

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
August 9, 2016 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: Carmen Feula, Deputy Mayor Glenn Williams, Mayor Robert Giordano and Debi Hrebenak. Also present was Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: Bonnie Kelsey and Glen Cogle

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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:

Legal issues

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. Williams to approve this Resolution at 7:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Feula and followed by a roll call of all ayes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula at 7:19 p.m. to exit the executive session. Mr. Williams seconded the motion followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Presentation: Volunteers of the Independence Vienna Methodist Church Food Pantry, Sandy and George Ulmer. Chief Riley, Mayor Giordano and Township Committee thanked both of them for the tremendous support for families in need. Since 2014 when the Food Pantry was started 1103 people 696 bags were served, in 2015 2176 people 1093 bags, as of July 2016 over 1159 people, 520 bags of food. George stated the doors are always opened not just for Independence Families, George thanked all the volunteers that have helped with the Food Pantry including Chief Riley, Janet De Roma, Independence Fire Department, Great Meadows Regional School District, Centenary College, Clara Kott, Muriel Walter, and the employees of Independence Township.

Verizon Wireless Proposal To Install A Telecommunication Facility On Township Property: Consultant Sue Manchel presented the proposal to the Township Committee, the tower would be 150' / 50x50 compound on Township property with fence enclosure. The lease would be for 25years, first year rent \$ 12,000 with 10% increases every 5 yrs.

A motion was made by Mr. Giordano to authorize Engineer Finelli to set up a meeting with Verizon. Mr. Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Williams, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 16-60: Resolution Authorizing Sale of Surplus Personal Property

WHEREAS, Independence Township (“Township”) owns certain surplus personal property that is no longer needed for public use, specifically the following:

- 1988 Ford Truck, VIN 1FDYK 84A7J VA546 84; and
- 1992 Dodge Pickup Truck, VIN 1B7KM 36C3N S6813 80

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(1) and (6), if the estimated fair value of the property to be sold does not exceed 15% of the bid threshold in any one sale, it may be sold at private sale without advertising for bids; and

WHEREAS, the statute bid threshold is \$36,000; and

WHEREAS, the estimated fair value of the above-referenced property is less than \$5,400.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the following vehicles are hereby declared to be surplus personal property of the Township:

- 1988 Ford Truck, VIN 1FDYK 84A7J VA546 84; and
- 1992 Dodge Pickup Truck, VIN 1B7KM 36C3N S6813 80

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Property will be sold at a private sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Property will sold in its “as is” condition, without any warranties by the Township and the purchaser shall be required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of the Property in a form to be approved by the Township Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor or his designees are hereby authorized to execute any and all additional documents to effectively transfer title of the Property.

Resolution 16-61: Resolution Granting Soil Removal Permit to Partac Peat Corporation

Block 29, Lot 51 and Block 33, Lot 2.

WHEREAS, Section 134-3 of the Independence Township Code requires the issuance of a soil removal permit by the Township Committee where soil is removed for sale or for use other than on the premises from which the soil shall be taken; and

WHEREAS, the Partac Peat Corporation has made application for a soil removal permit for Block 29, Lot 51 and Block 33, Lot 2 by application dated July 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the office of the Township Engineer has issued a report in connection with said application dated August 5, 2016; and

WHEREAS, in the foregoing report, the Township Engineer has noted the requirement for the filing with the Township of a Restoration Bond pursuant to Section 134-6C of the Independence Township Code which is intended to ensure faithful completion of final restoration measures; and

WHEREAS, the facility in question has been in existence for over fifty (50) years and in the past the Township waived the Restoration Bond requirement; and

WHEREAS, the office of the Township Engineer takes no exceptions to the renewal of this application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 9th of September, 2014 that the application of Partac Peat Corporation for a soil removal permit be and the same is hereby granted effective August 2016 to August 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requirement to file a Restoration Bond is hereby waived.

Resolution 16-62: Resolution Approving the Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Police Chief Dennis Riley.

Title or Subject: Police Chief Salary Adjustment 2016

Be It Resolved by the Independence Township Committee that the following salary shall be paid to Police Chief Dennis Riley salary in the amount of \$116,000.00 for 2016 retroactively as of January 1, 2016. The yearly salary shall be adjusted annually by the same amount authorized in the Independence Police PBA Contract. For 2017, the Chief's salary shall be \$ 116,000.00 plus 2% increase per PBA Contract, totaling \$ 118,320.00

Resolution 16-63: Resolution Approving the By-Laws of the Independence Township Recreation Committee – (on hold)

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve Resolutions 16-60 through and including 16-62 as written. Mr. Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Williams, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Resolution 16-63 is on hold until September.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Report submitted

Environmental – Discussion on water testing

Recreation/Green Acres – Mr. Cummins reported fields very busy, resignation on the Booster Club by two (2) members at the end of September, volunteers are needed, due to a lack of members the Booster Club will be dissolved.

Police – Chief Riley reported on several grants that have been approved.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Land Use Board-Mr. Feula discussed the Kenco property and the phone conversation with the DEP.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted

Engineer Finelli: Report submitted

OLD BUSINESS: Anthony Landolfi, Roosevelt Avenue not present

NEW BUSINESS: Introduce on First Reading Ordinance 2016-05 – An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Entitled Salaries and Compensation. A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve Ordinance 2016-05 for First Reading as written. Second reading and public hearing will be held at the September meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Williams, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Westling complained about the DPW spraying weed spray on side of roads on Ketcham Road within the township right-of-way, she noted not to spray in front of her home.

Mr. Cross is looking for relief concerning his driveway on Asbury Road, problem with sight visibility, this will be addressed at the September 13 meeting.

George Ulmer would like signage on the new bridge on Cemetery Road this is the last Jack Arch Bridge, Township will notify the Warren County engineers.

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, Mr. Williams, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Williams, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk/Administrator