

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,
March 10, 2015 7:00 p.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 7:00 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: Mayor Robert Giordano, Carmen Feula, Glenn Cogle, Bonnie Kelsey, Glenn Williams (arrived 7:05pm).

Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh, Engineer Michael Finelli and Deborah Hrebenak.

Absent: None recorded

Introduction of the new Police Officer Patrolman Brendan McGarry and Gregory Varina, both officers graduated the Police Academy on February 13, 2015.

Resolution 15-20: Introduction of 2015 Budget

A motion was made to introduce the proposed 2015 budget of \$4,103,719.57 by Mrs. Kelsey. 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

Resolution 15-21: Self Examination of Annual Budget 2015

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to approve Resolution 15-21 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

Post Office Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to authorize Mayor Giordano to sign the postal agreement as written. 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

Proclamation Commending NORWESCAP: Mayor Giordano read the Proclamation into the record and then signed the document.

MINUTE APPROVAL: The minutes of the meetings held on the following:

April 8, 2014 Motion by Mrs. Kelsey, seconded by Mr. Cogle as written.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

May 6, 2014 Motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey as written.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

May 13, 2014 Motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mr. Williams as written.
Ayes: Mr. Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

June 10, 2014 Motion by Mrs. Kelsey, seconded by Mr. Cogle as written.
Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

July 17, 2014 Motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mayor Giordano as written.
Ayes: Mr. Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

October 14, 2014 Motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mayor Giordano as written.
Ayes: Mr. Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

November 12, 2014 Motion by Mrs. Kelsey, seconded by Mr. Cogle as written.
Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

January 31, 2015 Motion by Mrs. Kelsey, seconded by Mr. Cogle as written.
Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Williams, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

March 3, 2015 Motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mr. Feula as written.
Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 15-22: Independence Township Booster Club Tricky Tray Proceeds American Cancer Society

WHEREAS, Independence Booster Club is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (224-5-32681) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray to be held on May 29, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 401 be issued to Independence Township Booster Club.

Resolution 15-23: Independence Township Booster Club Tricky Tray Proceeds Support Thomas R Kitchen Jr. Memorial Fund

WHEREAS, Independence Township Booster Club is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (224-5-32681) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray to be held on June 7, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 402 be issued to Independence Township Booster Club.

Resolution 15-24: Independence Township Booster Club Tricky Tray Proceeds Support Baby Avery Medical Expense Fund

WHEREAS, **Independence Township Booster Club Inc.** is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (2245-32681) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray Raffle to be held on April 26, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 403 be issued to Independence Township Booster Club, Inc.

Resolution 15-25: Independence First Aid Squad 50/50

WHEREAS, **Independence First Aid Squad** is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-10-20060) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on May 2, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 404 be issued to Independence First Aid Squad.

Resolution 15-26: Independence First Aid Squad Tricky Tray

WHEREAS, **Independence First Aid Squad** is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (253-10-20060) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray to be held on May 2, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 405 be issued to Independence First Aid Squad.

Resolution 15-27: Appropriation Transfers

Resolution 15-28: Salaries 2015

Be It Resolved by the Independence Township Committee that the following salaries shall be paid to Township employees, effective January 1, 2015 unless otherwise noted.

Administration	
Mayor	\$ 6,846
Deputy Mayor	\$ 3,500
Township Committee Member	\$ 2,922
Municipal Clerk/Registrar	\$ 77,585
Administrator	\$ 9,453
Deputy Clerk/Tax Assistant	\$ 43,628
Tax and Finance	
Chief Financial Officer	\$ 38,748
Tax Collector	\$ 23,598
Tax Assessor	\$ 28,653
Payroll Clerk	\$ 2,834
P/T Clerical	\$ 14.35/hr.
Municipal Court	
Judge	\$ 16,594

Prosecutor	\$ 7,948
Court Administrator	\$ 13,432
Court Clerk	\$ 611
Public Works	
Supervisor	\$ 84,059
Supervisor Winter Stipend	3,000
Truck Driver	\$ 26.23/hr.
Laborer	\$ 24.69/hr.
P/T Laborer	\$ 14.35/hr.
P/T Building Janitor	\$ 15.30/hr.
Construction Official/ Bldg. Sub Code Official Building Inspector	\$ 22,081
Fire Sub Code Official	\$ 3,312
Electrical Inspector	\$ 6,240
Temporary Electrical Inspector	\$ 40.00/hr.
Plumbing Sub Code Official	\$ 6,623
Zoning Official	\$ 13,801
Land Use Board Administrator	\$ 8,280
Recreation	
Sports Director	\$ 40,901
Recycling	
Recycling Coordinator	\$ 1,020
Seniors	
Senior Coordinator	\$ 6,716
Public Safety	
Chief of Police	\$ 109,000
Clerk-Typist	\$ 42,448
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$ 2,521
911 Coordinator	\$ 1,417
Police	
Lieutenant	\$ 90,627.08
Sergeant 1 st . Class	\$ 87,006.69
Corporal	\$ 85,056.53
Patrolman 1 st . Class	\$ 83,386.28
Patrolman 2 nd . Class	\$ 78,908.03
Patrolman 3 rd . Class	\$ 71,670.24
Patrolman 4 th . Class	\$ 66,910.31
Patrolman 5 th . Class	\$ 62,154.91
Patrolman 6 th . Class	\$ 49,847.98
Probationary	\$ 40,800

A motion was made by Mr. Cougle to adopt Resolution 15-20 through 15-28 as written. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Williams, Mr. Cougle, Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted

Construction/Zoning –Report submitted

Environmental –George Ulmer spoke about the Trails Grant, reminding the Township they would need prior approval from land owners before grant application is made to DEP.

Treasurer – Budget introduced

Recreation/Green Acres – Report as submitted, ongoing complaints from the public with the scheduling of field usage and the process of the application. Recreation Commission to review policy and process of application.

Police – Report has been submitted. Chief Riley suggested a Snow Emergency Parking Ordinance.

Emergency Services –no report

DPW – Report submitted, waiting for salt delivery

Municipal Clerk –IMUA Ordinance

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to authorize Attorney Leslie Parikh to redraft the IMUA Indemnification Ordinance for the governing body’s review that goes beyond the language in the definition section. 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

Food Pantry: Driveway repair

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to authorize the DPW’s for use of the equipment, material from Tilcon to repair the driveway of the Food Pantry. 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

Land Use Board – Roes Island on Agenda, Attorney William Gold has been appointed as the Temporary Land Use Board Attorney for the next six (6) months

Mr. Williams advised the Township Woodmont Properties will be submitting their application to the Land Use Board

Seniors – Due to the weather low turn out

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Leslie Parikh-Report submitted, Executive Session was requested.

Engineer Michael Finelli-Report submitted

New Business:

Introduce/First Reading

ORDINANCE 2015-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 255, LAND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 255-22, PERMITS, OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

ON HOLD

Ordinance 2015-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SLARIES AND COMPENSATION

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to introduce Ordinance 2015-03 on first reading. 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.

Second reading will take place on April 14, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Ulmer made a complaint to the Township about the barn at the Corner of Rt. # 46 and Cemetery Road, the barn blocks the line of sight.

Cindy Neumann –insurance question concerning recreation coaching

Melissa Demarky, Island Dragway’s Manager discussed the upcoming events including the JET Cars on July 31, an Independence night with a discounted rate for residents of Independence, and the process to have a banner put on Rt. # 46 for events at the track.

Dan Stroessenreuther, President of the Colonial Little League, stated he still has no resolution to his problem with Recreation and Field Usage. New issues concerning the portable pitching mound which is owned by the Independence Booster Club, what is the process to rent mound. Per Frank Spender contact Chris Bishop, Booster Club President for pricing.

BILLS: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Kelsey 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 8:50 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mr. Williams 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.

Mayor and Township Committee entered closed session at this time.

After meeting in closed session, Mayor Giordano and the governing body members returned at 9:45pm, opening the meeting to the public.

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm. Mr. Williams 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