

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,
November 10, 2014 7 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, Bonnie Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Williams (arrived 7:05pm), Glenn Cogle and Mayor Robert Giordano. Also present were Deborah Hrebenak, Attorney Leslie Parikh, and Engineer Michael Finelli.

MINUTE APPROVAL: The minutes of the meetings held on October 13, 2015 were approved as written by motion of Mr. Feula. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Fire Official William Heerwagen proposed a fee Ordinance for Non-Life Hazard inspections, Fire Official Heerwagen recommended this Ordinance for the safety of the Community and the Fire Department, this type of Ordinance is recommended by the State. The proposed Ordinance never was introduced by the Township Committee.

Eagle Scout Reid Captain attended the Township meeting which was a requirement for his Eagle Scout Project

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Resolution 15-75: Appropriation Transfers**
- **Resolution 15-76: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87, CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948**

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-87, Chapter 159, P.L. 1948 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount; and

WHEREAS, Independence Township has received a Drive Sober or get Pulled Over Grant for 2015 in the amount of \$ 5,000.00 and wishes to amend its 2015 Budget to include this amount as a revenue;

WHEREAS, Independence Township has received a Clean Communities Grant for 2015 in the amount of \$3, 105.96 and wishes to amend its 2015 Budget to include this amount as a revenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, Warren County, New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2015 in the sum of \$ 8,105.96 to be received as a revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations:

Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over 2015 Statewide Crackdown Grant

Clean Communities Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$ 8,105.96 be appropriated under the caption of:

General Appropriation

(A) Operations Excluded from “Caps”

Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues:

Drive Sober Or Get Pulled Over Statewide Crackdown Grant

Clean communities Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one (1) certification form be sent to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for their approval.

• **Resolution 15-77: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Jacquelyn Mowbray, position P/T Clerical Construction Department, at a rate of \$ 13.00 per hour, twelve (12) hrs. per week effective November 17, 2015.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams to approve Resolutions 15-75 through and including 15-77 as noted. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follow:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Williams, Mr. Cogle, 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 – Report submitted

Recreation/Green Acres – Nothing to report.

Police – Report submitted

Emergency Services – Nothing to report.

DPW – Report submitted

Municipal Clerk – Report submitted

Land Use Board – Mr. Feula reported things are quite

Seniors – Mr. Walter stated lack of members attending meeting

Board of Education –Nothing to report

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.

Engineer Michael Finelli: Report submitted, discussion on the WMP, Russling Road project was within budget they even extended the project thru intersection in front of Best’s Farm Stand to Old Vienna Road. Compliments from Mrs. Walter on job well done.

OLD BUSINESS: Second Reading/Public Hearing of the following ordinances:

Ordinance 2015-08

**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 open Ordinance 2015-08 for public discussion/hearing. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Hearing no comments, a motion was made by Mr. Cogle to close the public discussion/hearing. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Ordinance 2015-08 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

**NEW BUSINESS: Introduce/First Reading
Ordinance 2015-09**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, COUNTY OF WARREN, AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 255, LAND DEVELOPMENT, OF THE
CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF
“AGRICULTURE”**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New

Jersey recognizes a need to clarify the definition of “Agriculture” in the Land Development Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 255, Land Development, Article I, General Provisions, Section 255-3.

Definitions, of the Code of the Township of Independence is hereby amended and supplemented to add the following new sentence in underlined text (thus) so that the definition of “Agriculture,” shall now read as follows:

AGRICULTURE The production, keeping, boarding or maintenance, for sale, lease or personal use, of plants and animals useful to man, including but not limited to forages and sod crops; processing soil to be used as a growing medium; grains and seed crops; dairy animals and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; livestock, including beef cattle, sheep, swine, horses, ponies, mules or goats, or any mutations or hybrids thereof, including the breeding and grazing of any or all of such animals; bees and apiary products; fur animals; trees and forest products; fruits of all kinds, including grapes, nuts and berries; vegetables; nursery, floral, ornamental and greenhouse products; and lands devoted to a soil conservation or forestry management program. Wetlands remediation and/or mitigation shall not be defined as Agriculture.

SECTION 2. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to give notice at least ten days prior to hearing on the adoption of this Ordinance to the County Planning Board and to all other persons entitled thereto pursuant to N.J.S. 40:55D-15 and N.J.S. 40:55D-63 (if required). Upon the adoption of this Ordinance after public hearing thereon, the Township Clerk is further directed to publish

notice of the passage thereof and to file a copy of the Ordinance as finally adopted with the Warren County Planning Board as required by N.J.S. 40:55D-16. The Clerk shall also forthwith transmit a copy of this Ordinance after final passage to the Township Tax Assessor as required by N.J.S. 40:49-2.1.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance may be renumbered for codification purposes.

SECTION 4. All ordinances of the Township of Independence, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

Take notice, the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading by the Independence Township Committee at the regular monthly meeting on November 10, 2015 which Ordinance shall be given further consideration for final passage following a public hearing to be conducted thereon at its regular monthly meeting to be held on December 1, 2015 at The Independence Township Administrative Offices, 286-B Route 46, Great Meadows, New Jersey 07838.

Motion was made by Mr. Feula to introduce Ordinance 2015-09 on First Reading. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Cullen problem with two (2) seams on the Russling Road, Mr. Finelli will review issue.

Mr. Cummins, Dave Sawicki discussed Recreation issues:

Field usage policy, Booster Club has four (4) new members, new By-Laws for recreation Committee, Soccer Club and La-cross have a memorandum of understanding with the Recreation Committee, Centenary College Intern Abi did an excellent job for the Township.

Chief Riley- Discussed parking across from the Fire Department

He also invited the Township Committee to attend award ceremony for Sgt. Aber at Warren County College on November 19 @ 6:30 Sgt. Aber used narcon to save a life.

GMRS 7th Grade History Class of Mr. O'Hara will be cleaning up the Vienna United Methodist Church cemetery on November 21, the students will receive credit.

Discussion on the Officers Step increase of 2016

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator