

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,
December 1, 2015 5 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 5:00 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 and Mayor Robert Giordano. Also present were Deborah Hrebenak, Attorney Leslie Parikh, and Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: *Glenn Cougle*

Announcement from Mayor Giordano Re-organization January 5, 2016

Recreation Committee Report-Dave Sawicki presented the report
Resignation of Committee member Alison Kitchen
Booster Club working on new By-Laws
Recreation Budget is balanced for presentation next month
Inventory of equipment completed
Discussed the Recreation Committee Open Forum Meeting- (2) two residents attended

Mount Rascal Preserve expands over 400 acres

Consent Agenda:

Res. 15-79: Appropriation Transfers

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve Resolution 15-79 as noted. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follow:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – report submitted

Construction/Zoning – Zoning reported several new home are being built

Environmental – report submitted

Treasurer- Department budgets need to be presented to CFO

Recreation/Green Acres – report submitted

Police –report submitted

Emergency Services – Nothing to report.

DPW – report submitted

Municipal Clerk – report submitted

Land Use Board –Ordinance 2015-09 on agenda for second reading tonight, Mr. Pio Costa was granted a 5 year extension on lots on Alphano Road

Seniors – no report

Board of Education –no report

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.

Engineer Michael Finelli: Report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS: *Second Reading/Public Hearing*

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”

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to open Ordinance 2015-09 for public discussion. Deputy Mayor Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

No comments from the public, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams to close the public hearing. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Ordinance 2015-09as presented. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cindy Neumann-Warren County Board of Health issue with septic overflow going on Route # 46, property is Econo Court

Bob Neumann- property on 349 Route # 46 leaning causing a hazardous condition

Committeeman Feula thanked the Public, Professionals, John Cummins for donating his time with Recreation and Township employees, he wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Deputy Mayor Williams discussed his attendance at the NJ League of Municipalities panel discussion concerning Transportation Trust Fund/ Gas Tax

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 5:35 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with a motion by Deputy Mayor Williams, seconded by Mayor Giordano 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/Litigation

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 Deputy Mayor Williams to come out of Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. and enter into regular session. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano stated that personnel issues and litigation were discussed during the session resulting in no action to be taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to appoint a P/T Recreation Administrator/Senior Coordinator in January. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano invited everyone to attend the Independence Township Volunteer Fire Department, Police Department, Township Employees Toy and Food Drive at the Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator