

**** 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**

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

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

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG.**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

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

4. Township Clerk Patricia Reid reads the **SUNSHINE LAW** into the record.

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

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on December 30, 2022 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and the **CRANBURY PRESS** on December 30, 2022;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

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

5. **PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

6. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **INTRODUCTION** at the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting:

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

7. **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** under **CONSENT AGENDA** at the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting: (R-11-2023-238 – R-11-2023-252)

R-11-2023-238 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF A PROPERTY TAX REWARDS PROGRAM FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING RFP PROCESS.** (begin procurement process for Shop Monroe)

R-11-2023-239 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**

R-11-2023-240 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS FROM BAKER & TAYLOR, INC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY. (\$91,000)**

- R-11-2023-241** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID TO K & A EXCAVATING CO. INC. FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP ON-CALL SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES. (as needed per unit pricing)
- R-11-2023-242** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. (Decrease of \$20,531.29)
- R-11-2023-243** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION INC. UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.
- R-11-2023-244** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND LIEN ON BLOCK 160.19 LOT 6.
- R-11-2023-245** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ACCEPT AND RECEIVE ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDING TOWARD OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION IN MONROE TOWNSHIP. (\$2.5 million)
- R-11-2023-246** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ACCEPT AND RECEIVE ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDING TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS EXPANSION. (\$2.5 million)
- R-11-2023-247** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.
- R-11-2023-248** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS.
- R-11-2023-249** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) BY AND BETWEEN THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE AND THE MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT.
- R-11-2023-250** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED FOR THE MATTHEW KISVER – BLOCK 35, LOTS 31.05 & 31.06 PROJECT – PB-1185-16. (Mounts Mills Rd)
- R-11-2023-251** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY MECO, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DPW, CONSTRUCTION & SOFTBALL PARKING LOTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (Decrease of \$36,858.45)
- R-11-2023-252** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY MECO, INC. UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DPW, CONSTRUCTION & SOFTBALL PARKING LOTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

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

9. **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**

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

AGENDA

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

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

2. **MOTION** to approve the payment of **CLAIMS** per run date **NOVEMBER 3, 2023**.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION to approve the **MINUTES** of the following meetings as written and presented:

October 2, 2023 - Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

(R-11-2023-238– R-11-2023-252)

R-11-2023-238 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF A PROPERTY TAX REWARDS PROGRAM FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING RFP PROCESS.**
(to begin procurement process for Shop Monroe)

R-11-2023-239 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**

R-11-2023-240 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS FROM BAKER & TAYLOR, INC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY. (\$91,000)**

R-11-2023-241 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID TO K & A EXCAVATING CO. INC. FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP ON-CALL SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES. (as needed per unit pricing)**

R-11-2023-242 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. (Decrease of \$20,531.29)**

R-11-2023-243 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION INC. UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – November 8, 2023

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

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

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

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

There were approximately twenty (20) members of the Public in attendance.

Deputy 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:

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on December 30, 2022 and remains posted at that location for public inspection.
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and noticed to the **CRANBURY PRESS** on December 30, 2022;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

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

Deputy Township Clerk Christine Robbins read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **INTRODUCTION** at the **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023** Regular Council Meeting:

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

Council President Cohen reads the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023** Regular Council Meeting: (R-11-2023-238 – R-11-2023-252)

R-11-2023-238 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF A PROPERTY TAX REWARDS PROGRAM FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING RFP PROCESS.** (begin procurement process for Shop Monroe)

R-11-2023-239 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**

R-11-2023-240 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS FROM BAKER & TAYLOR, INC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY.** (\$91,000)

R-11-2023-241 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID TO K & A EXCAVATING CO. INC. FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP ON-CALL SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES.** (as needed per unit pricing)

- R-11-2023-242** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. (Decrease of \$20,531.29)
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- R-11-2023-252** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY MECO, INC. UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DPW, CONSTRUCTION & SOFTBALL PARKING LOTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 6:34pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 6:34pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the **CLAIMS** per run date of **11/3/2023** were approved for payment as written and presented.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Councilman Markel the **MINUTES** of the **October 2, 2023 Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting** were approved as written And presented.

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

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

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

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilman Markel, the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA:** (R-11-2023-238– R-11-2023-252)

R-11-2023-238 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF A PROPERTY TAX REWARDS PROGRAM FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING RFP PROCESS.
(to begin procurement process for Shop Monroe)

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to institute a Property Tax Rewards Program pursuant to P.L. 2021 c. 99, to promote local businesses and provide property tax savings to Township residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1(b)(3), the Township, may use a competitive contracting RFP process in lieu of public bidding for procurement of specialized goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to evaluate such services from vendors within the procedures as set forth in the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A.40A:11-4.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 5:34-4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-(5) the Township desires to enter into contract for up to a (5) five-year with the vendor whose proposal scores the highest in satisfying the needs of the Township residents; and

WHEREAS, as per statute N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.3(b) the process will be administered by a Qualified Purchasing Agent;

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

- (1) The Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby authorized to commence the competitive contract procurement process as allowable under the New Jersey Local Public Contract Law allowing for a minimum of 20 days' notice after advertisement to receive responses, per N.J.S.A. 40A:114.5(a).

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-11-2023-239 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY
TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**

WHEREAS, Premiums have been paid for various properties for the purchase of Tax Lien Certificates for properties listed on the Tax Map of the Township of Monroe, in the amount of Five-Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand One-Hundred dollars and no cents (\$566,100.00),

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

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

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

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-11-2023-240 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS
AND MATERIALS FROM BAKER & TAYLOR, INC. FOR THE
MONROE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY. (\$91,000)**

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the total purchase amount is \$91,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as evidenced by Certificate No. C-2300080, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe hereby authorizes the purchase of books and materials for the Monroe Township Library in the amount of \$91,000.00;

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-11-2023-241 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID TO K & A
EXCAVATING CO. INC. FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP ON-CALL
SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES. (as needed per unit pricing)**

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2023 one (1) sealed bid was received by Monroe Township for Monroe Township On-call Snow Removal Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township Business Administrator recommends in a letter dated October 11, 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", that a two (2) year contract with the option to renew for one (1) additional one (1) year contract, be awarded to **K & A Excavating Co. Inc.**, at the unit pricing provided on the attached Proposal Form and Price Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed and hereby consents to the recommendations made by the Township Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in Certificate No. C-2300081, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B"; and

WHEREAS, no contract that is subject to the requirements of Article 3 of the Affirmative Action Regulations pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq.) shall be awarded by the Township of Monroe, nor shall any monies be paid thereunder, 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, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that it has rendered its advice and hereby consents to the award of a two (2) year contract with the option to extend for one additional year for Monroe Township On-Call Snow Removal Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a two (2) year contract with K & A Excavating Co. Inc., for Monroe Township for **On-Call Snow Removal Services**, with said contract becoming effective immediately and expiring November 9, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay **K & A Excavating Co. Inc., 198 Major Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852**, in accordance with the contract entered into between the parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract is awarded with the stipulation that K & A Excavating Co. Inc. shall comply with Affirmative Action Regulations, including revising their contracts as necessary to add mandatory affirmative action language, and submitting a Certificate of Employee Information Report or a completed Form AA302 at the time the signed contracts are returned to the Township of Monroe, or seven (7) days thereafter, or risk being declared non-responsive and forfeiting the award.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-242 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. (Decrease of \$20,531.29)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. R-8-2023-199, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on August 7, 2023, a contract was awarded to JADS Construction Inc. in connection with the Spotswood Englishtown Road Drainage Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, the original total contract amount was \$101,676.79; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in a letter dated October 20, 2023, requested approval of Change Order No. 1 and Final for the Spotswood Englishtown Road Drainage Improvements Project reflecting a **decrease of \$20,531.29** in the contract amount, as the result of lower contract quantities, as described in the attached change order; and

WHEREAS, the current contract price including this change order is **\$81,145.50**; and

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

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified in Certificate No. C-2300070, a copy of which is attached hereto, that sufficient funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute Change Order No. 1 and Final, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-243 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY JADS CONSTRUCTION INC. UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPOTSWOOD ENGLISHTOWN ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

WHEREAS, JADS Construction, Inc. has posted Performance Guarantees for the Spotswood Englishtown Road Drainage Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, JADS Construction, Inc. has requested a release of the Performance Guarantees posted for this project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 108-13.1 F and G of the Code of the Township of Monroe, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated October 20, 2023, has recommended, release of the Performance Guarantees; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Performance Guarantees posted for the Spotswood Englishtown Road Drainage Improvements Project, be released as reflected in the Township Engineer's letter dated October 20, 2023, attached hereto. This approval for release of the Performance Guarantees is conditioned upon the posting of a maintenance guarantee in the amount of **\$8,114.55**. Such maintenance guarantee shall run for a period of not less than two years from the date of memorialization of such action by the Council.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-244 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND LIEN ON BLOCK 160.19 LOT 6.

WHEREAS, on March 26, 1993, John & Catherine Cherry ("Cherry") entered into a Rehabilitated Affordable Housing Agreement with the Township of Monroe restricting Cherry from selling or conveying title to the property for a period of six years pursuant to Monroe Ordinance 131-8 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq, said Agreement having been recorded with the Middlesex County Clerk on July 14, 1993, in Mortgage Book 4073 on Pages 001-028; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Lien states that "the terms, restrictions and covenants of this Agreement shall automatically expire six (6) years from the date that the housing rehabilitation work was completed"; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Affordable Housing Board advises of the successful completion of the Affordable Housing Lien and has consented to the termination of the Affordable Housing Lien annexed hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Affordable Housing Lien held by Cherry is hereby satisfied and the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Release of Rehabilitated Affordable Housing Agreement, annexed hereto as Exhibit "B".

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-245 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ACCEPT AND RECEIVE ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDING TOWARD OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION IN MONROE TOWNSHIP. (\$2.5 million)

WHEREAS, representatives from New Jersey's Legislative District 14 advocated to include a \$2.5 million allocation in the FY24 State budget toward the acquisition and preservation of open space in Monroe Township; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the FY24 budget including the \$2.5 million allocation toward the acquisition and preservation of open space in Monroe Township; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is the State agency charged with administering that allocation of funds to Monroe Township for the purpose stated in the FY24 budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey authorizes the Mayor of the Township of Monroe and Township Business Administrator to take all necessary steps as required by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to accept and receive the \$2.5 million allocation toward the acquisition and preservation of open space in Monroe Township; and

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-11-2023-246 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ACCEPT
AND RECEIVE ALLOCATION OF STATE FUNDING TOWARD
CONSTRUCTION OF MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS EXPANSION. (\$2.5 million)**

WHEREAS, representatives from New Jersey's Legislative District 14 advocated to include a \$2.5 million allocation in the FY24 State budget toward the construction costs of the Monroe Township Police Department headquarters expansion; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the FY24 budget including the \$2.5 million allocation toward the construction costs of the Monroe Township Police Department headquarters expansion; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs is the State agency charged with administering that allocation of funds to Monroe Township for the purpose stated in the FY24 budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey authorizes the Mayor of the Township of Monroe and Township Business Administrator to take all necessary steps as required by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to accept and receive the \$2.5 million allocation toward the construction costs of the Monroe Township Police Department headquarters expansion; and

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-247 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector for the Township of Monroe has recommended this Council's approval to make refunds for tax overpayments in the amount of Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Six dollars and Eleven cents (\$14,776.11) for the amounts described on Schedule A and attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, good cause has been shown

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

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-248 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS.

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

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

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

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

CURRENT FUND TRANSFER FROM	TRANSFER AMOUNT
Police Department OE	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL CURRENT FUND:	\$ 10,000.00

TRANSFER TO:	AMOUNT
Animal Control OE	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL CURRENT FUND:	\$ 10,000.00

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-249 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) BY AND BETWEEN THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE AND THE MONROE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT.

WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex Department of Public Safety and Health is interested in supporting municipalities and government entities within the County of Middlesex in their efforts to serve, protect, and provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors by ensuring that said municipalities and government entities have access to state-of-the-art equipment owned by and in the possession of the County of Middlesex Department of public Safety and Health: and

WHEREAS, specialized equipment has been purchased for and by the County of Middlesex with funding derived from its Federal, State, County and Local partners that will support our collective efforts to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex County Department of Public Safety and Health concurs that the strategic deployment of specialized equipment based upon need and risk assessment is a significant step in reaching the goal of providing for the safety and welfare of the citizens of Middlesex County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute the attached *Memorandum of Understanding* made by and between the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office and the Township of Monroe Police Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution with an executed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding shall be forwarded to the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-250 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED FOR THE MATTHEW KISVER – BLOCK 35, LOTS 31.05 & 31.06 PROJECT – PB-1185-16. (Mounts Mills Rd)

WHEREAS, Matthew Kisver posted Performance Guarantees in the amount of \$147,632.38 for Block 35, Lots 31.05 & 31.06 project (PB-1185-16); and

WHEREAS, a request for a reduction in the Performance Guarantee has been received; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 108-13.1 F and G of the Code of the Township of Monroe, the Township Engineer has inspected the work performed and the work to be completed and has recommended the Township Council approve the reduction of the Performance Guarantees, as detailed in his letter dated October 31, 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, as follows:

	<u>Bond Portion</u>	<u>Cash Portion</u>
Current	\$ 132,869.14	\$ 14,763.24
Reduce to	\$ 39,860.74	\$ 4,428.97 ; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that Performance Guarantees posted for the PB-1185-16 project be reduced, as reflected in the Township Engineer's letter annexed hereto. This approval for reduction of Performance Guarantees is conditioned upon the provision of replacement guarantees and the resolution of any outstanding balances attached to project escrow accounts; and

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

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-251 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND FINAL SUBMITTED BY MECO, INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DPW, CONSTRUCTION & SOFTBALL PARKING LOTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (Decrease of \$36,858.45)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. R-3-2023-113, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on March 6, 2023, a contract was awarded to MECO, Inc. in connection with the 2023 DPW, Construction & Softball Parking Lot Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, the original total contract amount was \$426,065.80; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, in a letter dated November 1, 2023, requested approval of Change Order No. 1 and Final for the DPW, Construction & Softball Parking Lot Improvements Project reflecting a **decrease of \$36,858.45** in the contract amount, as the result of lower contract quantities, as described in the attached change order; and

WHEREAS, the current contract price including this change order is **\$389,207.35**; and

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

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified in Certificate No. **C-2300047**, a copy of which is attached hereto, that sufficient funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute Change Order No. 1 and Final, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-11-2023-252 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY MECO, INC. UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DPW, CONSTRUCTION & SOFTBALL PARKING LOTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

WHEREAS, MECO, Inc. has posted Performance Guarantees for the 2023 DPW, Construction & Softball Parking Lot Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, MECO, Inc. has requested a release of the Performance Guarantees posted for this project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 108-13.1 F and G of the Code of the Township of Monroe, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated November 1, 2023, has recommended, release of the Performance Guarantees; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Performance Guarantees posted for the DPW, Construction & Softball Parking Lot Improvements Project, be released as reflected in the Township Engineer's letter dated November 1, 2023, attached hereto. This approval for release of the Performance Guarantees is conditioned upon the posting of a maintenance guarantee in the amount of **\$38,920.74**. Such

maintenance guarantee shall run for a period of not less than two years from the date of memorialization of such action by the Council.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

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

Copy of Resolution Duly Filed.

Administrator's Report – Administrator Weinberg updated all on the manhunt for the wanted individual who fled from police trying to administer a search warrant; he stated this was lead by the FBI with local law enforcement support enacted and advised that if anyone sees suspicious activity to report it to the police.

Updated all on the power outage that primarily effected the Clearbrook and Encore communities stating that it was caused by an animal and JCP&L responded to address the outage.

Announced that the Library front desk improvements are underway and advised all to check their website for what their schedule is.

Reported that the Spotswood Gravel Hill Road improvements are now complete.

Reported on our Best Practices Inventory and stated it has been completed and submitted as required.

Thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for the maintenance of all of the Township fields as they do an exceptional job which is much appreciated.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Rasimowicz reported that the drainage improvements at the EMS building on Halsey Reed Road is almost complete.

The volleyball courts at Veteran's Park and Patriot's Park are completed.

The ADA restrooms on Avenue K are near completion with punch list items needing to be addressed.

Reported that the Old Bridge-Englishtown and Mounts Mills Road roadway project is underway with construction ongoing.

Council's Reports –

Councilman Dipierro –

- Inquired if the bathrooms on Avenue K will be open during the day; Administrator Weinberg answered that the schedule is being developed by the Recreation Department and once determined he will report back. Councilman Dipierro asked if there would be temporary bathrooms available to which Administrator Weinberg answered that he will confirm with Parks & Recreation and report back.
- Asked for an update on the roof completion, specifically if the Clerk's Office was checked for mold. Administrator Weinberg answered that he was not aware of any issues with mold, but they are waiting for a significant rainfall to see if there are any issues and afterwards the tiles will be replaced. Councilman Dipierro reiterated his question regarding whether the roof was checked for mold, as having this addressed and replaced took a while to be approved, and he is concerned for the employees being exposed to mold. Administrator Weinberg answered that he trusts the DPW's due diligence to ensure there was no issue with mold but will follow up with them for further discussion.
- Asked how many RFP's there will be and noted that he would like to review them once received; Administrator Weinberg answered that they will be made available as they have been every year to be reviewed. Councilman Dipierro asked when they are due to be received to which Administrator Weinberg answered that they are due in by November 28th with that information available on the Township's website as well.
- Attended the Veteran's Day celebration on Sunday which was well attended and extended thanks to all the veterans and the staff for a wonderful event.
- Asked for an update on the Joan Warren Way traffic signal project; Engineer Rasimowicz responded that this is a County Road and there is an agreement in place for the developer to install. He noted that there were some changes made and items backordered but will follow up with an update at next month's meeting.
- Thanked all involved in the paving project done at the municipal building as it looks great.

- Asked for an update on the railroad crossings on Schoolhouse Road and Forsgate Drive; Engineer Rasimowicz responded that he does not have an update as the County is trying to get Conrail to respond.
- Happy to see the Spotswood Englishtown Road repaving completed before Winter.

Councilman Markel –

- Thanked the Clerk's Office for a job well done on Election Day.
- Attended the Veteran's Day celebration held at the Senior Center, noting the entertainment and food was great.

Councilwoman Siegel –

- Reported that the Open Space Preservation has acquired 136 acres total with many of the acres running along heavily traveled roadways.
- Happy to hear that the ADA bathrooms and volleyball courts are near completion/completed at Veteran's Park.
- Attended the Veteran's Day celebration at the Senior Center as well.
- Invited all to attend a Diwali celebration to be held on Sunday, November 19th at the Senior Center.
- Extended thanks to the Clerk's Office for their work during Election Day.
- Wished everyone a Happy Diwali and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Vice-President Van Dzura –

- Shouted out the high school boys and girls soccer teams as they won the Middlesex County Conference Championship, as well as, the boys and girls cross country who won Group 4 Central Jersey Championship.
- Noted the great job done in regards to the paving on Spotswood Englishtown Road.
- Shouted out our own Kyle Johannsen who is an author, having his book "Eyes of a Spore" published and made available for purchase at Barnes & Noble on December 1st.
- Attended the Veteran's Day celebration at the Senior Center and extended thanks to all of our vets for their dedication and sacrifices.
- Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council President Cohen –

- Extended thanks to the Clerk's Office for a job well done on Election Day.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dalina thanked the Clerk's Office for their hard work on Election Day.

Gave a brief overview of the grants received from the State; \$2.5 million for Open Space purchases and \$2.5 million for the Police Department building expansion. He noted that we have also received another \$3 million from the County for Open Space purchases as well.

Excited for the bathrooms to be completed at Veteran's Park.

Happy to report that we will be receiving \$4 million in ROD grants and a \$1 million State grant going towards improvements to Applegarth School. He advised that he will update once more information becomes available.

Noted that we have received a \$500,000 NJDOT grant for roadway and pedestrian improvements on Links Drive.

Attended the Veteran's Day celebration at the Senior Center, explaining that this was an opportunity for our veterans to be acknowledged and celebrated. He went on to say that there was lunch, speeches, music and an all-around great time celebrating our veterans.

Invited all to attend the Diwali celebration on November 19th at the Senior Center.

Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded all to enjoy the three F's of the holiday: Family, Food and Football.

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

Public Comments –

Tom Bartley, 559 Spotswood-Englishtown Rd. – Mr. Bartley commented that this was a clean election and he likes to see people get along and work together.

Mr. Bartley asked for the Council's stance on the Israel and Palestine war; Council President Cohen stated that we are all free to follow the dictates of our own conscious and Mr. Bartley's question as to whether or not we are for or against the backing of Israel does not fall within our purview to discuss.

Rebecca Zinnikas, 431 Hobart Rd. North Brunswick – Ms. Zinnikas stated that she was coming before our Mayor and Council in her capacity as a registered nurse for RWJ Hospital in New Brunswick to discuss the impact the current strike has had on the nursing staff and patients. She went on to explain that the strike began on August 4th with the main goal being to achieve safe staffing as the more patients registered nurses take on the mortality rates increase. She went on to explain that legislation has stalled for 20 years on passing bills S304 and A4536 which address the need for safe staffing ratios and she, along with other registered nurses are seeking support for these bills from each legislative district by asking that resolutions are passed in support.

Alan Gould, 518B Hazen Rd. – Mr. Gould stated that he is a resident of Monroe Township for over 12 years and he is here advocating for the nurses for safe staffing ratios. He stated that he has experienced from both sides the importance of having enough nursing staff as they are on the front lines. Mr. Gould presented handouts along with a sample resolution for the Council's consideration.

Margaret Andersen, 5 Ralston Way – Ms. Andersen stated that she has been a registered nurse with Robert Wood Johnson for over 39 years and it has been 97 days since the strike began. She went on to explain that the nurses are fighting for fair and safe staffing to help care for their patients along with their own mental health. Ms. Andersen explained that it is very important to have legislation passed in support as the impact of not having enough registered nurses increases the mortality rate by 12% for every additional patient that is added to their care. Ms. Andersen shared some statistics in support of passing the safe staffing bills. Council President Cohen asked where statistical data was pulled from to which Ms. Andersen stated the National State Board of Nursing.

Pat Schwalje, 586A Madison Dr. – Ms. Schwalje shared that she was a patient at Robert Wood Johnson in April and her heart breaks for the registered nurses undertaking of additional patients as she has noticed that the hospital feels like a business now.

Ms. Schwalje commented that as a child of a WWII veteran she was furious that our former president did not attend the 75th anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy. She went on to thank Mayor Dalina for his support of veterans.

Ms. Schwalje suggested to Councilman Dipierro that he read the recent freight studies for any updates he is looking for.

Thanked the residents of Monroe for supporting Team Dalina as she is tired of the rhetoric.

Brian Fabiano, 19 Patricia Pl. – Mr. Fabiano quoted Michelle Obama's famous line, "when they go low, we go high", which he feels summarizes what has transpired these last few months. He went on to say that pushing lies and falsa propaganda is shameful and congratulation all for their overwhelming reelection win as they worked hard and held a clean campaign.

Extended thanks to the Clerk's Office for all their hard work, along with Director Stroin, Engineer Rasimowicz and Chief Biennas who are all hard working and respectable employees.

Mr. Fabiano went on to say that the things that will remain are Veteran's housing, safe communities, Board of Education issues, Recreation programs and it is disappointing to have to explain to children how dirty things can get when you can instead lead with honesty.

Beth Dipierro, 404 Spotswood-Gravel Hill Rd. – Mrs. Dipierro congratulated all on their reelection and stated that we will remain with heads held high as they have nothing but respect for all here in Monroe Township. She stated that no lies were told, no dirty work and she is proud of the Dems for not playing dirty as we should all be here to help and listen to each other's ideas.

Catherine Hunt, 121P Lowell Ln. – Ms. Hunt stated that she was here in support of the nurses and hopes Council will pass a resolution in support of safe staffing.

Extended congratulations to all on their reelection.

Councilman Dipierro asked what the next step to support the registered nurses would be; Council President Cohen stated that our attorney has all of the information provided and will advise us as to what the next step would be. She added that she has also been in touch with the nursing director of Rutgers for additional information as well. Councilman Dipierro asked if this could be expedited to which Council President Cohen responded that once our due diligence was done then we proceed with the next steps.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 7:30pm.

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

Christine Robbins

CHRISTINE ROBBINS, Township Deputy Clerk

Miriam Cohen

MIRIAM COHEN, Council President

Minutes were adopted on December 4, 2023.