

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,**  
**January 30, 2016 9:00AM**

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 9:00am. Mayor Giordano made the following announcement: "Adequate notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by providing a schedule of regular meetings to the Star Gazette and The Express –Times, posting a copy thereof on the Township bulletin board and filing a copy thereof in the office of the Municipal Clerk." The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Giordano.

**Roll Call:**

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Mayor Robert Giordano, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Glenn Williams, Mr. Cogle  
Also present Deborah Hrebenak and Kevin Lifer, CFO.

**Budget:**

CFO, Kevin Lifer presented the preliminary budget, the cap remains at 2%., another tight year with budget no new ratable for the Township.

**Departments**

**Chief Riley** went over his budget request's, he also informed the Mayor and Township Committee of his retirement as of July 1, 2016.

**Alan Shimchook, DPW** stated the DPW worked twenty-eight hours thru the blizzard. Request for a P/T employee for the DPW/Recreation will be from March-November up to 28 hours per week at a rate of \$ 15-\$16.00 hourly, Mr. Feula and Mayor Giordano feel it's important to have a full time person for this job. Alan requested an increase in budget for the following items; road maintenance, pick-up truck, lawn mower for the Field of Dreams.

**John Cummins-Recreation Administrator/Dave Sawicki-Chairman of the Recreation Committee** asked for a \$ 3,500 budget increase to cover expenses, they both expressed the need for a full time employee to share with the DPW/Recreation.

**Brian Harchar/Mike Pennington-Fire Department** requested increase to their donation; they have new gear to purchase totaling \$ 18,760.00 and added expenses to stay in compliance. They also stated the Fire Department has never received an increase in the donation from the Township for over fifteen (15) years, \$ 26, 2500 has stayed the same. They were appreciative of the donation but unfortunately costs are going up. They gave details about the fund raising efforts of the Department.

**Mike Sickels/Linda Krsulic, First Aid Squad** went over the purchase of the new ambulance, the total cost is \$ 235,000 which was in the budget request last year. They appreciate the donation of \$ 26,250.00 but with compliance issues they are asking for help with the cost of the new ambulance, they also explained all the fund raising efforts made by the Squad.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

The following Resolution was approved at 12:20p.m. entering into Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Feula, seconded by Deputy Mayor Williams and followed by a unanimous roll call.

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Personnel

It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated matter will be made public at such time as deemed appropriate.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula come out of Executive Session at 3:00p.m. an enter into regular session. Deputy Mayor Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Williams, Mr. Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano stated personnel issues were discussed during the session resulting in no action to be taken at this time.

**Public Comment:**

No Public Comment

**Adjournment:**

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Williams seconded by Mr. Feula the meeting adjourned at 3:10p.m. no further business before them.

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Clerk/Administrator