

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 B Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,**  
**March 3, 2015                    6:45PM**

The Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 6:45pm. Mayor Giordano made the following announcement: meeting starting early due to weather conditions, “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:**

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Mr. Feula, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano.

Absent: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Williams

Approval of Minutes on hold until next meeting per the Mayor

**Appointment:**

Mayor Giordano made the following appointment to the Land Use Board:

Kevin Ginsberg        Alt. 2   1Yr.Term        Yr. Exp. 12/31/15    Unex Term Engels/Orlando

**Res. No. 15-19:** Appointment OEM Volunteer-Kevin Finnegan

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointment is hereby made:

***Whereas*** the Township Committee recognizes the importance and the need for additional staffing in the Township of Independence Office of Emergency Management to assist during times of disasters, that *Kevin Finnegan* be appointed to the Office of Emergency Management for a three (3) year Term of Office, commencing on March 3, 2015 and terminating on December 31, 2017.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Resolution # 15-19 as written. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Feula, Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Absent: Kelsey, Williams

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano and Committee approved Island Dragway’s Agreement for 2015

**Budget:**

Mayor Giordano explained a 1.5 cent increase in taxes for the municipality, on an average house assess value of \$ 227,525 the increase is \$ 34.00. Mayor and Committee agree with a 2% salary increase for employees, with some additional changes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve a salary stipend of \$ 3,000 for Alan Shimchok for 2015. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Feula, Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Absent: Kelsey, Williams

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve a salary totaling \$ 109,000 for Chief Riley.

Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Feula, Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Absent: Kelsey, Williams

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to change the Deputy Mayor salary to \$ 3,500 per year. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Feula, Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Absent: Kelsey, Williams

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

**Executive Session Resolution:**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:15 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with a motion by Mr. 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 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 and State of New Jersey, as follows:

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:

Personnel

It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated matter will be made public at such time as deemed appropriate.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Members of the governing body returned after closed session at 7:35pm. Mayor Giordano stated no action taken during executive session.

**Public Comment:**

Being no one present, Mayor Giordano closed the meeting to the public.

**Adjournment:**

Motion made by Mr. Cogle seconded by Mr. Feula the meeting adjourned at 7:45pm, with no further business before them and followed by a unanimous roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Clerk/Administrator