

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,
February 10,2015 7:00p.m.

This is regular meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 7:00p.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.

ROLLCALL:

Present: Mayor Robert Giordano, Carmen Feula, Glenn Cogle, Bonnie Kelsey, Glenn Williams (arrived 7:10pm). Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh, Engineer Michael Finelli and Deborah Hrebenak.

Absent: None recorded.

MINUTE APPROVAL: The minutes of the meetings held on March 11, 2014 and January 6, 2015 were approved as written by motion of Mr. Cogle. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

March 11, 2014

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Feula

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

January 6, 2015

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Land Use Board Appointment

Geoffrey Cullen, Alt.1, Class II 2Yr. Term Exp.12.31.15

Unex term Nolan/Engels

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 15-16: Lienholder Refund Block 28 Lot 20

WHEREAS, The Tax Collector recommends to the Township Committee that the necessary administrative action be taken to authorize a refund to the following lienholder.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township Committee, that the following refunds be made:

Block/Lot	Lien #	Name/Address	Lien Amount	Interest	Premium	Total Refund
28/20	2012-11	US Bank Cust for Pro Capital I, LLC US Bank TLSG 50S 16th St. Suite 1950 Philadelphia, Pa 19102	\$ 19,218.09	\$5,337.71	\$7,100.00	\$31,655.80
Total amount to be refunded						\$ 31,655.80

Resolution 15-17: APPOINTMENT-Temporary Electrical Sub Code Official

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

Francis R. Baguiao-Temporary Electrical Sub code Official, at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, Three (3) hours per week effective February 16, 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adopt Resolutions 15-16 thru 15-17 as written. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Deputy Mayor Williams-Highlands Council Regional Master Review

Resolution 15-18: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AND JOINING IN ON COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE TO THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AS PART OF THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL 2014-2015 REGIONAL MASTER PLAN MONITORING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the governing body has reviewed the comments provided on behalf of the Warren County Public Policy Committee to the New Jersey Highlands Council for its consideration as part of the Council's 2014-15 Regional Master Plan ("RMP") Monitoring Program wherein the Council will be evaluating the effectiveness of the RMP in fulfilling the initial goals and objectives of the 2004 Highlands Water Planning and Protection Act ("Highlands Act"); and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Independence is also of the opinion that the Highlands RMP does not currently permit viable opportunities for economic growth within the Township in areas where such growth is appropriate and has been zoned for commercial activity; and

WHEREAS, the governing body likewise concurs that the Highlands RMP does not account for areas outside the Township in the Region where growth is most appropriate, along the State and county roads and railways; and

WHEREAS, the governing body shares the opinion of the Public Policy Committee that the two bills, S1240 and A2852, which focus on facilitating development along commercial corridors in order to revitalize the Region, further the goals of the Highlands Act which find development and economic growth in certain appropriate areas of the Region to be in the best interests of all citizens of the State, and therefore encourage the Council's support of the proposed legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence that the Township of Independence supports and joins in the comments provided by the Warren County Public Policy Committee to the New Jersey Highlands Council, a copy of which is annexed hereto.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve resolution 15-18 as written. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Absent: Mr. Williams

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector-Report submitted

Construction/Zoning -Report submitted

Environmental-Nothing to report

Treasurer Working on Budget

Recreation/Green Acres -Report as submitted

Police Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services -no report

DPW Report submitted

Municipal Clerk -Nothing to report

Land Use Board-Roes Island on Agenda

Seniors-No report

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Leslie Parikh-Report submitted
Engineer Michael Finelli-Report submitted

Old Business:

Second Reading/Public Hearing Ordinance 2015-01

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MIUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A.
40A:4-45.14)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to open Ordinance 2015-01 for public discussion.
Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

No comments from the public, a motion was made by Mr. Cogle to close the public hearing. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adopt Ordinance 2015-01as presented. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

New Business:

Ordinance 2015-02 was not introduced

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dan Stroessenreuther, President of the Colonial Little League, stated he still has no resolution to his problem with Recreation and Field Usage. Pete Petersen of the Independence Soccer Club also had issues with the Recreation Commission, he stated the Soccer Club supplies all their own equipment, he went to the Recreation Director with a recommendation to reseed the fields, this was never addressed by the Commission, so he stopped going to the Recreation Commission.

Mrs. Markowitz said she pays taxes in Independence Township why can't her son play on the fields in the Township.

David Sawicki spoke about the portable mound for the baseball field.

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

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. 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 Mr. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Clerk/Administrator