

**** The public will be able to view this meeting via the following YouTube link:**
<https://www.youtube.com/@monroetownship9053>

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**

OCTOBER 2, 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. **SWEARING IN CEREMONY:**

Oath of Office administered by the Township Clerk to:
Officer Matthew Holtz, Officer Dovydas Jackevicuis and Officer Stephanie A Pagano

6. **PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

PRESENTATION:

MADD Recognition of Excellence Awards presented to:
Sgt. Jason Cohn: Drug Recognition Expert Award
Officer Jake Lloyd: 2022 Top Cop DWI Arrests in Middlesex County
Officer Joseph Cella: Recognition of Excellence Award
Officer Sean Meagher: Recognition of Excellence Award

PROCLAMATIONS:

Becker Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week – October 1-7, 2023

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month – October 2023

Hindu Heritage Month – October 2023

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month – October 2023

7. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **SECOND READING** at the October 2, 2023 Regular Meeting:
- O-9-2023-024** **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO ACQUIRE A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION OVER PROPERTY AT 400 SPOTSWOOD GRAVEL HILL ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 76, LOT 6.02 ON THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TAX MAP.**
- O-9-2023-025** **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES”.**
8. **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** under **CONSENT AGENDA** at the October 2, 2023 Regular Meeting: (R-10-2023-223 – R-10-2023-237)
- R-10-2023-223** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM THE TREE ESCROW FUND. (Removal of 27 Ash Trees - \$8,430.00)**
- R-10-2023-224** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR SHARED PROPERTIES LLC. W&S 1131, BA-5081-13 POSTED TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”). (Joan Warren Way)**
- R-10-2023-225** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**
- R-10-2023-226** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MONROE TOWNSHIP OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE. (\$10,000 Federal funds from the NJ State Police Office of Emergency Mgmt.)**
- R-10-2023-227** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO PIONEER GENERAL CONTRACTING CO. FOR THE 2023 CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – VARIOUS LOCATIONS. (\$145,525.00)**
- R-10-2023-228** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS.**
- R-10-2023-229** **RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. R-9-2023-216 “AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS”.**
- R-10-2023-230** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO JAMESBURG PRESS FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP PRINTING SERVICES (Groups A & B). (per unit pricing)**
- R-10-2023-231** **RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO CONCEPT PRINT FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP PRINTING SERVICES (Group C–Section 25). (per unit pricing)**
- R-10-2023-232** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LICENSE, HOLD HARMLESS, INDEMNIFICATION, LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND RELEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE AND ORION II MONROE 8A LOGISTICS CENTER II, LLC CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF SEWER SYSTEM INSTALLATION DESIGNS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WOODCREST CIRCLE SEWER PROJECT.**
- R-10-2023-233** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS FROM ACTION UNIFORMS CO. UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP EMS DEPARTMENT. (per unit pricing – not to exceed \$25,000)**
- R-10-2023-234** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED FOR APPLGARATH REAL ESTATES, LLC. PHASE A – WAREHOUSE – PB-1180-16. (Applegarth Rd)**

- R-10-2023-235** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO S & G PAVING INC. FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.** (\$85,236.39 – Shared Svc. Agreement with Fire District #2 – Halsey Reed Rd.)
- R-10-2023-236** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 SUBMITTED BY LAUMAR ROOFING CO., INC. IN CONNECTION TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE.** (Increase of \$52,558.95)
- R-10-2023-237** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TIRE BALANCER & ACCESSORIES FROM PARTS AUTHORITY, LLC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.** (\$25,376.19)

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 ___

OCTOBER 2, 2023 REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW

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**

OCTOBER 2, 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 **SEPTEMBER 27, 2023.**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

September 6, 2023 - Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting

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

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

O-9-2023-024 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO ACQUIRE A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION OVER PROPERTY AT 400 SPOTSWOOD GRAVEL HILL ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 76, LOT 6.02 ON THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TAX MAP.**

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

O-9-2023-025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES”.

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____
ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

5. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION under the CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-10-2023-223– R-10-2023-237)

- R-10-2023-223 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM THE TREE ESCROW FUND. (Removal of 27 Ash Trees - \$8,430.00)**
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- R-10-2023-225 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.**
- R-10-2023-226 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MONROE TOWNSHIP OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT A SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE. (\$10,000 Federal funds from the NJ State Police Office of Emergency Mgmt.)**
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- R-10-2023-237** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TIRE BALANCER & ACCESSORIES FROM PARTS AUTHORITY, LLC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.** (\$25,376.19)

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

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

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

7. **Administrator’s Report.**

8. **Engineer’s Report.**

9. **Council’s Reports.**

10. **Mayor’s Report.**

11. **Public Comments.** (5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

12. **Adjournment.** MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

Time: _____

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – October 2, 2023

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

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

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Business Administrator Alan M. Weinberg, Assistant Business Administrator Kevin McGowan, Utility Director Joseph Stroin, Township Attorney Ronald Gordon, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz and Deputy Clerk Christine Robbins.

ABSENT: Mayor Stephen Dalina

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

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following **SUNSHINE LAW** into the record:

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

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

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

Council President Cohen turned the meeting over to Chief Biennas for the Swearing In Ceremony of Officers Matthew Holtz, Dovydas Jackevicuis and Stephanie A. Pagano. Chief Biennas gave a brief biography of each new officer and then called upon each officer for the administration of the Oath of Office by Township Clerk Patricia Reid. Officer Matthew Holtz's wife Lauren, two daughters and son held the bible, Officer Dovydas Jackevicuis' mother Diana held the bible and lastly, Officer Stephanie A. Pagano's fiancé Barry held the bible.

Chief Biennas then went on to present the MADD Recognition of Excellence Awards which were presented to Sergeant Jason Cohn who received the Drug Recognition Expert Award, Officer Jake Lloyd who received an award for 2022 Top Cop DWI Arrests in Middlesex County, Officer Joseph Cella who received the Recognition of Excellence Award and Officer Sean Meagher who received the Recognition of Excellence Award.

Council expressed their congratulations to all officers and stated how proud they are of their hard work and dedication to their department, the residents, and the Township.

A five-minute recess was taken for pictures with the meeting reconvening at 6:44pm.

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

Becker Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week – October 1-7, 2023

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month – October 2023

Hindu Heritage Month – October 2023

Rett Syndrome Awareness Month – October 2023

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **SECOND READING** at the **MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023** Regular Council Meeting:

- O-9-2023-024** **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO ACQUIRE A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION OVER PROPERTY AT 400 SPOTSWOOD GRAVEL HILL ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 76, LOT 6.02 ON THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TAX MAP.**
- O-9-2023-025** **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES”.**

Council President Cohen read the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023** Regular Council Meeting: (R-10-2023-223 – R-10-2023-237)

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- R-10-2023-237** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TIRE BALANCER & ACCESSORIES FROM PARTS AUTHORITY, LLC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.** (\$25,376.19)

Councilman Dipierro requested Resolutions R-10-2023-223, R-10-2023-224, R-10-2023-230 and R-10-2023-235 to be considered separately.

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

Public Comments:

Pat Schwalje, 586A Madison Dr. – Mrs. Schwalje asked why some resolutions were being pulled off the Consent Agenda to be considered separately; Council President Cohen answered that Council has the privilege to remove any resolution that they have a conflict with. Mrs. Schwalje asked if a reason had to be given to which Council President Cohen responded that a reason does not need to be given and explained further that in abstaining from voting on a resolution the majority of votes rule.

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked in regard to R-10-2023-227 if the costs were solely for actual concrete work or are there soft costs included as well; Engineer Rasimowicz answered that this is for concrete curbs, sidewalks and tree removal which are all construction/hard costs.

Mrs. Arminio asked in regard to O-9-2023-024 if this was an eminent domain purchase to which Attorney Gordon answered that this was a voluntary conveyance for roadway improvements. Engineer Rasimowicz added that this is a single-family home which received approval with the right of way being apart of that approval.

Lucille Panos, 1208C Lindera Plz. – Mrs. Panos asked in regard to R-10-2023-236 if there were other bids considered for this project as it was only awarded a month ago and already has a \$52,000+ change order being considered. Administrator Weinberg responded that this was done as part of the Bergen County Coop. and our Construction Department came in and advised that fireproof wood and an H panel would be needed, which in turn essentially changed the scope of the project, which is why there is an increase to compensate for those items deemed necessary. Mrs. Panos stated that it is a shame to move forward with this and feels it should be reconsidered. Administrator Weinberg stated that our DPW did the original scope and our Construction Department found safety issues due to the specs of our building and we must keep to code.

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 Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Dipierro, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 7:02pm.

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 Councilman Dipierro, the Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 7:03pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Council Vice-President Van Dzura, the **CLAIMS** per run date of **9/27/2023** 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 Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel the **MINUTES** of the **September 6, 2023 Agenda and Regular Combined Meeting** were approved as written And presented.

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

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

O-9-2023-024 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO ACQUIRE A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION OVER PROPERTY AT 400 SPOTSWOOD GRAVEL HILL ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 76, LOT 6.02 ON THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TAX MAP.

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

WHEREAS, the Dixitkumar B. Patel and Jinal B. Patel (the “Grantors”) are the owners of that certain parcel of land identified on the Township of Monroe’s (the “Township”) Official Tax Map as Block 76, Lot 6.02 (hereinafter referred to as the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Township seeks to acquire an easement in perpetuity for the purpose of dedicating a right-of-way consisting of a portion of the property along the property’s frontage for road widening (the “Easement”); and

WHEREAS, the Grantor has executed a Deed of Right-of-Way Dedication providing the Township with a right-of-way easement in the property as described in the Deed of Right-of-Way Dedication appended hereto as Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, the Township Attorney and Township Engineer have reviewed the aforementioned Deed of Right-of-Way Dedication and agreed that it is in the best interests of the Township to acquire the right-of-way and accept a Deed of Right-of-Way Dedication in a form substantially similar to the form attached hereto as Attachment A, subject to the review of the Township Attorney.

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to accept the Deed of Right-of-Way Dedication in substantially the form appended hereto as Attachment A, subject to the review of the Township Attorney, which sets forth the terms and conditions pertaining to the Right-of-Way dedication, and all documents necessary for the acceptance.
2. If any section or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the other sections or provisions of this Ordinance.

3. All ordinances or part of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.
4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

SO, ORDAINED as aforesaid.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-9-2023-024** was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-9-2023-024** was **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilman Markel, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

O-9-2023-024 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO ACQUIRE A RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION OVER PROPERTY AT 400 SPOTSWOOD GRAVEL HILL ROAD KNOWN AS BLOCK 76, LOT 6.02 ON THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TAX MAP.

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 Ordinance Duly Filed.

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

O-9-2023-025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED “TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES”.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that Chapter 116 of the Monroe Township Code entitled “Towing and Storing of Vehicles” be amended and supplemented as follows (new text is in **red and underlined**, text to be deleted is ~~struck~~):

§ 116-4. Application for permit.

D. The required documents set forth in Section 116-5 , 116-6, and 116-9 of this chapter shall be submitted annually and/or upon expiration to the Township Clerk and whenever there is a deviation from the original application in regard to change of location, change of personnel and/or change in vehicles.

§ 116-7. Application review.

(6) The applicant owns or has a valid lease to a storage facility ~~within the Township boundaries~~ **within 5 miles of the Township boundaries**, in an area legally zoned for such use, and such storage facility includes a minimum of 10 outside spaces and an inside secured facility for storage of impounded vehicles.

§ 116-12. Performance standards.

A. Maintenance of place of business. Light and medium duty tow operators shall maintain a principal place of operation ~~within the township~~ **within 5 miles of the Township boundaries**, as a property tax payer or holder of a valid lease. A heavy duty tow operator shall maintain a principal place of operation within fifteen (15) miles of the township boundaries. Tow

operators shall comply fully with all of the zoning, land use and property maintenance codes of the township in which the tow operator's business is located.

(1) Each place of business will provide and maintain the following:

(a) One (1) tow operator allowed per base of service or storage facility. Those existing operators who lease and share storage facilities with another tow operator, at the time this section is enacted, shall have one (1) calendar year from the date of enactment to comply with this requirement.

(b) ~~(a)~~ A store front including signage displaying the business name, address and phone number.

(c) ~~(b)~~ A person in the office to greet customers rendering service.

(d) ~~(c)~~ A waiting area for patrons' use.

(e) ~~(d)~~ A properly maintained and working restroom for patrons.

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 Siegel and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-9-2023-025** was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked if this increases the fees and for clarification on what the exact changes are; Township Clerk Patricia Reid answered that this is not for an increase in fees and that this holds the tow operators responsible in submitting their annual paperwork, such as registration, insurance and liability insurance documents to our office for filing since the Township's license term is for three years.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Council Vice-President Van Dzura, the **PUBLIC HEARING for Ordinance O-9-2023-025** was **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

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

O-9-2023-025 ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 116 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED "TOWING AND STORING OF VEHICLES".

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA:** (R-10-2023-223– R-10-2023-237 with the exception of Resolutions R-10-2023-223, R-10-2023-224, R-10-2023-230 and R-10-2023-235)

**R-10-2023-225 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 Twenty-Seven Thousand Six-Hundred dollars and no cents (\$27,600.00),

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-10-2023-226 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MONROE TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT A
SUBGRANT AWARD OF THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE.
(\$10,000 Federal funds from the NJ State Police Office of Emergency Mgmt.)**

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management has been awarded State Homeland Security Grant Program Sub-grant AFN #97.042, Subgrant Award #FY23-EMPG-EMAA-1212 from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General. The subgrant, consisting of a \$10,000.00 Federal Award, with zero match, is for the purpose of enhancing and sustaining the Township's all-hazards emergency management capabilities and enhancing the Township's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other catastrophic events and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management will use these funds to enhance the Emergency Management Program and the funds will be used for Emergency Management purposes; and

WHEREAS, the award period is from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the subgrant award incorporates all conditions and representations contained or made in application and notice of award; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Office of Emergency Management, designated by the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management, has submitted an Application for Subgrant Award that has been required by the said New Jersey State Office of Emergency Management.

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

1. That the Township Council does accept the award of the FFY23 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG), Emergency Management Agency Assistance Subgrant (EMAA) in the amount of \$10,000.00 Federal Funds from the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management.
2. That the Mayor and Director of Emergency Management are authorized to sign the appropriate subgrant award documents.
3. That copies of this resolutions shall be forwarded to the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management, the Township Business Administrator, the Chief Financial Officer and the County Division of Emergency Management and Office of Treasury.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-10-2023-227 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO PIONEER
GENERAL CONTRACTING CO. FOR THE 2023 CONCRETE
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – VARIOUS LOCATIONS.
(\$145,525.00)**

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2023, six (6) sealed bids were received by Monroe Township regarding the **2023 Concrete Improvements Project – Various Locations**; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated September 18, 2023, has recommended *Pioneer General Contracting Co. 601 Lake Terrace Bradley Beach 07720*, to be awarded the Bid, based upon their bid submission in the amount of **\$145,525.00**; 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-2300075, 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 *Pioneer General Contracting Co.* for the **2023 Concrete Improvements Project – Various Locations**, at a total contract price of **\$145,525.00**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with *Pioneer General Contracting Co.*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township's Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay *Pioneer General Contracting Co.* in accordance with the contract entered into between the parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract is awarded with the stipulation that *Pioneer General Contracting Co.* 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.

R-10-2023-228 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 Twenty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Six dollars and Seventy cents (\$22,326.70) 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-10-2023-229

**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. R-9-2023-216
“AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS”.**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-9-2023-216 adopted by the Monroe Township Council at the September 6, 2023 regular meeting authorized the Tax Collector for the Township of Monroe to make refunds for tax overpayments in the amount of One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty-One dollars and Seventeen cents (\$155,241.17) for the amounts described on Schedule A and attached hereto;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector advised that the property information for the refund to Block 77, Lot 2.19 was incorrect and should have been a refund to Block 15, Lot 12.2 and the payee information for Block 81.1, Lot 81 was incorrect and needs to be amended; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. R-9-2023-216 must be amended to authorize the Tax Collector of the Township of Monroe to refund the corrected parties as amended and hereby attached; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector for the Township of Monroe has recommended this Council’s approval to revise Resolution No. R-9-2023-216 and make refunds for tax overpayments in the revised amount of One Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Five dollars and Forty-Two cents (\$159,445.42) for the amounts described on Schedule A and attached hereto.

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 Resolution No. R-9-2023-216 is hereby amended to authorize the Tax Collector of the Township of Monroe to refund the proper parties for tax overpayments for Block 15, Lot 12.2 and Block 81.1, Lot 81 as reflected in the attached revised Schedule A.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-10-2023-231

**RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO CONCEPT PRINT
FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP PRINTING SERVICES (Group C–Section
25). (per unit pricing)**

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2023 two (2) sealed bids were received by Monroe Township in connection with Monroe Township Printing Services; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Purchasing Manager, in a letter dated September 20, 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto, recommends a contract be awarded to **Concept Print**, 40 Lydecker Street Nyack, N.Y. 10960 for Printing Services (Group C – Section 25), based upon the *unit pricing and estimated quantities* contained within their bid documents, as shown in the attached rate schedule, and upon final review by the Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the recommendations made by the Business Administrator regarding said contract; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds in Certificate No. M-230022, 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 **Concept Print** for Printing Services (Group C – Section 25) for Monroe Township **expiring 10/1/2025**, with the provision authorizing the Business Administrator to extend for one additional one year period with the consent of the bidder; and

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

(1) The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Concept Print in accordance with their submitted bid;

(2) The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for material delivered by Concept Print in accordance with their bid;

(3) The contracts are awarded through the competitive bidding process as a fair and open contract in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract is awarded with the stipulation that Concept Print shall comply with Affirmative Action Regulations and must submit either a letter of federal approval or 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-10-2023-232 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LICENSE, HOLD HARMLESS, INDEMNIFICATION, LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND RELEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE AND ORION II MONROE 8A LOGISTICS CENTER II, LLC CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF SEWER SYSTEM INSTALLATION DESIGNS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WOODCREST CIRCLE SEWER PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Orion II Monroe 8A Logistics Center II, LLC (the “Developer”) is the developer of a warehouse facility (the “Project”) on property located on Rhode Hall Road in the Township of Monroe (the “Township”), also known as Lot 4.02 in Block 82 on the Tax Map of the Township of Monroe (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Developer applied under Application No. BA-5226-22 to the Monroe Township Board of Adjustment for preliminary and final major subdivision approval with bulk variances and for preliminary and final site plan approval with variances, which said approvals and variances were granted on May 30, 2023 and memorialized on June 27, 2023 (the “Approvals”); and

WHEREAS, the Project will be developed in proximity to multiple communities, including the existing circular residential development at Woodcrest Circle (“Woodcrest Circle”); and

WHEREAS, a sanitary sewer line was previously constructed beneath Lincoln Boulevard and a portion of Woodcrest Circle; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of the Approvals for the Project, Developer has agreed and will be required to provide sanitary sewer service to Woodcrest Circle immediately upon commencement of the Project, by, amongst other requirements, extending the existing sanitary sewer line into the remainder of Woodcrest Circle, constructing sewer laterals to connect the dwellings in the Woodcrest Circle development to the sanitary sewer line, and milling and paving Woodcrest Circle from curb-to-curb at the completion of both the sewer line and lateral installations (the “Woodcrest Circle Sewer Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Utility engineering consultant, R3M Engineering, Inc. (“R3M Engineering”) has prepared and provided to the Monroe Township Utility Department designs for the sewer system installations in the Woodcrest Circle area of Monroe Township (the “Sewer Designs”), which Developer agreed, as a condition of the Approvals, to provide reimbursement for utilizing; and

WHEREAS, the Township has negotiated and the Developer has agreed to execute a License, Hold Harmless, Indemnification, Limitation of Liability and Release Agreement in the form attached hereto as **Attachment A**, which provides, in part, for the release of said Sewer Designs to Developer pursuant to a revocable, non-exclusive license, and which sets forth the liability limitations and indemnification of the Township, as well as its consultant, R3M Engineering, in connection with Developer’s use of the Sewer Designs for the Woodcrest Circle Sewer Project; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to authorize the execution of a License, Hold Harmless, Indemnification, Limitation of Liability and Release Agreement in a form substantially similar to **Attachment A** hereto, subject to the review and approval of the Township Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute, subject to the review and approval of the Township Attorney, a License, Hold Harmless, Indemnification, Limitation of Liability and Release Agreement in a form substantially similar to that attached hereto as **Attachment A**, which provides, in part, for the release of said Sewer Designs to Developer pursuant to a revocable, non-exclusive license and which sets forth the liability limitations and indemnification of the

Township, as well as its consultant, R3M Engineering, in connection with Developer's use of the Sewer Designs for the Woodcrest Circle Sewer Project

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-10-2023-233 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS FROM ACTION UNIFORMS CO. UNDER NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP EMS DEPARTMENT. (per unit pricing – not to exceed \$25,000)

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, has the need to purchase uniforms for the EMS Department, under the NJ State Contract No. 17-FLEET-00751 pricing from *Action Uniforms Co.*, an authorized vendor under the NJ State Contract; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, the Quotation received, attached hereto, shows the unit pricing; and

WHEREAS, the total purchase price from Action Uniforms Co. shall not exceed twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000); and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in Certificate No. C-2300077, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes a contract be entered into with *Action Uniforms Co. 1500 S. New Road Pleasantville, N.J. 08232* for the purchase of uniforms for the Monroe Township EMS Department at a total contract price not to exceed **\$25,000.00**.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-10-2023-234 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED FOR APPLGARTH REAL ESTATES, LLC. PHASE A – WAREHOUSE – PB-1180-16. (Applegarth Rd)

WHEREAS, Applegarth Real Estates LLC. has posted Performance Guarantees in the amount of \$2,769,762.90 for the Phase A – Warehouse project PB-1180-16; 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 installed site improvements 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 September 11, 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A:

	<u>Bond Portion</u>	<u>Cash Portion</u>
Current	\$2,492,786.61	\$276,976.29
Reduce to	\$1,408,338.43	\$156,482.05

; 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 by Applegarth Real Estates LLC. for the Phase A Warehouse project PB-1180-16 be reduced, as reflected in the Township Engineer's letter annexed hereto. Such reduction 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-10-2023-236 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 SUBMITTED BY LAUMAR ROOFING CO., INC. IN CONNECTION TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE. (Increase of \$52,558.95)

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. R-9-2023-215, adopted by the Monroe Township Council at its meeting held on September 7, 2023, the "Municipal Building Roof Replacement Project" contract was awarded to Laumar Roofing Co., Inc. in the amount of \$149,123.60; and

WHEREAS, it was subsequently found that the roof originally specified required upgrades to bring it up to present construction codes, a copy of the Structural Engineering Report is attached hereto as Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, Laumar Roofing Co., Inc. has submitted a request for Change Order #1 for the required upgrades consisting of additional required labor and materials (hat channel and upgrade to fire rated plywood over standard) in the amount of \$52,558.95, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit C; and

WHEREAS, the current contract price including this change order is **\$201,682.55**; and

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, the Township Chief Finance Officer has certified availability of funds in Certificate No. C-2300073 a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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, in the total amount of \$52,558.95.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-10-2023-237 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A TIRE BALANCER & ACCESSORIES FROM PARTS AUTHORITY, LLC. FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. (\$25,376.19)

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Department of Public Works, has the need to purchase a tire balancer and collet kit to replace an existing old tire balancer, from *Parts Authority, LLC, 535 Milltown Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902*; and

WHEREAS, the details are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
Hunter HDE32 Tire Balancer	\$19,799.09
8 and 10 Lug Adapter Kit	\$2,416.83
Medium Duty Collet Kit	\$1,776.37
Automotive Collet Kit	\$798.90
Freight	<u>\$585.00</u>
Total	\$25,376.19

WHEREAS, the Township QPA by copy of letter dated August 26, 2023, recommends the award of contract to *Parts Authority, LLC, 535 Milltown Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902*, in the amount of **\$25,376.19**; and

WHEREAS, the award of contract is subject to the compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.; any contractor, subcontractor of business firm agree and guarantee 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 that it has rendered its advice and hereby consents to the award of contract, to *Parts Authority, LLC* for a tire balancer and collet kit for a total contract price of **\$25,376.19**; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as evidenced by Certificate No. C-2300079, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay *Parts Authority, 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 *Parts Authority, LLC* shall comply with Affirmative Action Regulations, including revising their contracts as necessary to add mandatory affirmative action language, and submitting either a letter of federal approval or 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.

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

Copy of Resolutions Duly Filed.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the following Resolution was removed from the **CONSENT AGENDA** and considered separately:

R-10-2023-223 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM THE TREE ESCROW FUND. (Removal of 27 Ash Trees - \$8,430.00)

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 96 of the Monroe Township Code entitled “Shade Trees and Shrubbery; Landscaping”, a Tree Escrow Fund has been created to hold and disburse fees paid in lieu of tree replanting by developers or property owners removing trees; and

WHEREAS, the Fund is to be used to maintain, preserve and protect the municipal tree cover; and

WHEREAS, the overall health and vitality of Monroe Township’s tree cover is at risk due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, which has spread to ash trees throughout the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that purposes of the Tree Escrow Fund are served by funding the removal of dead or diseased ash trees within the Township, which pose a danger to healthy trees and to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds within the Tree Escrow Fund in Certificate No.C-2300074, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Monroe authorizes the expenditure of not more than \$8,430.00 for the removal of approximately 27 Ash trees, when invoices are tendered by RKD, from the Tree Escrow Fund;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Department is hereby authorized and directed to pay Power Saws of America, Inc. t/a RKD Tree Service from the Tree Escrow Fund, for the services provided.

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.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the following Resolution was removed from the **CONSENT AGENDA** and considered separately:

R-10-2023-224 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE POSTING OF A MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE FOR SHARED PROPERTIES LLC. W&S 1131, BA-5081-13 POSTED TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”). (Joan Warren Way)

WHEREAS, Performance Guarantees have been posted with the Monroe Township Utility Department (“M.T.U.D.”) for Shared Properties, LLC. W&S 1131, BA #5081-13; and

WHEREAS, Shared Properties, LLC. has requested a release of the 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 September 18, 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A":

Release the reduced Apartments water Performance Bond #S-301095 in the amount of \$35,721.00 and replace with a Maintenance Guarantee in the amount \$17,860.50 (15% of the original bond) and release the cash portion in the amount of \$3,969.00.

Release the reduced Apartments sewer Performance Bond #S-301096 in the amount of \$10,449.00 and replace with a Maintenance Guarantee in the amount \$5,224.50 (15% of the original bond) and release the cash portion in the amount of \$1,161.00.

Release the reduced Off-Site water Performance Bond #S-301097 in the amount of \$2,511.00 and replace with a Maintenance Guarantee in the amount \$1,255.50 (15% of the original bond) and release cash portion in the amount of \$279.00.

Release the reduced Off-Site sewer Performance Bond #S-301098 in the amount of \$15,957.00 and replace with a Maintenance Guarantee in the amount \$7,978.50 (15% of the original bond) and release the cash portion in the amount of \$1,773.00.

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&S 1131 and be released as reflected above and the MTUD letter annexed hereto. This approval to release a Performance Guarantee is conditioned upon the provision of replacement maintenance guarantees 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.

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.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the following Resolution was removed from the **CONSENT AGENDA** and considered separately:

R-10-2023-230 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO JAMESBURG PRESS FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP PRINTING SERVICES (Groups A & B). (per unit pricing)

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2023 two (2) sealed bids were received by Monroe Township in connection with Monroe Township Printing Services; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Purchasing Manager, in a letter dated September 20, 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto, recommends a contract be awarded to **Jamesburg Press**, 9 East Railroad Avenue, Jamesburg, NJ 08831 for Printing Services (Groups A & B), based upon the *unit pricing and estimated quantities* contained within their bid documents; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has reviewed the recommendations made by the Purchasing Manager regarding said contract; and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds are available, as set forth in Certificate No. C-2300076, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds in Certificate No. M-230021 , 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 **Jamesburg Press** for Printing Services groups A & B for Monroe Township **expiring 10/1/2025**, with the provision authorizing the Business Administrator to extend for one additional one year period with the consent of the bidder; and

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

(1) The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Jamesburg Press in accordance with their submitted bid;

(2) The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay invoices for material delivered by Jamesburg Press in accordance with their bid;

(3) The contracts are awarded through the competitive bidding process as a fair and open contract in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract is awarded with the stipulation that Jamesburg Press shall comply with Affirmative Action Regulations and must submit either a letter of federal approval or 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.

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.

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Van Dzura and seconded by Councilwoman Siegel, the following Resolution was removed from the **CONSENT AGENDA** and considered separately:

R-10-2023-235 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO S & G PAVING INC. FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING SITE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. (\$85,236.39 – Shared Svc. Agreement with Fire District #2 – Halsey Reed Rd.)

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2023, four (4) sealed bids were received by Monroe Township regarding the **Emergency Services Building Site Improvements Project**; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer, by copy of letter dated September 25, 2023, has recommended **S & G Paving Inc. 224 Forsgate Drive Jamesburg, N.J. 08831**, to be awarded the Bid, based upon their bid submission in the amount of **\$85,236.39**; 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-2300078, 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 *S & G Paving Inc.* for the **Emergency Services Building Site Improvements Project**, at a total contract price of **\$85,236.39**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with *S & G Paving Inc.*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to pay *S & G Paving Inc.* in accordance with the contract entered into between the parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract is awarded with the stipulation that *S & G Paving Inc.* 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.

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 reported that Mayor Dalina is absent as he is by his wife’s side as her mother is seriously ill and in the hospital. He stated that he has been asked to share the following on the Mayor’s behalf:

Working on a future shared partnership with the Board of Education to take advantage of a \$4 million dollar State ROD Grant and a \$1 million dollar State budget grant both of which are specifically for Applegarth School improvements. He went on to share that Mayor Dalina wants to take advantage of State funding, keeping that money in Monroe to benefit our children and will share more details once available.

Highlighted the shared services agreement with Fire District #2 on tonight’s agenda; as Mayor Dalina is a huge proponent of shared services and this will help us accomplish more for the taxpayers.

Thankful to see another State OEM grant received in the amount of \$10,000 for OEM training and technology purposes.

Extended thanks to the DPW, OEM and MTUD for their hard work in preparing the Township during the recent storms we have had.

Shared that the Library is making some exciting improvements to their front desk area which will provide a more open experience once finished. It is expected to take approximately two months to complete and it is asked to pardon their appearance when entering inside. It was also noted that they processed over 402,000 transactions last year which was 10% more than previous years.

Reported that the Township has the second lowest tax rate in the County and has an AA+ bond rating which is positive for our community when refinancing our debts.

County wide shredding events will take place on Saturday, October 14th at the Cranbury School between 9am-12pm and then again on November 3rd at Thompson Park

A Veteran's Day recognition ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 11th at Veteran's Park on Avenue K, as well as, a celebration luncheon to be held at the Senior Center on November 5th beginning at noon. Mayor Dalina was also invited to attend a veteran's recognition service at the Regency on November 10th and at Clearbrook on November 11th.

Lastly, Administrator Weinberg reminded everyone that there will be a test of the Nationwide Emergency Alert System on Wednesday, October 4th at 2:20pm. Text messages will be sent to all radios, televisions, and cell phones at that time.

Council President Cohen shared that a year ago our EMS delivered a baby boy enroute to the hospital and his mother brought him in recently as he celebrated his 1st birthday.

Engineer's Report – Engineer Rasimowicz reported that the Old Bridge – Englishtown Road and Mounts Mills Road traffic signal improvements project has begun.

2023 Roadway Improvement Project is finishing up.

Volleyball courts at Veteran's Park are complete and the ones at Patriots Park are near completion.

The Spotswood Gravel Hill Road project has approximately 2 weeks left of concrete and sidewalk work to be completed and then paving can begin. (Matchaponix Avenue to Avenue K)

Spotswood Englishtown Road near Romero Court Drainage Improvement Project will have milling and repaving done soon by the County.

Council's Reports –

Councilwoman Siegel –

- Reminded all that it is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and it is important to get annual mammograms done as early detection is key.
- Cultural Arts will be hosting their Annual Juried Arts Show beginning October 5th through October 14th at the Library.
- "Artrageous" will be at the Performing Arts Center on October 15th for all who are interested in attending.
- The Environmental Commission held their Green Fair last week at the high school; extended congratulations and thanks for all their hard work.
- The Historical Commission held their last tour of the Dey Farm last week; there have been over 500 people who have visited the site in the last year and different things to see like bee keeping, artifacts etc. Thanks again to the DPW
- This past Sunday Mayor Dalina and Council came out to celebrate the Monroe Township Wolverines Cheer Team commemorated all of their impressive wins over the last 20 years.

Councilman Markel –

- Shared that Rossmoor resident Daisy Cohen won 1st place at the Middlesex County Older Adult Art Contest and will have her artwork on display at the Library during the Annual Juried Arts Show.
- Regarding all the rain, shared that his hometown in Westchester County was flooded out this week which is very sad as old friends have shared pictures with him of all the devastation.
- Proud to be awarded "Silver" status by Sustainable New Jersey as there are only 36 towns in the State who share that title with us being one of them; adding that the environment is very important to protect.
- Our Senior Center announced that there will be 7 new trips for November with registration opening on October 20th at 9:00am for those interested.

Councilman Dipierro –

- October is Italian American Month and asked that we add to the list of proclamations for next year.
- Asked if there was a schedule for when the roof work will be done and the paving will begin; Engineer Rasimowicz responded that there was a change order for the roof on tonight's agenda and work should begin at the end of the week with the paving beginning after the roof is complete.
- Attended the historical baseball game at the Dey Farm which was very nice; added that there is a one room schoolhouse on the property and the grounds are very well preserved. He extended thanks to the Historical Commission for all their hard work.
- Thanked the Administration, Eileen Biennas and all of our first responders for handling the September 11th ceremonies and coordinating to have it moved indoors because of the inclement weather.
- Attended an event at Congress Hill Farms for those with special needs where they were able to ride the horses and have lunch. Noted that it was a very special event for all of those who attended.

- Attended the League of Women Voter's Meet the Candidate Forum; extended thanks to the League of Women Voters for putting this together and shared that it can be viewed on their website for those who were unable to attend.
- Attended the Green Fair which was well attended even though the weather did not cooperate. Thanked the committee for their hard work in making it a successful event.
- Attended the Monroe Township Wolverines Cheer 20-year Commemoration Ceremony; shared that he was very proud to attend and see how well they work together and to see our teams and our Township being recognized.
- Commented that he has passed by Meadowview and was curious as to whether or not it has been winterized; Administrator Weinberg answered that he would check with DPW and report back. Councilman Dipierro noted that most of the window air condition units are still in place there and need to be taken out with the windows closed and boarded up.
- Noted that tonight there is a road closure on Old Bridge Englishtown Road where the wet caps are going to be done and asked if our residents would be notified of this ongoing construction; Engineer Rasimowicz answered that the contractor has put out notices to the residents earlier today to which Councilman Dipierro commented that we should have it also posted on our Township website with a list of ongoing construction statuses available on there as well. Engineer Rasimowicz clarified that it is not a full road closure, as one lane is blocked with traffic being detoured around the site.
- Commented that Election Day is upon us and wished the Clerk's Office good luck, commenting that they always do a good job handling the Election, as well as, to all the poll workers for their work that day.
- Inquired if there are any plans to have another Community Clean Up Day as we did not have many this year; Administrator Weinberg responded that he would follow up with DPW and noted that they have been busy working on various clean up projects with grant monies that have been received. Councilman Dipierro stated that he appreciates Administrator Weinberg following up as many of our clubs receive grant money for participating in the Community Clean Ups to which Administrator Weinberg commented that those clubs have been helping with the other ongoing cleanups as well.
- Inquired as to what the status with replacing the server at the high school was so we can get our channel available again to our residents; Administrator Weinberg answered that Mayor Dalina has had a conversation with the Board of Education President explaining that the Township would like to help with the situation so the terms are being worked out and will be included in the shared services agreement.
- Inquired as to whether or not we have completed the hydrant flushing project; Director Stroin answered yes.
- Noted that the barn located on the corner of Mounts Mills Road and Buckelew Avenue needs to be winterized as there are boards flying around that need to be secured.
- Inquired as to whether or not we are getting the deed for the old police department property; Administrator Weinberg responded that we have been working with the Department of Treasury explaining that this is the 93 acres across the street from the boy's home which contained "Camp Derek" and we have been able to get those 93 acres turned into Green Acres and hopes on planning to announce within the next month which will be a positive development for the Township. Councilman Dipierro asked if the dead trees near the roadway in that area can get addressed.
- Reminded everyone to support our local businesses by shopping locally as it is very important to try and keep these businesses afloat.
- With Halloween coming, reminded everyone to drive safely.
- Lastly, sending prayers to Mayor Dalina and his family.

Council Vice-President Van Dzura –

- Attended the Green Fair, which was a very informative event and extended thanks and appreciation to all who worked hard to get this event up and running. Council Vice-President Van Dzura went on to share that there was a stand there promoting organ donation which is something that everyone should consider, as it is as easy as having it noted on your driver's license so in the event you pass away your organs can be donated to help save someone else's life.
- Announced that the Veteran's Day celebration will be held on November 5th from 12pm-2pm at the Senior Center which is something very near and dear to Mayor Dalina as he always does a great job with showing appreciation for our Veteran's.
- Noted that as we pass September 11th it is important to show appreciation to our Police, First Responders, EMS and all who go out onto the scene as well as the nurses, who during Covid were on the frontlines dealing with a pandemic that not only put them at risk, but some even lost their lives. Currently, the nurses at Robert Wood Johnson are on strike looking for better working conditions, as without it their work conditions are adversely affected, which in turn may affect you or someone you know needing care; therefore, it is important to read up on what is going on and support their fight.
- Reminded all that the Ukrainian War continues to go on and has been going on for so long that it seems like secondhand news. He went on to note that the last budget approval did not have any money appropriated to help Ukraine and he would urge our federal officials to continue to support these people as if Ukraine falls to Russia it would create a domino effect that would not be good.
- Wished everyone a safe and happy Halloween.

Council President Cohen –

- Invited all to come trick-or-treating at the municipal building on Halloween with more information available on the Township website for all who may be interested.

Mayor's Report – No Report; Absent. Business Administrator Weinberg gave Mayor's comments during his report.

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 –

Naomi Holzer, 453 Bluebird Dr. – Ms. Holzer stated that she is a retired first responder and former registered nurse who has put her life on the line for others but feels that her contribution to society is paltry compared to what our Veteran's sacrifice in defending us and this country. Ms. Holzer went on to share that her father was a veteran, and she feels that Mayor Dalina attending the various veteran's celebrations alone is appalling as she does not understand why no one else attends. Council President Cohen rebutted asking where she heard that only the Mayor attends these events as they have all attended various veteran's ceremonies throughout the Township. Administrator Weinberg clarified that any Township events are always open to the Mayor and Council but private organizations holding various events who may only invite the Mayor and/or the Council to attend and exclude the public which the Township cannot control. He also explained that Mayor Dalina created a Veteran's Committee two years ago where there are even more events happening around the Township. Ms. Holzer commented that there should be more than just the Mayor's presence at the events held throughout the Township, to which Administrator Weinberg reiterated that the Township cannot control who is invited to events being held by private organizations or private communities with Attorney Gordon affirming the same.

Joellen Arrabito, 22-O Rossmoor Dr. – Ms. Arrabito stated that she hears comments being made about Ukraine and asking for support for what is happening over there but is curious if anyone has any comments on the nonsupport of the invasion of our southern borders; Council Vice-President Van Dzura commented that the southern border is a problem, there is no doubt about that, and both parties need to acknowledge that and come together to draw up the proper legislation to have the sufficient number of judges and workers to process those wanting to come in properly vet the people wanting to come and live here or determine if they need to be sent back. He went on to say that this is not a one-party issue to which Ms. Arrabito interrupted him to say that we have no one protecting our borders and that is because of our current president and not having the proper funding in place. Council President Cohen asked for order and if Ms. Arrabito had any additional items she would like to discuss to which she stated that she was waiting for an answer to her earlier question first; she then thanked Councilman Dipierro for acknowledging Italian Heritage Month.

Anjan Karnati, 11 Preservation Dr. – Mr. Karnati asked if anyone on Council is in charge of the school facilities; Administrator Weinberg answered that school facilities are overseen by the Board of Education. Mr. Karnati stated that it is understood that the schools are separate and overseen separately by the Board of Education but the resident's quality of life is the responsibility of the Township to which Council President Cohen answered that the Board of Education is responsible for the education of our students and we care about all our students attending our schools. Mr. Karnati went on to say that prior to the Township giving any approvals for developments there should be a meeting between the Planning Board and Board of Education as the schools are overcrowded and not sufficient to handle the influx of students that attend. Administrator Weinberg responded that whenever requested by the Board of Education, himself along with the Planning Director have met with them explaining that 96% of all development that is slated is part of the court ordered affordable housing settlement, such as the Lofts at Monroe Parke, Stratford and Georgetown Estates to name a few. Administrator Weinberg suggested to Mr. Karnati that he take a look at the long-range plans regarding the school facilities as we share all our information with the Board of Education so they could plan accordingly and are responsible for producing the demography and his follow through would be best with them.

Tim Eosso, 625 Spotswood-Gravel Hill Rd. – Mr. Eosso read a statement into the record regarding overdevelopment, impact fees and election contributions received from engineers and developers that have negatively impacted our Township and have contributed to its overdevelopment.

Mr. Eosso commented about the migrants coming to Monroe, stating that the Township does not own the Boy's Home but the State does, adding that Council Vice-President Van Dzura was very upset at a resident last month for questioning it and feels an apology is owed to Mrs. Arrabito. Mr. Eosso went on to question what the Township's plan is for handling the migrants as the residents of the Township deserve a Mayor and Council who will fight for them and give them answers. Administrator Weinberg responded saying that

the Citizen's Review Board had their semiannual meeting a week ago where representatives of the Boy's Home gave updates as to the ongoings of the facilities and Board Member Pete Piro asked directly to the representatives if there were any plans of having migrants move into the facility to which the representatives emphatically stated that this was an active site with no plan to have any migrants move in there adding that this was the first they have heard of such a thing.

Adam Durando, 66 Ave K – Mr. Durando asked what we are doing as a Township to lower costs for all residents to live here; he went on to state that we come in second for having the lowest tax rate but not first and asked what is being done to make it more affordable for all to stay here not just the seniors over 65 because 40% of the residents here are between the 18-65 age range; Administrator Weinberg commented that Mr. Durando brings up some great points and clarified that the Township has done a tremendous effort in trying to keep the tax rate low which it is lower today than it was in 2020 as well as the school budget being lower than it was in 2020 due in part to fighting for additional school aid. Administrator Weinberg explained that the ANCHOR program is available to everyone over the age of 18 who makes less than \$250,000 and STAYNJ is a work in progress but a good program as well. He went on to state that Mayor Dalina has been working towards expanding the senior freeze program and maintaining affordability by keeping our taxes stable and refinancing our debts. Mr. Durando commented that keeping our taxes stable does not mean making them lower it simply just means that we are keeping them flat and the ANCHOR and STAYNJ programs are not done by the Mayor and Council but offered by the State to which Council President Cohen explained that Mayor Dalina was asked to testify in support of those programs to help pass these bipartisan bills.

Harold Kane, 480-B Newport Way – Mr. Kane stated that he is a Vietnam vet and part of Post #401 locally and commented that the veteran's housing project is 80 units and a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms to which veterans have no use for a 3-bedroom unit; adding that the number of veterans coming to NJ is way down. He asked for clarification as to how many units there will be as he has heard it is an 80-unit development but now hears it is only 37 units. Administrator Weinberg explained that 37 units are for veteran's only and the other 43 are veteran's preference. Mr. Kane asked if there were any amenities to which Administrator Weinberg answered that there will be community meeting rooms, a social service agency, as well as a medical facility with a social worker who focuses on veteran's needs.

Brian Fabiano, 19 Patricia Pl – Mr. Fabiano commented that someone mentioned "vicious cycle", and we have a yearly vicious cycle whereas a few people come out to try and gain voters year after year. They will attend a few meetings right before the Election and then after the Election you never see them again. The facts remain that you can see what this Council does.

Mr. Fabiano stated that the rumors of migrants coming to an active prison are all fallacies and bizarre. We see one team attack another team; He went on to say that Team Dalina does not go to that level but instead talks about things that have been accomplished such as the BFI landfill, Veterans Housing, increase in senior programs, more parks, recreation facilities and activities and that says a lot.

Pat Schwalje, 586A Madison Dr. – Mrs. Schwalje commented that our local election is very important and we need to stick with the local issues. As for transparency, we have it, as well as a beautiful website.

Mrs. Schwalje commented that there has been a pattern of abstentions by one particular person who abstains every meeting and she wants to know why. Attorney Gordon responded explains and state it is not appropriate. Mrs. Schwalje stated that if transparency is an issue than we should know the reason for the abstention.

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio commented that she sees faces being made and Council should not be laughing at the public. She went on to say that she wants to thank Councilman Dipierro because he focuses on the day to day needs for the Township, as well as works on protecting our quality of life in the Township. She added that she asks that more decency is given all around.

Mrs. Arminio stated that she would like to see the issue with the server resolved so the cable channel is accessible to everyone as it is good for our Township and its transparency.

Lastly, she stated that we should all continue to be respectful of each other.

Beth Dipierro, 404 Spotswood-Gravel Hill Rd. – Mrs. Dipierro apologized to everyone for her outburst from the audience, adding that she just wants all to be treated fairly.

UPON MOTION made by Councilwoman Siegel and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, 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 8:26pm.

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

Patricia Reid

PATRICIA REID, Township Clerk

Miriam Cohen

MIRIAM COHEN, Council President

Minutes were adopted on November 8, 2023