

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
March 16, 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 (via cell phone), Bonnie Kelsey, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present Attorney Leslie Parikh and Township Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: None recorded.

Resolution 17-34 Adoption Budget 2017-See attached

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

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington via cell 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 via cell 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 Resolution 17-34 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Proclamation read 'American Red Cross March 2017' presented to Christine A Hodde

Proclamations for Eagle Scout Award to Steven R. Stewart, Jeffrey C. Pennington and Brendan T. Green. Mr. Feula will present the awards at the dinner.

Appointment of Robert Pace to the IMUA Committee

MINUTES: The Minutes of the February 6, 2016, February 20, 2016, May 3, 2016, June 21, 2016, and December 6, 2016, meetings were approved as written with a motion by Mr. Feula. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

The Minutes of the January 10, 2017, February 4, 2017 and February 14, 2017, meeting were approved as written with a motion by Mr. Feula. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Cogle, Mr. Pennington (via cell) and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

The Minutes of the January 28, 2017 meetings were approved as written with a motion by Mr. Feula. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Cogle, Mr. Pennington (via cell) and Mrs. Kelsey.

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mayor Giordano

Motion carries with Four (4) affirmative votes.

Note: Mr. Pennington has left the meeting

Agenda:

Resolution 17-35: Raffle Tricky Tray

WHEREAS, SS. Peter & Paul R. C. Church is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-1-2709) and,

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 439 be issued to SS. Peter & Paul R.C. Church.

Resolution 17-36: Raffle 50/50

WHEREAS, SS. Peter & Paul R. C. Church is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-1-2709) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on June 3, 2017 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 440 be issued to SS. Peter & Paul R.C. Church

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve Resolutions 17-35 and 17-36 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, and Mrs. Kelsey

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mayor Giordano

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – No Report.

Treasurer – No Report.

Recreation/Green Acres – Report Submitted.

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – No Report

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Report submitted

Land Use Board – Report submitted

Seniors – No report.

Board of Education –No report.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Requesting an executive session

Engineer Mike Finelli: Report submitted. He spoke with Art Robinson and requested that he attend at the next township meeting regarding Liberty Square. Cell Tower will be discussed at the April Meeting. Reviewing bid documents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:15 pm – 7:55 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle to approve this Resolution at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Feula and followed by a roll call of all ayes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle at 7:55 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second 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

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) 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, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

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

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Second reading of Ordinance 2017-03

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

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

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

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

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Ordinance 2017-03 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Introduce/First Reading of Ordinance 2017-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SALARIES AND COMPENSATION

Be It Ordained by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, the following salary ranges, being established for Township employees for the year 2017.

Administration	
Mayor	\$ 3,000 - 8,000
Deputy Mayor	\$ 2,000- 5,000
Township Committee Member	\$ 1,200 – 4,000

Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$ 50,000 - 85,000
Administrator	\$ 8,000-10,000
Tax and Finance	
Chief Financial Officer	\$ 20,000 – 41,000
Tax Collector	\$ 18,000 – 40,000
Tax Assessor	\$ 20,000 – 40,000
Payroll Clerk	\$ 1,500 – 3,500
P/T Clerical	\$ 15.00-20.00/hr.
Municipal Court	
Judge	\$ 10,000 – 20,000
Prosecutor	\$ 6,000- 12,000
Court Administrator	\$ 10,000 – 25,000
Clerk	\$ 500- 1,000
Public Works	
Supervisor	\$ 60,000 – 90,000
Truck Driver	\$ 15.00 – 30.00/hr.
Laborer	\$ 15.00 – 26.00/hr.
P/T Laborer	\$ 12.00-16.00/hr.
Building Janitor	\$ 12.00-16.00/hr.
Building – Zoning	
Construction Official/Fire Sub-Code Inspector/Building Sub-Code Official	\$ 20,000 – 25,000
P/T TACO	\$ 13.00-15.00/hr.
Fire Sub-Code Official	\$ 3,000-4,000
Electrical Inspector	\$ 5,500-7,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 6,000-7,000
Zoning Officer	\$ 7,000 –15,000
Land Use Board Administrator	\$ 7,500-10,000
Recreation	
Recreation Administrator/ Senior Coordinator	\$ 20.00-27.00/hr.
P/T Laborer	\$ 14-16.00/hr.
Recycling	
Recycling Coordinator	\$ 500-1,500
Public Safety	
Police Chief	\$ 85,000 –119,000
Clerk-Typist	\$ 25,000 – 50,000
Police Matron Call out	\$ 50.00-55.00
Matron Hrs. after call out	\$ 20.00-25.00
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 1,000 – 3,000
911 Coordinator	\$ 1,000 – 2,000
Police	
Lieutenant	\$ 92,439.62-96,174.18
Sergeant/1 st . Class	\$ 90,056.53-93,694.81
Patrolman	\$ 50,844.94-88,492.81
Probationary	\$ 41,616.00-43,297.29

A motion was made to introduce Ordinance 2017-05 by Deputy Mayor Cogle. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Second Reading and Public Hearing will be held at the April 11, 2017 meeting.

Introduce/First Reading of Ordinance 2017-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 126 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, TITLED "ANIMALS", BY CHANGING THE ANNUAL DOG LICENSE FEE IN SECTION 126-3(A) TO \$8.80

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence has reviewed the fees for the licensing of dogs within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the it has been recommended to the Mayor and Committee to review the current dog license fees and increase such fees from \$5.80 to \$8.80; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee deems it in the best interest of the Township to increase the aforementioned fees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence that it hereby amends Chapter 126 of the Code of the Committee of Independence, entitled, "Animals", specifically §126-3, shall be hereby amended to state as follows:

§123-3 License Fees.

A. The person applying for the license and registration tag shall pay a fee of \$8.80, plus such other fee as fixed by statue for the licensing and registration of each dog; and for each annual renewal, the fee for the license and original license and tag; and said licenses, registration tags and renewals thereof shall expire on the last day of January in each year. The owner who does not pay the fee required for the licensure and registration of a dog by the close of the last day of January shall be subject to an additional charge of \$5 per month per dog for each month the license and registration fee remains unpaid. This fee shall be paid in addition to any fee imposed by the Court upon conviction of any person who violates this provision.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the remaining sections and subparts of Chapter 126, shall remain in full force and effect; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any part of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or amended to the extent of such inconsistency; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect after passage and publication as required by law.

A motion was made to introduce Ordinance 2017-05 by Deputy Mayor Cogle. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Second Reading and Public Hearing will be held at the April 11, 2017 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Several people stated that the school budget of 2% increase is irresponsible of school board.

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:20 pm – 9:25 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle to approve this Resolution at 9:2 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Kelsey and followed by a roll call of all ayes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle at 9:25 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 a motion was made to change the title of the part time Recreation Administrator/Senior Coordinator to part time Recreation Administrator and keeping the same salary at \$25 per hour with 25 hour per week.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk