

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
October 13, 2015 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 7:02 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, Carmen Feula, Bonnie Kelsey (arrived 7:10pm), Deputy Mayor Glenn Williams, Glenn Cogle, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli

Absent: None recorded

Mayor Giordano explained to the Independence Township First Aid Squad Captain Michael Sickels that the Township Committee will take into consideration the First Aid Squad's request for a new Ambulance at the budget meetings in 2016, at this time no action will be taken.

MINUTE APPROVAL: The minutes of the meetings held on May 12, 2015, June 3, 2015 and June 9, 2015 were approved as written by motion of Mr. Cogle. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Feula

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY: The Township Committee reviewed the documents. Points will be awarded for answering the questions. The Township now has 43 points the same amount as the previous year which put the Township in good standings with the State of New Jersey for state aid.

Mayor Giordano acknowledged Jess Streeter in the audience.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 15-69: Approval of Junior Member of Independence Township Volunteer Fire Department

Joseph G Mahal

Russell J Inscho

Andrew Joseph Post

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

Whereas, *Joseph G Mahal, Russell J Inscho and Andrew Joseph Post* have 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 *Joseph G Mahal, Russell J Inscho and Andrew Joseph Post* are hereby approved as a Junior Member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Cogle made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-69 as written. Deputy Mayor Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Resolution 15-70:

Approval to submit a Grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Mt. Rascal Road Resurfacing project.

WHEREAS, Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey has given Finelli Consulting Engineers the approval to submit this grant on the behalf of the Township of Independence,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Committee of the Township of Independence formally approves the grant application for the above stated project,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **MA-2016-Mt. Rascal Road Resurfacing -00253** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Independence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Independence and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Mr. Cogle made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-70 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Resolution 15-71:

Approval to submit a Grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Resurfacing of Russling Road, Section 2 project.

WHEREAS, Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey has given Finelli Consulting Engineers the approval to submit this grant on the behalf of the Township of Independence,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Committee of the Township of Independence formally approves the grant application for the above stated project,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **MA-2016-Resurfacing of Russling Road Section 2 Project -00254** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Independence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Independence and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Mr. Cogle made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-71 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted
Construction/Zoning – Report submitted.
Environmental – Minutes submitted.
Treasurer – No report
Recreation/Green Acres – Minutes submitted.
Police – Report has been submitted. Chief Riley discussed the Rt. # 46 project concerning the viaduct.
Emergency Services – No report.
DPW – Report was submitted. New Truck should be delivered by December. Committeeman Feula and Township Engineer Mike Finelli complimented the DPW for doing a great job with Russling Road.
Municipal Clerk: Clerk’s office has been busy assisting the Recreation Department.
Land Use Board – Mr. Feula stated an Executive Session is required to discuss Land Use Board.
Seniors – Mrs. Walter everything is going well, unfortunately attendance is low.
Board of Education – Security at all Schools discussed.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Executive Session is required.

Engineer Finelli: Engineer Finelli has submitted his report. Russling Road project discussed, Executive Session is required.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading/Public Comment

Ordinance 2015-07
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY NOT
NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE**

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to open the public session for discussion of Ordinance 2015-07. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

As no comments were heard, a motion was made by Mr. Feula to close the public discussion portion. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-07 as presented was made by Mr. Feula. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduce/First Reading

ORDINANCE 2015-08
**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 149 OF THE CODE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE REGARDING VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC**

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to introduce Ordinance 2015-08 on first reading. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Second reading will take place on November 10, 2015.

Chief Riley recommended this Ordinance especially during Snow Storms. Per Chief Riley this Ordinance is a separate issue from the parking situation at the Field Of Dreams, which can be addressed at a later date. Committeemen Cogle recommended removing Roosevelt Road and Old Vienna Road from the regulation, the full Committee agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: John Cummins discussed the Recreation Committee and the great job they did with Code of Conduct and Field Usage Forms also the working together as a Committee, he also complimented Dave Sawicki and the Centenary College Intern Abby for a job well done. George Ulmer has some concerns about speeding on Water Street, the Chief will speak to the County about doing a study, and a study is in place for about three (3) months.

BILLS: A motion was made by Mr. Feula to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

NOTE: 7:55 pm – a five (5) minute recess was taken

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:10 pm – 10:20 pm

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:

Personnel matters. Litigation

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 Deputy Mayor Glenn Williams to approve this Resolution at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Cogle and followed by a roll call of all ayes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle at 10:20 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mr. Feula followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Mayor Giordano stated that a number of issues were discussed.

Resolution 15-68: Resolution authorizing Econsult as expert under MSSDA for the Township Of Independence replacing Dr. Burchell

Mr. Feula made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-68 as written. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk