BETRAYING THE COMMUNITY

How Monroe Township is squandering lifesaving opioid settlement funds—and why the Mayor must be held accountable.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

The national opioid epidemic has left deep scars across New Jersey, claiming thousands of lives and shattering countless families. When pharmaceutical companies were finally forced to pay billions in settlement funds, the mandate was clear: this money must be used to save lives, fund addiction treatment, and support recovery programs. Yet, in Monroe Township, a recent independent audit reveals a shocking betrayal. Instead of aiding the vulnerable, opioid settlement money has vanished into the pockets of political consultants and municipal payrolls.

AUDIT GRADE	PHANTOM SPENDING	NO-SCOPE CONSULTING
F (24 / 100)	**$120,343**	**$66,000**

The township recently received a provisional "F" grade from OpioidAudit.com. This failing mark stems from staggering accounting discrepancies and zero conforming expenditures. Monroe certified to the State that it spent over $190,000 on opioid remediation. The reality? Only $138,000 is visible in the town's ledgers, and of that, an alarming $120,343 is categorized as "phantom spending"—money reported to the state but lacking any matching payee or transaction record in municipal books.

> *Every dollar funneled to a consultant's retainer or regular police payroll is a dollar stolen from addiction treatment, rehabilitation centers, and grieving families.*

The human cost of this financial shell game is devastating. Every dollar meant for a bed in a rehabilitation facility, for Narcan distribution, or for local support groups has instead been co-opted. When a municipality diverts public health funds to plug administrative budget holes, the community pays the price in lost lives and prolonged suffering. Residents battling addiction are being denied the very resources legally won in their name.

The Mayor’s Cozy Connections

How does a township manage to misappropriate heavily regulated public health funds? The answer lies in the administration led by Mayor Greg Wolfe and the Township Council. In 2024 and again in 2026, the council passed resolutions to hire Civic Solutions, LLC—a consulting firm run by Dominic Vesper. The township paid Civic Solutions $66,000 in steady increments to "manage" an opioid task force.

The audit flagged this entire amount. Why? Because the township issued these payments with absolutely no written scope of work on record. There are no documented deliverables proving that Civic Solutions provided any tangible public benefit for this money. The relationship between the town’s leadership and this firm is uncomfortably close; Mayor Wolfe himself is prominently featured on Civic Solutions' official website, providing a glowing testimonial for Vesper’s services.

Furthermore, the administration allowed $46,680 of standard police salaries to be charged to the "Opioid Grant Funds" ledger line. They then certified this to the state as a task force expense eight months before the money was even paid out. This suggests a calculated effort by local leadership to use restricted public health dollars as a slush fund to offset standard municipal operating costs.

THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION

Monroe Township’s administration cannot be trusted to audit itself. The blatant discrepancies between what the Mayor’s administration certified to the State and what exists in their own ledgers is a massive red flag. This demands immediate intervention from higher authorities.

Required Actions: The New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) and the Attorney General must launch a formal investigation into Monroe Township’s handling of the national opioid settlement. The $120,000 in phantom spending and the $66,000 in undocumented consultant payouts must be audited forensically to determine if civil or criminal statutes have been violated.

The residents of Monroe Township deserve transparency. More importantly, the families affected by the opioid crisis deserve the resources they were promised. Until a thorough investigation is conducted and the funds are fully accounted for, the township's leadership is effectively denying the community its right to heal.