

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,
February 4, 2017 9:00AM

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor 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: Deputy Mayor Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano
Also, present Deborah Hrebenak and Kevin Lifer, CFO.

Budget:

Review of each department request continued with the CFO Kevin Lifer, the Mayor and Committee are working to keep the budget increase to a minimum, keeping it with an increase of no more than one (1) cent increase.

Mr. Fuella spoke on behalf of Zoning Officer David Diehl and Fire Official William Heerwagen, both had many numerous requests to make the appropriate changes to the ordinances for the township, he then explained each ordinance request.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 11:55a.m. entering into Executive Session with a motion by Deputy Mayor Cogle, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle come out of Executive Session at 1:10 p.m. an enter into regular session. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Mr. Pennington 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.

Mayor stated the workshop meeting on February 7, 2017 is canceled. Mr. Feula discussed the correspondence from the NJ DEP was received on May 23, 2017 requesting a Highlands Preservation Area Approval, Waiver to Avoid the Taking of Property Without Just Compensation for Block 8 Lot 21 and 22.04 (Liberty Square) was received. The DEP requested the metes and bounds description and deed language for the offsite Independence Township owned parcels, proposed to be deed restricted (properties discussed block 15.02/lot 33.14, 39 Farview Drive 18.15 acres and block 21/lot 33, Alphano Road 76.20 acres). And submit any resolutions proposed by Independence Township in furtherance of the offsite deed restriction. Motion made by Mr. Feula seconded by Deputy Mayor Cogle not to approval the deed restriction requested by the DEP on township property block 15.02/lot 33.14, 39 Farview Drive 18.15 acres and block 21/lot 33, Alphano Road 76.20 acres for the approval of Liberty Square project block 8 lot 21 q0315, 923 Route 517, 7.59 acres.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Adjournment:

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded by Mr. Feula the meeting adjourned at 1:15p.m. no further business before them.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Clerk/Administrator