

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
July 11, 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 7:00 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, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present Attorney Leslie Parikh and Township Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: None recorded.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 17-57

Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

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

Scott Stocker-Provisional Police Sergeant First Class, with a one- time \$ 1,000.00 stipend until such time the Sergeant's exam is taken and the list is certified, effective date is July 1, 2017.

Resolution 17-58

Title or Subject: Approval of Fire Department Member (Andrew J Post)

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

Whereas, *Andrew J Post* 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 *Andrew J Post* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve Resolution 17-57 and 17-58 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.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted
Construction/Zoning – Report submitted.
Environmental –Report submitted
Recreation/Green Acres – Report Submitted.
Police – Report submitted.
Emergency Services – No Report
DPW – Report submitted. 115 Mt. Rascal Road discussed. No repairs approved
Municipal Clerk: Report submitted
Land Use Board – Report submitted
Board of Education –Report submitted.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.
Engineer Mike Finelli: Report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Verizon Cell Tower

NEW BUSINESS:

Correspondence from William and Karen Miller, Susan Cullen, Warren County Freeholders and Jason Rothman

Recreation Appointment Robert Frost for 1-year term expiring 12.31.2017

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve this appointment as written. Ms. 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.

Repairs to the Senior Center slate roof

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve repair as written. Ms. 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: George Stafford, NJ Highlands Coalition spoke to the Mayor and Township Committee asking for support for sustainable open space, farmland, historic preservation and stewardship funding for New Jersey

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 RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 8:30p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Deputy Mayor Cougle, seconded by Mr. Feula 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 believes 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:

Litigation/Personnel

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:

It is anticipated now that the above-stated matter will be made public when deemed appropriate.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cougle to come out of Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. and enter regular session. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano stated that litigation and personnel issues were discussed during the session resulting in no action to be taken.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cougle to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Cougle, 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
Municipal Clerk/Administrator