

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,
January 31, 2015 9:10AM

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 9:10am. Mayor Giordano made 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:

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Mayor Robert Giordano, Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Glenn Williams, Mr. Cogle
Also present Deborah Hrebenak and Kevin Lifer, CFO.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 15-15: Appointment OEM Volunteer (Randy A DeMark)

Deputy Mayor Williams made a motion to appoint Randy A DeMark OEM Volunteer. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Discussion Elizabethtown Gas line coming from corner of Barkers Mill Road and Rt. # 46, ending on Cemetery Road, presently the GMRS is in the process of hooking up to the gas line.

Budget:

CFO, Kevin Lifer presented the preliminary budget, the cap remains at 2%, discussion on each department's request. Mayor Giordano along with the Township Committee discussed requests with the Department Heads.

Chief Riley stated they will be using a new records management system Info Share replacing the Cody System; Warren County will host the backup server. Capital request include two (2) new four (4) wheel drive vehicles, seven (7) new lockers for department in locker room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 9:30a.m. entering into Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Cogle 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Williams come out of Executive Session at 10:10a.m. and enter into regular session. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano stated personnel issues were discussed during the session resulting in no action to be taken at this time.

Alan Shimchook, DPW Supervisor/ Capital request include Road repair on half of Shades of Death Road mill & black top, new Dump truck replacing the 1996.

P/T summer help May-October, 8-3 for a 35 hr. work week

Need for a Generator for building

Frank Spender, Recreation budget stayed the same as last year \$ 10,500.

Questions from the public, Dan Stroessenreuther, President of the Colonial Little League concerning field usage/scheduling at the Field of Dreams, this has been referred back to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Feula and the Committee discussed with Frank and Dan building of a new 50/70 field, portable pitcher's mound, recreation forms and policy associated with field rentals including fee structure.

Review Animal licensing, possible increase from \$8.00(neutered) & \$11.00(non-neutered) to \$10.00& \$13.00, ordinance will need to be changed.

Salary increase of 2% for all employees

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Adjournment:

Motion made by Mayor Giordano seconded by Mr. Cogle the meeting adjourned at 3:10p.m. no further business before them.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Clerk/Administrator