

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
February 14, 2017 7:00 p.m.

This is a regular meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 7:01 p.m. with 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:

Present: Mayor Robert Giordano, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Carmen Feula, Mike Pennington, Bonnie Kelsey (7:05), and Debi Hrebenak. Also present Attorney Leslie Parikh and Township Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: None recorded.

2017 Introduction of Budget

2017 Municipal
 Budget
 of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, for the fiscal year
 2017

Revenue and Appropriation
 Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2017	2016
1. Surplus	710,000	670,000
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	569,437	591,851
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	205,000	240,000
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	2,783,869	2,687,433
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes	2,783,869	2,687,433
Total General Revenues	4,268,306	4,189,284

Summary of Appropriations	2017 Budget	Final 2016 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries & Wages	1,534,635	1,453,506
1. Operating Expenses: Other Expenses	1,167,728	1,204,129
12. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	352,572	359,942
3. Capital Improvements	27,500	17,500
4. Debt Service (Include for School Purposes)	360,871	339,207
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	825,000	815,000
Total General Appropriations	4,268,306	4,189,284
Total Number of Employees	30	30

Balance of Outstanding Debt				
	General	Water	Sewer Utility	Utility-Other
Interest	55,871			
Principal	305,000			
Outstanding Balance	1,905,000			

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Governing

Body of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, on February 14, 2017

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Independence Township Municipal Building, on March 14, 2017 at 7:00pm at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the entire budget are available in the office of Deborah Hrebenak, Township Clerk, the Municipal Building, 286-B, Route 46, Great Meadows New Jersey, or by calling (908) 637-4133 during the hours of 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adopt this budget for 2017 as presented. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Appointment of Harry Noble to the Musconetcong River Management Council

Correspondence from the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center

Recreation Committeeman Dan Stroessenreuther

Correspondence from PAIC on Elected Officials Training Program.

Agenda:

Resolution 17-22: Raffle Tricky Tray

WHEREAS, Thomas R. Kitchen Jr. Memorial Fund is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-41307) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Raffle to be held on June 4, 2017, and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 433 is issued to Thomas R Kitchen Jr. Memorial Fund

Resolution 17-23: AMENDING AND UPDATING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL WHICH INCORPORATES THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK THEREIN

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence seeks to update its Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to conform with the current policies of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, that the Township of Independence Policies and Procedures Manual is updated as follows:

1. Modification to the Sick Leave Policy to require notification to Clerk/Administrator
2. Modification to the No Smoking Policy to strictly enforce non-smoking policy
3. Modification to the Use of Vehicles policy to prohibit smoking

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the updated Township of Independence Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual is on file with the Clerk's office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Township Administrator for distribution to all Township employees.

Resolution 17-24: APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in one or more reserve budget appropriations to meet the demand thereon for the balance of the reserve year; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in one or more reserve budget appropriations over and above the demand deemed to be necessary for the balance of the reserve year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence Warren County, New Jersey that in accordance with the provision of R.S. 40A: 4-58, that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized and directed to make the following transfers:

	FROM	TO
Utilities o/e	\$3,000.00	
Police s/w	\$7,000.00	
Legal o/e		\$3,000.00
Police o/e		\$7,000.00
Totals	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

Resolution 17-25: Approval of Fire Department Member (Elizabeth A Hektoen)

WHEREAS, there is a need for members on the Independence Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, *Elizabeth A Hektoen* has made application for membership to the Fire Department and has been approved by the Membership Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that *Elizabeth A Hektoen* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Resolution 17-26: 50/50 Raffle

WHEREAS, **Independence First Aid Squad** is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-10-20060) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on May 6, 2017 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 435 be issued to Independence First Aid Squad.

Resolution 17-27: 50/50 Raffle

WHEREAS, Independence First Aid Squad is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-10-20060) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on December 2, 2017 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 436 be issued to Independence First Aid Squad.

Resolution 17-28: Tricky Tray

WHEREAS, Independence First Aid Squad is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-10-20060) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray to be held on May 6, 2017 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 437 be issued to Independence First Aid Squad.

Resolution 17-29: Tricky Tray

WHEREAS, Independence First Aid Squad is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-10-20060) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray to be held on December 2, 2017 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 438 be issued to Independence First Aid Squad.

Resolution 17-30: APPOINTMENT Musconetcong River Management Council

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Harry Noble to serve on the Musconetcong River Management Council as a primary voting member for 2017.

Resolution 17-31: Liquor License Person-To-Person Transfer

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-To-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption w/Broad Package Privilege License Number 2112-32-002-006, heretofore issued to 133 Route 46 LLC for premises located at 133 Route 46, Independence N.J. 07840;

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term;

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33;

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the license business;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby approve, effective February 14, 2017, the transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption w/Broad Package Privilege License to 133 Route 46 LLC, and does hereby direct the Township Clerk/A.B.C. Board Secretary to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: "This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to 133 Route 46 LLC, effective February 14, 2017."

Resolution 17-32: License Place-To-Place Transfer

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Place-To-Place Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption w/Broad Package Privilege License Number 2112-32-002-006, issued to 133 Route 46 LLC for premises located at 133 Route 46, Independence, N.J. 07840;

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby approve, effective February 14, 2017, the Place-To-Place transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption w/Broad Package Privilege License to 133 Route 46 LLC, and does hereby direct the Township Clerk/A.B.C. Board Secretary to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: "This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to 133 Route 46 LLC, effective February 14, 2017."

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 17-22 thru 17-32 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – No Report.

Treasurer – No Report.

Recreation/Green Acres – Report Submitted. Katy Lynch appointed to the Recreation Committee.

Police – Report has been submitted. Chief asked if Kim Carvino be an employee of Independence Township for the police matron.

Mr. Feula made a motion to make Kim Carvino an employee. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Emergency Services – No Report

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Report submitted

Land Use Board – Open Items Kenco Property, Top of the Hill and Rogers to start their project.

Seniors – No report.

Board of Education –No report.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Requesting a executive session

Engineer Mike Finelli: Report submitted

A discussion authorizes Mike Finelli and Leslie Parikh to move forward with the bid project for the cell tower.

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion for them to move forward with the cell tower project. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

OLD BUSINESS:

***Second reading of Ordinance 2017-01* ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A..40A:4-45.14)**

Mr. Feula made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

As there were no comments, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to close the public hearing. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Ordinance 2017-01 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduce/First Reading of Ordinance 2017-02

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 255,
LAND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 255-22, PERMITS, OF
THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE**

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence (the "Township") desires to amend and supplement Chapter 255, Land Development, Article I, Section 255-22, Permits, of the Ordinances of the Township of Independence to provide the Township the ability to collect fees for zoning permit applications, the amount of which is dependent on the nature of the permit application.

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

SECTION ONE. Chapter 255, Land Development, Article 1, Section 255-22, Permits, Paragraph A, of the Ordinances of the Township of Independence is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows:

§ 255-22. Permits.

A. Zoning Permit. Any person intending to change a use or to erect, construct, reconstruct or convert a structure on a parcel of property may apply to the Zoning Officer for a zoning permit which acknowledges whether or not the proposed activity complies with the municipal development ordinances and whether or not further review by a municipal agency is required prior to commencement of the activity. Each application for a zoning permit shall be submitted with a fee in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Residential renovations/additions and accessory structures/buildings (less than \$10,000)	\$ 35.00
(b) Residential renovations/additions and accessory structures/buildings (greater than \$10,000)	\$ 60.00
(c) New single family dwelling	\$100.00
(d) Commercial-New business or Change of Use	\$ 75.00
(e) Commercial renovations/additions and accessory structures/buildings (less than \$100,000)	\$100.00
(f) Commercial renovations/additions and accessory structures/buildings (greater than \$100,000)	\$150.00
(g) Commercial Signage	\$50.00

A \$25.00 residential fee or \$50.00 commercial fee will be charged for any resubmitted or amended zoning application or for work commenced or done without prior zoning approval.

SECTION TWO. All Ordinances of the Township of Independence which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed as to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION THREE. If any section, subsection, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portion of the Ordinance.

SECTION FOUR. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

**NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND
SUMMARY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:49-2 AND N.J.S.A. 40:49-2.1
TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, COUNTY OF
WAREEN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 255, Land Development, Article 1, Section 255-22, Permits, of the Ordinances of the Township of Independence" was submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Governing Body of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, held on February 14, 2017 and was introduced, read by title and passed on first reading. A Statement of Purpose of the Ordinance is contained below. The Governing Body of the Township of Independence will further consider the Ordinance for second reading and final passage thereof at their regular meeting to be held on March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, at the Municipal Building, 286 Route 46 West, Great Meadows, New Jersey, at which time and place a public hearing will be heard thereon by the Governing Body and all parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning said Ordinance.

**Statement of Purpose of
Ordinance**

The purpose of the above Ordinance is to amend and supplement Chapter 255, Land Development, Article 1, Section 255-22, Permits, of the Ordinances of the Township of Independence to provide the Township the ability to collect fees for zoning

permit applications, the amount of which is dependent on the nature of the permit application.

A copy of the full Ordinance is available to any member of the general public, without cost, at the Township of Independence, 286 Route 46 West, Great Meadows, New Jersey, at the Office of the Municipal Clerk, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00a.m. and 4:00p.m

A motion was made to introduce Ordinance 2017-02 by Deputy Mayor Cogle. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Second Reading and Public Hearing will be held at the March 14, 2017 meeting.

Introduce/First Reading of Ordinance 2017-03

ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE I, SECTION 215-4 OF CHAPTER 215

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Independence (“Township”), Warren County, New Jersey, deems it advisable to provide regulations for non-life-hazard uses in its Fire Prevention Code;

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

Section 215-4, “Inspections of life hazard uses” of Article I, “Uniform Fire Code” of Chapter 215, “Fire Prevention” of the Code of Independence is hereby amended as follows:

The title of Section 215-4 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following title: “Life hazard uses and Non-life-hazard uses”;

The text of Section 215-4 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

“1. Life hazard uses.

The local enforcing agency established by §215-2 of this article shall carry out the periodic inspections of life hazard uses required by the Uniform Fire Code on behalf of the Commissioner of Community Affairs.

2. Non-life-hazard uses.

A. In addition to the registrations required by the Uniform Fire Code, the following non-life-hazard uses shall register with the Bureau of Fire Prevention. These uses shall be inspected once per year and shall pay an annual fee as set forth below:

Use	Annual Fee
A — Assembly Use Group	
A-1 Eating establishment under 50	\$50.00
A-2 Take-out food service (no seating)	\$50.00
A-3 House of worship not exclusively used for religious purposes	\$50.00

A-4 Recreation centers, multipurpose, etc. (fewer than 50)	\$75.00
A-5 Court rooms, library, fraternal organizations, condominium centers (fewer than 50)	\$75.00
A-6 Senior centers (fewer than 50)	\$75.00
B — Business Use Group	
B-1 Professional use one- and two-story (up to 1,000 square feet)	\$42.00
B-2 One- and two-story (1,001 to 2,500 square feet)	\$50.00
B-4 Three-to-five story (Less than 5,000 square feet)	\$100.00
(5,001 to 10,000 square feet)	\$150.00
B-5 Three-to-five story (10,001 square feet or greater)	\$190.00
C — Retail/Mercantile Use Group	
M-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$125.00
M-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$150.00
M-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$200.00
M-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 123,000 square feet)	\$225.00
D — Manufacturing/Factory Group	
F-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$100.00
F-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$125.00
F-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$175.00
F-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$200.00
S — Storage Use Group	
S-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$75.00
S-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$125.00
S-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$175.00
S-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$200.00
R — Residential Use Group	
R-1 1 to 2 units	See §215-4(2)B
R-2 3 to 6 units	See §215-4(2)G
R-3 7 to 12 units	See §215-4(2)G
R-4 13 to 20 units	See §215-4(2)G
R-5 Over 20 units	See §215- 4(2)G
U — Utilities Use Group	
U-1 Under 2,500 square feet	\$100.00
U-2 2,500 and over square feet	\$125.00
E — Common Areas Use Group	
E-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$75.00
E-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$100.00
E-3 One- and two-story (more than 12,000 square feet)	\$125.00
E-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet)	\$125.00
E-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet)	\$150.00
E-6 Three- to five-story (more than 12,000 square feet)	\$200.00

B. R-1 fees shall be as set forth in the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(d).

C. Uses not classified above that are subject to the Uniform Fire Code shall be classified as business uses.

D. Uses required to register with the state as life-hazard uses shall not be required to register under this section.

E. Vacant buildings which create a fire hazard shall be charged and inspected according to the previous use of the building.

F. Township-owned buildings, buildings owned and occupied by municipal fire companies and/or rescue squads, buildings owned and occupied by nonprofit religious organizations that are used solely for religious purposes and buildings owned and occupied by nonprofit organizations used solely for nonprofit purposes shall be exempt from inspection fees.

G. All residential uses except R-1 Uses shall be inspected in the common areas only and the fees established for the Common Areas Use Group shall apply.”

All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are repealed, but only to the extent of any such inconsistency. All other parts of the Code of the Township of Independence not inconsistent herewith are ratified and confirmed.

If any part or parts of this ordinance are for any reason held to be invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its final adoption and publication according to law.

Take notice, the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading by the Independence Township Committee at the regular monthly meeting on February 14, 2017 which Ordinance shall be given further consideration for final passage following a public hearing to be conducted thereon at its regular monthly meeting to be held on March 14, 2017 at The Independence Township Administrative Offices, 286-B Route 46, Great Meadows, New Jersey 07838.

A motion was made to introduce Ordinance 2017-03 by Mr. Feula. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Second Reading and Public Hearing will be held at the March 14, 2017 meeting.

Introduce/First Reading of Ordinance 2017-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 255, LAND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE XII, SECTION 255-85, NONCONFORMING USES, STRUCTURES AND LOTS, AND SECTION 255-89, LOT USES, RESTRICTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

After a discussion, a motion was made to review at the Land Use Board Meeting next meeting by Mr. Feula. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Taxes will increase \$38.43 with a assessed value of \$228,000. Workshop meeting schedule for March 7, 2017 is cancelled.

BILLS: A motion was made by Mr. Feula to pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:00 pm – 9:35 pm

WHEREAS: N.J.S. 2:4-12, Open Public Meetings Act, 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, State of New Jersey, as follows:

the public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters;

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

Litigation and Personnel

It is anticipated at this time that the above matter will be made public upon completion of the matter discussed.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve this Resolution at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Deputy Mayor Cogle and followed by a roll call of all ayes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle at 9:35 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mr. Feula followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Mayor Giordano stated that legal issues were discussed and no action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk