

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**August 8, 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, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present Attorney Leslie Parikh and Township Engineer Michael Finelli.

**Absent:** Bonnie Kelsey

**Consent Agenda:**

**Minutes to be approved 5.2.17, 5.9.17, 6.7.17, 6.13.17, and 7.11.17**

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve 5.2.17, 5.9.17, 6.7.17, 6.13.17 and 7.11.17 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

**Resolution 17-59**

**Title or Subject: Approval of Limousine License  
(ESQ Chauffeured Services LLC)**

**WHEREAS**, Matthew J Gleason, DBA: ESQ Chauffeured Services LLC has submitted an application for a Limousine License in accordance with the Code of the Township of Independence, Chapter 354, and

**WHEREAS**, Matthew J Gleason is qualified for the license and all the necessary fees and proof of insurance have been submitted, and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Independence Township Committee that a Limousine License is hereby issued to Matthew J Gleason, DBA: ESQ Chauffeured Services LLC.

**Resolution 17-60**

**Title: Tricky Tray**

**WHEREAS**, Hackettstown Community Hospital Foundation is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-4-31694) and,

**WHEREAS**, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray Raffle to be held on 9.23.17 and all fees have been paid,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 443 be issued to Hackettstown Community Hospital Foundation.

**Resolution 17-61**

**Title: Tricky Tray**

**WHEREAS, PTO GMRS**D is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (224-5-39333) and,

**WHEREAS,** they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on October 14, 2017 and all fees have been paid,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 444 be issued to PTO GMRS

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve Resolution 17-59, 17-60 and 17-61 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Tax Collector – Report submitted

Construction/Zoning – Report submitted.

Environmental – None

Recreation/Green Acres – Report Submitted.

Police – Report submitted.

Emergency Services – Mike Sickle gave and submitted a report for the first aid squad.

Shawn Snyder gave a report on the fire department.

DPW – Report submitted. Salt Shed repaired

Municipal Clerk: Report submitted

Land Use Board – Report submitted Woodmont application

Board of Education –Report submitted. Meeting 8.9.17 at 9 am with School Superintendent and Mayors from Hackettstown, Liberty and Independence.

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.

Engineer Mike Finelli: Report submitted.

Island Dragway looking for an endorsement from the Township for a special permit for septic for a flow greater than 2,000 per day.

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve the motion for the Mayor and Township Clerk to sign off on the endorsement. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

DOT grant - 2018 State Aid Road repairs. Applications to be re-submitted. ( Mt. Rascal Road and Russling Road-2<sup>nd</sup> phrase )

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve the motion to authorize Mr. Finelli to continue with the 2-existing application. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

NJLM Annual Conference – Atlantic City November 14-16, 2017

Invitation Morris Canal Greenway Corridor Study Municipal Outreach Meeting  
August 22 at Washington Township

#### **Resolution 17-62**

#### **RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH POLICE CHIEF KEITH AIELLO**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Independence (hereinafter referred to as the “Township”) has entered into an employment agreement with Chief Keith Aiello (hereinafter referred to as the “Chief”) dated July 1, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township and the Chief have negotiated a new employment agreement which is acceptable to all parties; and

**WHEREAS**, a copy of the agreement is on file at the office of the Township Clerk and can be reviewed during normal business hours.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township accepts and approves the aforementioned Employment Agreement with Police Chief Keith Aiello, a true copy of which is on file and can be viewed by the public during normal business hours.
2. The Township authorizes and directs the Mayor, Township Clerk and/or Township CFO to execute any and all necessary documents in order to implement the intent of this resolution.

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve Resolution 17-62 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**BILLS:** A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to pay the bills 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.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:40 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Deputy Mayor Cogle, 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 Cogle to come out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. and enter regular session. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) 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 Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator