raised patio (flat fee): \$50 <u>\$60</u>					
Type of Work	Based On	Schedule #1	Schedule #2	Schedule #3	
<u>O. The fee for the issuance of a building permit that is not listed above shall be \$72.</u>					

* Subject to review and approval of Zoning regardless of dimension.

+ A permit is not required for garden-type utility sheds and similar structures, which are 200 square feet or less in area, 10 feet or less in height and accessory buildings of Use Group R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5. Such garden type utility sheds are required to comply with N.J.A.C. 5:23-9.9, Foundation Systems for Garden Type Utility Sheds and Similar Structures.

Electrical Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule III			
Item	Based On		Cost
A. DEVICES, includes total of: *Devices rated less than 30 amperes			
Lighting fixtures	First 10 items		\$55
Receptacles			<u>\$66</u>
Switches			
Detectors	Each additional 25 or portion of		\$70
Light poles	25 items		<u>\$84</u>
Motors - fractional HP			
Emergency exit lights			
Communication points			
Alarm devices			
Devices rated more than 30 amperes	Flat fee		\$45
			<u>\$54</u>
B. POOLS, in-ground pool permit with:			
Underwater light(s)	Flat fee		\$310
			<u>\$372</u>
Spa/hot tub	Flat fee		\$100
			<u>\$120</u>
Annual inspection of commercial pools, spas or hot tubs [per N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.18(1)]	Flat fee		\$160
			<u>\$192</u>
Aboveground pool	Flat fee		\$150
			<u>\$180</u>
C. MOTORS AND APPARATUS RATED IN/BY HORSEPOWER, includes, but not limited to:			
Garbage disposal	=> than 1 HP, up to 5 HP		\$45
All other, over 1 HP			<u>\$54</u>
	=> than 5 HP, up to 50 HP		\$90
			<u>\$108</u>
	=> than 50 HP, up to 100 HP		\$140
			<u>\$168</u>
	=> than 100 HP		\$250
			<u>\$300</u>
D. TRANSFORMERS AND APP. RATED IN/BY KW, includes, but not limited to:			
Electric range/receptacle	=> 1kW, up to 10 kW		\$45
Oven/surface unit			<u>\$54</u>
Electric water heater	=> 10 kW, up to 50 kW		\$90
Electric dryer/receptacle			<u>\$108</u>
Dishwasher	=> 50 kW, up to 100 kW		\$140

Electrical Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule III			
Item		Based On	Cost
	Baseboard heat		\$168
	Transformers/generators	=/> than 100 kW	\$250 \$300
E.	SERVICE PANELS & EQUIPMENT RATED IN AMPERES, includes, but not limited to:		
	Service panels	Up to and including 200 amperes	\$135 \$162
	Subpanels		
	Meters	Up to and including 400 amperes	\$250 \$300
	Solar meters		
	Disconnects		
	Car chargers/devices supplying car charging	Up to and including 800 amperes	\$590 \$708
	Transfer switch		
	*Replacement of service entrance conductors or feeder conductors only	Up to and including 1,200 amperes	\$870 \$1,044
		For each additional 400 amperes above 1,200 amperes	\$175 \$210
F.	SOLAR INSTALLATIONS		
	For each solar photovoltaic system, the fee shall be: Includes all equipment for the system	For the first 10kW	\$550 \$660
		For each additional 10kW	\$125 \$150
G.	ALARM PANELS		
	Alarm panel	Flat fee	\$60
	Fire alarm panel		\$72
	Intercom panel		
	Energy management panel		
	Card access or similar device		
H.	SIGNS		
	Each hard-wired sign	Flat fee	\$75 \$90
I.	HOT AIR FURNANCE - R-5/CLASS 3 RESIDENTIAL	Each	\$45 \$54
	Air Conditioner/Air Handler - R-5/Class 3 Residential	Each	\$45 \$54
	Ductless HVAC System - R-5/Class 3 Residential	Flat fee	\$95 \$114
	Boilers and other Heating System - R-5/Class 3 Residential	Each	\$45 \$54
	HVAC equipment: A/C, Air Handler, Furnance or Similar Equipment other than R-2, R-3, R-5	Each	\$190 \$228
	RTU	Each	\$95 \$114
	Surge Suppressor	Flat Fee	\$45 \$54
J.	<u>The fee for the issuance of an electrical permit that is not listed above shall be \$72.</u>		

Elevator Subcode Fee Schedule
Schedule IV

In accordance with State Statute N.J.A.C. 5:23-12

Fire Protection Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule V			
Item		Based On	Cost
A.	TANKS (installation or removal)		
	Residential, R-5	Each	\$155 \$186
	All others, up to 2,500 gallons	Each	\$375 \$450
	All others, over 2,500 gallons	Each	\$625 \$750

Fire Protection Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule V		
Item	Based On	Cost
Abandonment of Underground Storage Tank (require soil test to be provided by contractor to this office)		\$315 <u>\$378</u>
B. ALARMS, SIGNAL & SUPERVISORY DEVICES		
Fire alarm panel	Each	\$220 <u>\$264</u>
Includes, but not limited to, total of:	First 12 items	\$90 <u>\$108</u>
Smoke/heat detectors	Each additional 10 or portion of 10 items	\$45 <u>\$54</u>
Carbon monoxide detectors		
Pull stations		
Water flow switches		
Horns, strobes, bells		
Tamper switches, low/high switches		
Other detectors or devices		
C. SUPPRESSION SYSTEM DEVICES		
Any partial system component	Each	\$125 <u>\$150</u>
Fire pump	Each	\$440 <u>\$528</u>
Dry pipe/alarm valves	Each	\$125 <u>\$150</u>
Pre-action valve/Hose connection	Each	\$125 <u>\$150</u>
Fire Mains		\$375 <u>\$450</u>
Fire Loops (up to 1000', then \$200 per 1000' additional)		\$375 <u>\$450</u>
Backflow device		\$190 <u>\$228</u>
D. SPRINKLER HEADS (wet & dry)	1-100 101-500 501-999 1,000-2,000 2,000 and over	\$250 <u>\$300</u> \$875 <u>\$1,050</u> \$1,875 <u>\$12,250</u> \$2,000 <u>\$2,500</u> \$125 <u>\$150</u> per 100 heads (or portion thereof)
E. STANDPIPES	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
F. PRE-ENGINEERED SYSTEMS		
Wet chemical	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
Dry chemical	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
CO ₂ suppression	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
Foam suppression	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
Halon suppression	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
Smoke control systems	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
Kitchen hood exhaust systems	Each	\$315 <u>\$378</u>
Smoke control system	Each	\$500 <u>\$600</u>
Residential solar	Each	\$95 <u>\$114</u>
Commercial solar	1-50 panels	\$190 <u>\$228</u>
Commercial solar	Over 50 panels	\$125 <u>\$150</u> per 100 panels or portion thereof
Gas or oil-fired appliances/Gas log set	Each	\$90 <u>\$108</u>
Appliances, other: Wood-burning fireplaces or stoves or pellet burning fireplaces	Each	\$190 <u>\$228</u>
Chimney liner	Each	\$160 <u>\$192</u>
Exit signs	Up to 20	\$160 ; <u>\$192</u> \$60 <u>\$72</u> each additional 20 or portion thereof
Residential kitchen hood over 400CFM		\$90 <u>\$108</u>
G. <u>The fee for the issuance of a fire permit that is not listed above shall be \$72.</u>		
Plumbing Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule VI		
Fixture/Equipment	Based On	Cost

Fire Protection Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule V		
Item	Based On	Cost
Water closet	Each	\$40 \$48
Urinal/bidet	Each	\$40 \$48
Bathtub	Each	\$40 \$48
Lavatory	Each	\$40 \$48
Shower	Each	\$40 \$48
Floor drain	Each	\$40 \$48
Sink	Each	\$40 \$48
Dishwasher	Each	\$40 \$48
Each appliance connected to gas piping or oil piping	Each	\$65 \$78
Drinking fountain	Each	\$50 \$60
Washing machine	Each	\$40 \$48
Hose bibb	Each	\$40 \$48
Water heater	Each	\$40 \$48
Fuel oil piping	Flat fee	\$65 \$78
Steam boiler	Each	\$190 \$228
Hot-water boiler	Each	\$190 \$228
Sewer pump	Each	\$100 \$120
Sump pump	Each	\$125 \$150
Back water valve	Each	\$50 \$60
Check valve	Each	\$50 \$60
Interceptor/separator	Each	\$250 \$300
Backflow preventer (lawn sprinkler)	Each	\$50 \$60
Grease trap	Each	\$250 \$300
Sewer connection	Each	\$250 \$300
Water service connection	Each	\$250 \$300
Stacks	Each	\$40 \$48
Generator	Each	\$60 \$72
HVAC Equipment other than R-2, R-3, R-5 each	Each	\$190 \$228
Other:		
Commercial heating and equipment (RTU)	Each	\$315 \$378
Roof drains	Each	\$60 \$72
Cross-connections and backflow preventers subject to testing and requiring annual inspection	Flat fee	\$125 \$150
LPG tanks	Flat fee	\$190 \$228
Backflow preventer/cross-connections	New/replacement	\$190 \$228
Hot-air furnace* R-5, R-3, R-2	Each	\$45 \$54
Oil tank	Each	\$125 \$150
Fireplace	Each	\$60 \$72
Air conditioner/air handler R-5, R-3, R-2	Each	\$45 \$54
Other: Chimney/vent ***** Liner Hydronic piping *** Radon mitigation *	Each	\$45 \$54
Gas piping (gas service re: connections)	Each	\$80 \$96
Pool hydro test	Flat fee	\$55 \$66
Pool suction drains	Flat fee	\$80 \$96
Ductless HVAC Systems R-5, R-3, R-2	Flat fee	\$90
Pool Heater	Flat fee	\$100
Humidifier	Flat fee	\$45
<u>TACO Leakbreaker</u>	<u>Flat fee</u>	<u>\$72</u>

Fire Protection Subcode Fee Schedule Schedule V		
Item	Based On	Cost
<u>RO (water treatment) System</u>	<u>Flat fee</u>	<u>\$72</u>
<u>The fee for the issuance of a plumbing permit that is not listed above shall be \$72.</u>		

Mechanical Subcode Fee Schedule
Schedule VII

For Only R-3 and R-5 Use Groups

Fixture/Equipment	Based On	Cost
Hot-air furnace	Each	\$45
Air conditioner/handler	Each	\$45
Pool Heater	Each	\$100
Ductless HVAC System	Flat Fee	\$95
<u>Water Heater</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>\$50</u>
<u>Ductwork</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>\$50</u>
<u>Steam Boiler</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>\$228</u>
<u>Hot Water Boiler</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>\$228</u>
<u>Generator</u>	<u>Each</u>	<u>\$72</u>

The fee for the issuance of a mechanical permit that is not listed above shall be \$72.

NOTES:

- * If new electrical work is required in the installation of fixture/equipment a properly filed Electrical Subcode Technical Section Form F-120B must be filed with the application for permit and certified as required by the Electrical Contractors Licensing Act, N.J.S.A. 45:5A-1 et seq. N.J.S.A. 45:1-14 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 13:31.
- ** If replacement of fixture/equipment will encompass backflow or cross connection work, a separate Plumbing Subcode Technical Section Form #F-130B must be filed with the application for permit and certified as required by the Master Plumbers Licensing Act, N.J.S.A. 45:14C-7 et seq., N.J.S.A. 45:1-32 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 13:32-1.
- *** If replacement of fixture/equipment will include fuel, gas or hydronic piping as part of the proposed work, fee(s) are based on the fixture/equipment only.
- **** A chimney certification for replacement of fuel-fired equipment may be accepted per N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.20(c).

N. Monroe Township Utility Department fees and charges.

N1. Rate Schedule.

Part I. Sewer Service.

Section A. Definitions.

- A. "UNIT" ~~shall be defined as follows:~~ means a billing unit, which shall be calculated as follows:
 - 1. ~~Residential:~~ The number of units for billing purposes shall be calculated with the following:
 - (a) ~~Each single family dwelling.~~ A single-family dwelling shall be a separate billing unit.
 - (b) ~~Each single family apartment dwelling in a multiple family structure or structures.~~ Each individual apartment, condominium or residence use which is designated or adaptable to separate ownership or use in a multifamily building or structure shall be a separate billing unit.
 - (c) Each business, retail store, bar, restaurant, cafeteria, professional suite or separate use in a commercial or industrial building shall be a separate billing unit.
 - (d) Each motel room, hotel rool or student dormitory apartment shall be a separate billing unit.
 - (e) When a business or professional office is located in a dwelling, the office and the dwelling shall be separate billing units.
 - (f) Each school shall be a separate billing unit.

(g) Multiple building locations on a parcel of land shall constitute not less than one unit per building connected.

Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this definition, every separate building or structure with water and/or sewer facilities shall be at least one billing unit.

(e) (h) For users, other than residential: including each tenant in a nonresidential building, an equivalent dwelling unit of sewage flow shall be deemed to equal gallons per day of sewage flow. Example: 171 gal/day x 365 days = 62,415 gal/year or 15,604 gallons per quarter = one UNIT.

Section B. Annual Sewer Service Charges.

Classification

- Commercial users shall pay ~~\$40.75~~ 11.00 per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof for all usage. A minimum quarterly service charge shall be ~~\$117.50~~ 127.50.
- Commercial users shall pay ~~\$41.75~~ 12.00 per 1,000 gallons or portion thereof for all usage. A minimum quarterly service charge shall be ~~\$117.50~~ 127.50.
- An industrial cost recovery surcharge shall be collected by the Utility Department for those commercial users whose sewage characteristics exceed one or more of the following standards:
 - Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) greater than 200 parts per million (PPM).
 - Suspended solids greater than 250 PPM.
 - Chlorine demand in excess of 15 PPM.
 - Oil and Grease in excess of 100 PPM.

- All residential (as defined in Section A(1) above) other than residential:
 - For the first 26,000 gallons or portion thereof, a minimum annual service charge of ~~\$284.60~~ 352.60.
 - For those residential users whose quarterly sewage flow exceeds 26,000* gallons based on metered water consumption or actual sewage flow, the rate shall be as follows:

Quarterly usage (# of Gallons)		
From	To	Rates
0	26,000 gallons per quarter	\$71.15 <u>88.15</u> per quarter
26,000 gallons per quarter	And over	\$75.45 <u>95.45</u> plus \$1.45 <u>20</u> per 1,000 gallons

Part II. Water Service

Section A. Definitions:

- A. "UNIT" ~~shall be defined as follows:~~ means a billing unit, which shall be calculated as follows:
- ~~Residential:~~ The number of units for billing purposes shall be calculated with the following:
 - ~~Each single family dwelling.~~ A single-family dwelling shall be a separate billing unit.
 - ~~Each single family apartment dwelling in a multiple family structure or structures.~~ Each individual apartment, condominium or residence use which is designated or adaptable to separate ownership or use in a multifamily building or structure shall be a separate billing unit.
 - Each business, retail store, bar, restaurant, cafeteria, professional suite or separate use in a commercial or industrial building shall be a separate billing unit.
 - Each motel room, hotel rool or student dormitory apartment shall be a separate billing unit.
 - When a business or professional office is located in a dwelling, the office and the dwelling shall be separate billing units.
 - Each school shall be a separate billing unit.

(g) Multiple building locations on a parcel of land shall constitute not less than one unit per building connected.

Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this definition, every separate building or structure with water and/or sewer facilities shall be at least one billing unit.

(e) (h) For users, other than residential: including each tenant in a nonresidential building, an equivalent dwelling unit of sewage flow shall be deemed to equal gallons per day of sewage flow. Example: 171 gal/day x 365 days = 62,415 gal/year or 15,604 gallons per quarter = one UNIT.

Section B. Fixed Service Charges for Potable Water.

1. All metered general potable water service users shall pay a fixed service charge based on the size of each connection installed, in addition to the charges for the quantity of water used, if any.

Size of Connection

Fixed Service Charge per Quarter

(A)	Residential:	
	5/8" or 3/4"	\$16.27 <u>23.27</u> per unit
	1"	\$29.54 <u>36.54</u> per unit
	1 1/2"	\$42.79 <u>49.79</u> per unit
	Multiple dwelling	\$16.27 <u>23.27</u> per unit
(B)	Residential without electronic radio transmitter:	
	5/8" or 3/4"	\$38.28 <u>45.28</u> per unit
	1"	\$45.55 <u>52.55</u> per unit
	Multiple dwelling	
(C)	Commercial	
	5/8" or 3/4"	\$20.36 <u>32.36</u> per unit
	1"	\$37.86 <u>49.86</u> per unit
	1 1/2"	\$55.36 <u>67.36</u> per unit
	2"	\$80.36 <u>92.36</u> per unit
	3"	\$125.36 <u>137.36</u> per unit
	4"	\$155.36 <u>167.36</u> per unit
	6" and over	\$230.36 <u>242.36</u> per unit

Section C. Rates for Potable Water Consumed. In addition to the fixed service charge set forth above, a charge will be made for all water used as registered by the meter.

Gallons per Quarter	Rate per 1,000 Gallons
For the first 10,000	\$1.45
For the next 15,000	\$2.47
For the next 15,000	\$3.10 <u>3.90</u>
For all over 40,000	\$4.35 <u>5.15</u>

Section D. Irrigation Charges Using Potable Water.

All customers with a separate meter for irrigation connected to a potable water distribution main or those developments that were approved with other nonpotable irrigation sources (private wells, retention ponds and/or other non-MTUD sources) shall pay a separate fixed service charge based on the size of each

connection installed, in addition to the charges for the quantity of potable water used using the rates from Section E below, as shown:

Size of Connection	Fixed Service Charge per Quarter
5/8" or 3/4"	\$16.27 <u>28.27</u> per unit
1"	\$29.54 <u>41.54</u> per unit
1 1/2"	\$52.99 <u>64.99</u> per unit
2"	\$77.99 <u>89.99</u> per unit
3"	\$122.99 <u>134.99</u> per unit
4"	\$152.99 <u>164.99</u> per unit
6" and over	\$227.99 <u>239.99</u> per unit

Section E. Rates For Townhouses/Multifamily/Apartment Buildings/Residential Single-Family Homes/Commercial Properties Using Potable Water Used for Irrigation With a Separate Water Meter:

In addition to the fixed service charge set forth above, a quarterly charge will be made for all potable water used as registered by the meter.

Gallons per Quarter	Rate per 1,000 Gallons
For the first 10,000	\$2.57 <u>2.97</u>
For the next 15,000	\$3.10 <u>3.50</u>
For all over 25,000	\$4.50 <u>4.90</u>

Section F. Irrigation Charges - Nonpotable Water Use.

a. Residential customers with a separate meter for irrigation, connected to a nonpotable water main, quarterly charges will be based only on the amount of water actually used. No fixed service charge and no connection fee. A rate of ~~\$2.25~~ 2.75 per 1,000 gallons will apply up to the first 25,000 gallons per quarter and ~~\$4.40~~ 4.90 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

b. Commercial customers with a separate meter for irrigation connected to a nonpotable distribution main, charges will be based only on the amount of water actually used. A rate of ~~\$2.98~~ 3.48 per 1,000 gallons will apply up to 25,000 gallons per quarter and ~~\$4.65~~ 5.15 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

In the event that any water meter shall become damaged or otherwise inoperable during any billing period, the bill for that billing period shall be based on an estimated use of water.

Section G. Private Fire Protection Service for Monroe Fire Districts Nos. 1, 2 And 3:

1. Annual standby water charges for sprinkler systems.

Size of Connection (inches)	Annual Charge
Nonresidential 2" or smaller*	\$275.40 <u>280.80</u>
3"	\$380.40 <u>385.80</u>
4"	\$480.40 <u>485.80</u>
6"	\$830.40 <u>835.80</u>
8"	\$1,605.40 <u>1610.80</u>
10"	\$2,605.40 <u>2610.80</u>
12"	\$3,105.40 <u>3110.80</u>

Additional charge for each sprinkler head is ~~\$3.42~~ 3.28 and is in addition to the above fees.

*Nonresidential only; there will be no stand-by charge for residential fire connections 2 inches and smaller.

Section I. Miscellaneous.

1. Turn on and turn off fees and final meter readings.

A charge of \$75 shall be made for each turn-off or turn-on during regular working hours. Any turn-on or turn-off required outside regular working hours shall be charged at \$102.50 each unless both turn-on and turn-off are scheduled two days in advance and no more than one hour apart. A minimum notice of seven days for each turn-off and/or turn-on must be given to the Utility Department. A penalty of \$50 shall be assessed for each scheduled appointment that is cancelled upon arrival of Utility Department personnel. Under no circumstances shall any person not authorized by the Utility Department open or close the curb stops or valves in any Utility Department water line.

A charge of ~~\$87~~ 90 will be made for each and every final water meter reading request and shall be payable as a part of the final water/sewer billing plus a \$25 administrative fee for a total final meter reading charge of ~~\$112~~ 115 (workday).

2. Water Meters.

The Utility Department reserves the right to install temporary meters during construction of any residential or commercial structure. The fee for installation of temporary meters shall be \$275. Spreader pipes shall not be used and/or installed.

Water meters and remote reading units for all new residential and commercial construction shall be purchased from the Utility Department with 10 days' advance notice. The cost of meters shall be at cost plus an administrative fee of ~~\$130~~ 155 each. The cost of remote reading units shall be at cost, plus an administrative fee of ~~\$100~~ 125 each. The meters and remote reading units are as follows:

- A. Residential/commercial potable or irrigation water meters up to 2 inches: contracted ultrasonic meter at the time.
- B. Commercial meters larger than 2 inches: current contracted ultrasonic meter at the time.
- C. Remote reading unit: ITRON ERT-1300-402 100W+, or most current contracted model.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

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

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after final passage, adoption and publication as provided by law.

SO ORDAINED, as aforesaid.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-4-2026-009** was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

Public Comments:

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked how much is currently in the Utility budget, both water and sewer combined; Administrator McGowan answered approximately \$23 million. Mrs. Arminio commented that before the Township took this over as a department there was \$44 million in the budget and then came the pandemic along with other issues and now it has gone down by half; Administrator McGowan interjected that he is not aware of the Utility budget ever being \$44 million. Mrs. Arminio commented that she will look over the documents she has at home as she believes at one time there was \$44 million in both the water and sewer fund but regardless it seems as though we are going through it quite fast so when all of this construction goes on and we charge builder's fees how much money is being charged for the infrastructure; Township Attorney Rainone along with Administrator McGowan explained that the water and sewer fund is a self-liquidating utility and explained further the charges that are allowed to be charged for projects being developed throughout the Township.

George Gunkelman, 5 Kelly Ct. – Mr. Gunkelman asked how much the utility fees are being raised, as well as what last year’s income from water and sewer fees were; Administrator McGowan answered in terms of regular water and sewer charges the fees were approximately \$19 million along with other pockets of revenue that were generated; in regard to the first questions, there is not a certain percentage across the board that the fees were raised, as our Utility Department went through the fees and adjusted accordingly as needed. Administrator McGowan and Mr. Gunkelman continued to discuss further.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-4-2026-009** was **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, **Ordinance O-4-2026-009** was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the following **2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET RESOLUTION** was moved for Adoption:

R-5-2026-104

RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET BE READ BY TITLE AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by “Title Only” at the time of the Public Hearing if a Resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one (1) week prior to the date of Hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget, as advertised, has been posted in the Municipal Building and copies have been made available by the Township Clerk to persons requesting them; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2026 Municipal Budget shall be read by “Title Only” at the Public Hearing scheduled for **May 4, 2026**.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-104						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro		X	X			
Councilman VanDzura			X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Valentine, 68 Union Valley Rd. – Mr. Valentine continued his comments made earlier during the budget hearing adding that the Township should reach out to vendors to renegotiate contracts.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the following **2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET RESOLUTION** was moved for Adoption:

R-5-2026-105 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

MONROE TOWNSHIP, MIDDLESEX COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO.: R-5-2026-105

RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
ADOPTION OF THE 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

SECTION 2 - UPON ADOPTION FOR YEAR 2026

Be it Resolved by the
of **MONROE**
adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

COUNCIL MEMBERS
County of
of the
TOWNSHIP
MIDDLESEX
that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby

(a) \$ 49,584,886.91 (Item 2 below) for municipal purposes, and
(b) \$ - (Item 3 below) for school purposes in Type I School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and,
(c) \$ - (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in
Type II School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of
the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.
(d) \$ 1,313,664.14 (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy
(e) \$ - (Sheet 44) Arts and Culture Trust Fund Levy
(f) \$ 5,384,633.00 (Item 5 Below) Minimum Library Tax

RECORDED VOTE
(Insert last name)

Ayes

Cohen
Dipierro
Markel
Siegel
Van Dzura

Nays

None

Abstained

None

Absent

None

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

1. General Revenues			
Surplus Anticipated	08-100	\$	9,000,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	13-099	\$	14,357,853.18
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	16-499	\$	1,200,000.00
2. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSED (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	07-190	\$	49,584,886.91
3. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:			
Item 6, Sheet 42	07-195	\$	-
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-14)	07-191	\$	-
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		\$	-
4. To Be Added TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE II SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:			
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-14)	07-191		
5. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY TAX	07-192	\$	5,384,633.00
Total Revenues	13-299	\$	79,527,373.09

Sheet 41

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

5. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Within "CAPS"	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(a & b) Operations Including Contingent	34-201	\$ 47,806,912.91
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal	34-209	\$ 8,275,987.00
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	\$ -
Excluded from "CAPS"	XXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(a) Operations - Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	34-305	\$ 11,664,637.18
(c) Capital Improvements	44-999	\$ 225,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	45-999	\$ 8,124,316.00
(e) Deferred Charges - Municipal	46-999	\$ 230,510.00
(f) Judgments	37-480	\$ -
(n) Transferred to Board of Education for Use of Local Schools (N.J.S.A. 40:48-17.1 & 17.3)	26-405	\$ -
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	\$ -
(k) For Local District School Purposes	29-410	\$ -
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	50-999	\$ 3,200,000.00
6. SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS - TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICT ONLY (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-13)	07-195	
Total Appropriations	34-499	\$ 79,527,373.09

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 4th day of May, 2026.

It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2026 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Certified by me this 4th day of May, 2026, _____, Clerk

Sheet 42

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-105						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro			X			
Councilman VanDzura		X	X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-5-2026-106– R-5-2026-110)

R-5-2026-106 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE
GUARANTEE UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE
GUARANTEE FOR HOMETECH HOMES LLC. – W-1244 POSTED
TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (M.T.U.D.)

WHEREAS, Cash Performance Guarantee have been posted with the Monroe Township Utility Department (“M.T.U.D.”) for Hometech Homes, LLC. W 1244, Block 75, lot 6.07; and

WHEREAS, Hometech Homes, LLC has requested a release of the Cash Performance Guarantee upon posting and acceptance of a Maintenance Guarantee; and

WHEREAS, defined in 40:55d-53 et seq., the Monroe Township Utility Department (MTUD) has inspected the work performed and the work to be completed and has recommended that the Township Council approve the release of the performance guarantee as detailed in a letter dated April 22, 2026, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A":

Release Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$2,160.00 and replace with a Maintenance Guarantee in the amount of \$324.00 (15% of the original bond).

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

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 Performance Guarantee posted for W 1244 to be released as reflected above and the MTUD letter annexed hereto. This approval to release a Cash Performance Guarantee is conditioned upon the provision of replacement maintenance guarantee and/or riders and the resolution of any outstanding balances attached to project escrow accounts; and

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

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-106						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro			X			
Councilman VanDzura		X	X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

R-5-2026-107 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector for the Township of Monroe has recommended refunds for tax overpayments in the amount of Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Four Cents (\$2,269.04) as described on Schedule A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, one (1) of the overpayments on the attached Schedule A, the owners and residents have met all the requirements for a Totally Disabled Veteran Exemption as prescribed by New Jersey Statute 54:4-3.30 for exempt status until the applicant passes or the home is sold; and

WHEREAS, good cause has been shown.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that the Township’s Municipal Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel the applicable taxes and the Municipal Finance Officer 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the exemptions are granted and taxes on the approved 100% Permanently and totally disabled veteran be cancelled and that the Tax Assessor and the Tax Collector are herewith authorized to adjust their records accordingly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer; and

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-107						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro			X			
Councilman VanDzura		X	X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

R-5-2026-108

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2026 DODGE DURANGO’S FROM NIELSEN OF MORRISTOWN UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT. (\$111,348.45)

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Police Department has the need for two (2) 2026 Dodge Durango AWD vehicles; and

WHEREAS, under the NJ State Contract No. #23-FLEET-34933 the Monroe Township Police Department wishes to purchase these vehicles from *Nielson of Morristown, 200 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960*, an authorized vendor under the NJ State Contract; and

2 - 2026 Dodge Durango AWD

- \$91,946.15; and

WHEREAS, it is required by law that any “state contract” purchase which exceeds the bid threshold of the Township (\$53,000.00) in aggregate, be authorized by the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the total amount for this vehicle exceeds the Township’s bid threshold in aggregate; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in Certificate No. C-2600053 a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, wishes to purchase *lighting and equipment* to outfit these new vehicles through Whelan, New Jersey State Contract No. #17-FLEET-00761 with the installation to be performed by *East Coast Emergency Lighting, 200 Meco Drive, Millstone Township, NJ 08535*, for the Monroe Township Police Department, as hereinbelow set forth:

Lighting & Equipment w/ Installation

- \$19,402.30; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in **Certificate No. C-2600054**, copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit "B"; and

WHEREAS, the detailed accessories for this vehicle are attached hereto and made a part of; and

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

- (1)

Authorizes the Police Department, to purchase said vehicles from Nielsen of Morristown using the NJ State Contract No. #23-FLEET-34933; and
- (2)

Authorizes the Police Department, to have the new Vehicles outfitted with lighting and equipment by East Coast Emergency Lighting; and
- (3)

The Township Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for said vehicles delivered by Nielsen of Morristown, respectively; and
- (4)

The contracts are awarded through New Jersey State Contract Nos. #23-FLEET-34933 and #17-FLEET-00761 are considered fair and open contracts in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law, as well as being exempt from public bidding by the Township.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-108						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro			X			
Councilman VanDzura		X	X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

R-5-2026-109

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MODIFICATION TO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE FOR THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN. (Additional \$4,036)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. R-3-2026-074, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on March 2, 2026, the Township of Monroe awarded a professional services contract to the Watershed Institute in connection with the creation of a regional watershed management plan, with the Township of Monroe’s portion not to exceed **\$48,980.00**; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Institute has requested authorization for an **additional \$4,036.00**; and

WHEREAS, including this modification, the participation amount shall not exceed **\$53,016.00**; 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 No. C-2600043, a copy of which is attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that authorization is hereby given to modify said contract in the amount of **Four Thousand Thirty Six Dollars (\$4,036.00)**.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-109						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro			X			
Councilman VanDzura		X	X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

R-5-2026-110

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO DISCOVER CONSTRUCTION, LLC. FOR THE 2026 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PROJECT.
(\$1,615,605.94)

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2026, eleven (11) sealed bids were received by Monroe Township regarding the **2026 Roadway Improvements Project**; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated April 29, 2026 has recommended *Discover Construction, LLC, 2207 US Hwy 130, Dayton, NJ 08810*, be awarded the Base Bid plus Add Alternate 1, Add Alternate 2, Add Alternate 3 and Add Alternate 4 based upon their bid submission in the amount of **\$1,615,605.94**; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the recommendations made by the Township Engineer regarding said bid; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in Certificate No. C-2600055, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, no contract that is subject to the requirements of the Affirmative Action Regulations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq. shall be awarded by the Township of Monroe, nor shall any monies be paid there under, to any contractor, subcontractor of business firm that has not agreed and guaranteed to comply with Affirmative Action Regulations and to afford equal opportunity in the performance of the contract in accordance with the affirmative action plan approved under the terms established in the above cited regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that it has rendered its advice and hereby consents to the award of bid to *Discover Construction, LLC.* for the **2026 Roadway Improvements Project**, at a total contract price of **\$1,615,605.94**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with *Discover Construction, LLC*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay *Discover Construction, LLC.* in accordance with the contract entered into between the parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract is awarded with the stipulation that *Discover Construction, LLC.* shall comply with Affirmative Action Regulations, including revising their contracts as necessary to add mandatory affirmative action language, and submitting a completed AA-201, within seven (7) days of notification of award of the contract or risk being declared non-responsive and forfeiting the award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, thereafter, a completed AA-202, monthly project workforce report, must be submitted once a month for the duration of the contract to the Department of Labor and to the Monroe Township Public Agency Compliance Officer.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

RECORDED VOTE: R-5-2026-110						
COUNCIL	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Cohen	X		X			
Councilman Dipierro			X			
Councilman VanDzura		X	X			
Council V. President Markel			X			
Council President Siegel			X			

Administrator’s Report – Administrator McGowan thanked the “Best Chief Financial Officer on the Planet”, Mrs. Lori Olah, for all of her and the Finance teams phenomenal work on the 2026 budget, as well as the Auditors whose work is also very much appreciated.

Engineer’s Report – Engineer Feist reported in regard to the award of the 2026 Roadway Improvements Project, the second and third lowest bidders were in the range of \$1.8 million and tonight we awarded the contract for \$1.6 million which encompasses 18 segments of various roadways throughout the Township.

Regarding Links Drive, this project is being completed under the NJDOT Grant Program, costing a little over half a million dollars. He went on to report that this project has begun, with the concrete work progressing and the paving beginning shortly thereafter.

Reported that the Pickleball Court and Parking Lot Improvement Project at the Senior Center is moving along, with the parking lot and courts looking to be paved next week and then the balance of the fencing taking place after that, with completion hopefully by the end of May.

The James Monroe Park Concession Stand and Park Improvements Project is near completion, reporting that the third electrical panel needed is on back order and some backfill around the newly constructed septic system needs to be completed. It is anticipated that this project will wrap up either in late May or early June, noting that the various leagues who utilize the park have been notified of the same.

Lastly, the County has been working on the Roadway and Traffic Improvement Project at the intersection of Prospect Plains Road and Applegarth Road. There is ongoing concrete and sidewalk work being done currently with that project continuing through the year.

Council’s Reports –

Councilman Dipierro –

- Shared that Wednesday is Teacher’s Appreciation Day, as well as it being Teacher Appreciation Week; extended thanks to all of the teachers for their hard work and hopefully next year we can add this to the Proclamations we do for this month.
- Attended the Drama Club’s presentation of “Grease” which was absolutely incredible and made to feel like you were watching a Broadway production.
- Attended Opening Day of baseball and softball; the weather was great and our Mayor ran around and gave high fives to all of the kids.
- Noted that the intersections of Perrineville and Schoolhouse Road, as well as Perrineville and Prospect Plains Road are in need of restriping and asked for the County to be notified to get that done as now there is a lot of foot traffic with school children walking. Also, the striping on the walkways is worn down so it is important to have done.
- Wished all the mothers, grandmothers and future mothers a Happy Mother’s Day.
- Inquired if there were any updates from JCP&L as we have discussed getting some LED lighting in our community; Administrator McGowan answered that we have not received quotes from JCP&L regarding the LED lighting but they have made progress on the street light repairs and have triaged the issue to get it to a more manageable point and once that is complete we will then move into the LED discussions hopefully later this year.
- Attended the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony at the Senior Center which was a very well attended event. Noted it was interesting to listen to the survivors and shared that the daughter of a survivor who lived in our Greenbriar community and sadly recently passed away was in attendance speaking about his life and sharing a book that was written about his life and experiences during the Holocaust.
- Asked for an update on the painting of the water tower on 522; Director Stroin answered that the tower is essentially complete as they finished blasting and have begun applying the final coat of paint to the outside. He went on to say that the rehabilitation work on the inside and outside have been completed with the goal being to fill the tower back with water within the next two weeks to put back into service. Councilman Dipierro asked if bids have gone out yet for the water tower on Applegarth Road to which Director Stroin explained that the final bid specification is in the final stages of preparation with the anticipation of going out to bid in June with that project starting towards the latter part of October after the demand period is over.

- Attended an event at the Dey Farm yesterday where they had a blacksmith and some incredible music in the barn. Invited everyone to attend the next event which is scheduled on first Sunday of each month from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Councilman Van Dzura –

- Commented that this is one of his favorite meetings of the year as he enjoys having the Human Relations Committee award our children with awards for demonstrating the 6 Pillars of Character. He went on to say that we are in a time where there is a lot of conflict and people who do not get along so it is important to teach children respect for others and the ability to understand and care for others as well. He reminded everyone that there will be people who are smarter than you or maybe not as smart as you, but it does not cost anything extra to be nice to people and treat them with respect and it is heartwarming to see our children be recognized year after year. He went on to compliment the parents for teaching these important characteristics beginning at home, as well as the school for continuing the education of the same as it gives all of us hope for the future that people will get along.
- Thanked the Mayor and his fellow Council Members, along with the Finance Department on their work with the budget, commenting that no one wants to see taxes go up but with the increase in costs and all things considered, he feels we fared pretty well. He went on to note that there was a good stretch where for about three years in a row there were no tax increases but unfortunately with the weather-related costs and healthcare insurance increase it was inevitable as everyone is feeling the effects Statewide.
- Excited for all of the Rec activities now that Spring is here and hoping for warmer weather in the days to come.

Councilwoman Cohen –

- Attended the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony held at the Senior Center which was a packed event. Listening to everyone singing the National Anthem added a level of grace to the event, and although it is a sad remembrance, it is important for all of us to remember so we can work toward being kinder, nicer and gentler with people.
- Thanked the Finance Department for their hard work in preparing the budget.
- Noted that she is struck every year that in the Township if you need an ambulance to transport you to the hospital, you are not balance billed meaning you do not pay anything extra. This not only is impressive but also an asset to each person that lives here.
- Wished everyone a good summer and an enjoyable upcoming holiday.

Council Vice-President Markel –

- Attended the Snuffy Hollow Scout Jamboree on Saturday night with over a hundred scouts in attendance. Noted it was an honor to meet all the Scout leaders and witness how hard they all work.
- May 7th is National Prayer Day at the Senior Center.
- May 19th is Military Appreciation Day at the high school, which is important to honor our military, as well as our veterans.
- Extended thanks to CFO Lori Olah and her Finance team for their hard work and excellent job with the budget as this was a hard year with the increase in health care costs.
- Shared that as a member of the Henry Rickles Committee, which coincides with the Human Relations Committee which he is liaison for, next year's Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony will be held on May 2, 2027.

Council President Siegel –

- Noted that at tonight's meeting there were many proclamations recognizing various departments that serve our community, one of them being the Office of the Municipal Clerk. She went on to say that this office is very close to her and Council and extended thanks to Township Clerk Christine Robbins, Senior Deputy Clerk Tanya Pannucci and the rest of the Clerk's office for their hard work throughout the year and being the central hub to where everything begins and moves around as they are truly our right hand.
- Extended thanks to CFO Lori Olah and the Finance team for their hard work and involvement in the budget process as it takes many months to not only work on the budget but also taking the time to review with each of us thoroughly. Highlighted some of the important numbers within the budget, such as our Senior Center Transportation Services serving 16,678 individuals across all the programs, our Construction Department conducting nearly 15,000 inspections and issuing over 3,600 permits and our EMS responding to 11,836 service calls. She noted that this is a fiscally responsible budget and is very balanced in meeting the needs of our growing community and supporting the quality of life that our residents deserve.
- Shared that the Youth Advisory students have been working really hard on their community project, which in keeping with the spirit of celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America, they are joining our celebrations being held throughout the Township and will be hosting a history presentation exhibit from 1:00-4:00pm at the Dey Farm Open House on June 7th. This project will showcase the students research into the Township's unique role in the American Revolution and beyond,

featuring topics on historic events, demographic changes, landmarks, local street names, oral history, voices of local residents and the green environmental impact.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dalina shared that in attending the Henry Rickles Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony this year was a little more poignant for him as reflected in his remarks given at the event as he and his wife traveled to Bavaria this past summer and decided to visit Camp Dachau, a concentration camp that was started in 1938 and lasted until 1945 and was the first and the longest lasting concentration camp. Mayor Dalina shared his experience while visiting Camp Dachau noting how difficult it was to learn of all the horrors that took place there, and reminded all as shared in his remarks given during the Henry Rickles Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony that it is important to learn from history to ensure this never happens again.

Regarding the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, an event was held last month at the high school in conjunction with the "Black Poster Project" which raises awareness of the lives lost to addiction. He noted that the event was very moving as the gym was adorned with pictures and stories shared of all who lost their lives.

Attended the Police Department's presentation given at the Senior Center regarding Scam Awareness which was also recorded and viewable on the Township's YouTube Channel.

Attended Opening Day of baseball and softball where he continues the tradition of running around the diamond to high five all the players and added that the softball event was especially nice as our resident Olympian Brianna Schnorrbusch was in attendance and presented with a plaque honoring her participation in the recent Winter Olympics.

Shared a few upcoming events including the Mayor's Wellness Campaign's Tai-Chi class being held on Mother's Day starting at 10:30 at Veteran's Park on Avenue K, a passport clinic on May 20th at the Municipal Building from 1:00pm-5:00pm, a Mayor's Wellness Campaign Zumba class being held on May 30th at the Community Center, as well as our Memorial Day Services on May 25th which will begin at 9:30am at Veteran's Park, a Flag Day 5K and Veteran's Picnic at Thompson Park on June 14th at beginning at 10:00am.

Thanked all involved in their work on the budget.

Wished all who celebrate Happy Mother's Day.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

Public Comments –

Irene Belinsky, 287B Tabor Rd. – Ms. Belinsky commented that at the last meeting held on April 6th it was discussed that there is a 17% increase in electricity costs which is affecting the Administration and all our facilities along with the actions being taken to help alleviate those costs, but it was not mentioned how the increased costs are affecting the residents as the increase has varied from 20-30%. Ms. Belinsky went on to say that Monroe, with its high number of active adult communities and senior population, has roughly 40% of seniors who are on a fixed income which causes a true hardship when electricity costs increase as exorbitant as they have. Ms. Belinsky noted that in the past the Township participated in the Community Energy Aggregation Program which seemed to have fizzled out in 2019 and she is curious if this program is still being promoted and available. She went on to explain that other Township's are doing what they can to restrict data centers from being built in their communities, as well as high voltage power lines from being constructed and asked what the Township's plans are to combat this issue and help alleviate these costs; Mayor Dalina responded that the Community Energy Aggregation Program happens annually and went on to explain that we will go out to bid to determine if the rate that is available is lower. He noted that for a few years the rates were lower and the Township would participate but unfortunately over the last few years the rates have been coming back higher so we have opted not to participate. Mayor Dalina added that the Township does go through this process annually and went on to discuss the upcoming solar projects that are happening throughout the Township, where a letter was sent to all residents asking if they were interested in participating, as well as being advertised on the Township's Facebook page and the Township's website. Administrator McGowan went on to explain that the Township does occasionally go out to bid to see if we can beat the tariff rate but unfortunately as of late, we have not been successful in doing that. He stated that Ms. Belinsky's point is well taken in that we are approaching a territory with 20% increases year after year at which we may get to a point where we can satisfy the tariff rate and be under that increase. He went on to discuss the various community solar programs that will be going out to bid specifically for Monroe residents who meet low- and moderate-income status under the State of New Jersey, as well as many of our residents, particularly our seniors on fixed incomes who may qualify for that. Administrator McGowan also shared that the Township is working on a redevelopment program at the former BFI landfill site that is going to be a community solar farm situated on 80 acres with our resident's getting priority for signing up for that. He noted that the Township is working hard to alleviate the increases we are all experiencing and feels that the upcoming solar projects and programs will be positive and beneficial. Ms. Belinsky stated that she would like to see better promotion of these projects as she was not aware of them, to which Administrator McGowan encouraged her

and all residents who have not done so, to sign up for the Township's e-blasts and to keep an eye out for the quarterly newsletters.

Adrienne Fein, 15B Canterbury Dr. – Ms. Fein thanked the Council for taking the time to recognize our Teachers and Mothers and reminded all another big week in the month of May is National Nurses Week. Ms. Fein commented that she hopes everyone appreciates our nurses and the job they do especially amongst the various healthcare issues being faced today.

Mark Steele, 1 Karen Ct. – Mr. Steele expressed his appreciation to Administrator McGowan who took the time to research his request regarding the waiver of municipal fees for the permit to carry applications and issued a memo on the subject. With that said, Mr. Steele respectfully asked the elected town Council to place this matter on the agenda and take a formal vote by either approving or denying a waiver of the municipal portion of that permit to carry fee. He went on to say that the Council is the elected legislative body and a decision to either waive or deny properly rests with them, as passing the final decision to the Administrator avoids the accountability that comes with a public vote.

Lastly, Mr. Steele mentioned that next week is National Police Week and Police Officer Memorial Day and encouraged all residents of Monroe to be in prayer for our police officers as he prays for them each night. He went on to share that his son is a police officer in New Jersey, so he has a vested interest but has met a lot of our police officers and is proud of and respects each one of them for their exceptional and outstanding service to our Township.

Abishek Hari, 1903 Georgetown Dr. – Mr. Hari stated that he is attending tonight's meeting with his neighbor Harikrishna who both reside in the Villages at Country View near the southern end of the Spotswood-Englishtown Road in Ward 3, and they wanted to discuss a critical issue regarding public transportation access in their community. He explained that over the past few years, they worked with NJ Transit and Middlesex Moving to aide in providing reliable transportation services to the residents in that area of town and were hoping to gain the help of the Township to help get those services extended as they have been unsuccessful in their attempts.

Harikrishna Kuchibhotla, 3403 Charleston Dr. - Mr. Kuchibhotla piggybacked off Mr. Hari's comments regarding the need for transportation services for the residents located in the southern part of Spotswood-Englishtown Road. He went on to explain that NJ Transit launched the micro link pilot program last month, which is a free, on demand pickup and drop off service designed to help customers connect between their homes and the nearest designated NJ Transit bus stop. He further explained that currently the micro link program covers Manalapan from Route 9 to Old Bridge Englishtown Road connecting riders to the Union Hill Road Park & Ride bus stop and we are one to two miles beyond that boundary on Spotswood-Englishtown Road. Mr. Kuchibhotla stated that a modest extension to this existing pilot program would close the gap and bring transit access to that part of the Township that has none and asked for the Township to formally support their request to help bridge the gap.

Todd Grossman, 16 Elmer Ave. – Mr. Grossman shared that he has been a resident of Monroe for 48 years and wanted to take a moment to thank the Administration and Council for everything that they do, from responsible budgeting and securing grant funding to investing in public safety infrastructure and recreation, it is clear that Monroe is moving in the right direction. He went on to say that these efforts truly make a difference in the everyday lives of our residents as Monroe is not just growing it is being led in the right direction and deserves recognition.

George Gunkelman, 5 Kelly Ct. – Mr. Gunkelman shared that he attended the School Board's meeting last month where the budget was debated very thoroughly during the public portion of the meeting. He noted that members of the Board and Student Representatives gave an update on all that is happening within the schools, with one Senior of the High School giving an excellent presentation on the realities of what we are looking at within the budget and a clear and accurate interpretation of how the State's budget, School budget and State funding all effect how the budget is determined. He urged all to take some time to watch that presentation as it was informative, excellent and great example of how well our students are educated by the schools.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Cohen and seconded by Councilman Van Dzura, the Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 8:25pm.

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

Christine Robbins

CHRISTINE ROBBINS, Township Clerk

Rupa P. Siegel

RUPA P. SIEGEL, Council President

Minutes were adopted on June 3, 2026.