

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,
April 14, 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.

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

Absent: None recorded

Resolution 15-39: Adoption of 2015 Budget

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to open the public session for discussion of the 2015 Budget. Mr. Feula 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. Williams 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 the Budget for 2015 as presented was made by Mr. Cogle. Mr. Williams 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.

Resolution 15-40: Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit for 2014

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve Resolution 15-40 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

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

Great Meadows Regional School District Superintendent David Mango

Mr. Mango presented the 2015-2016 School Budget, he also introduced Business Administrator, Tim Havlush and Ron Mainelli, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds who spoke about the Elizabethtown Gas Line Project which the school is hooking into this will be a huge cost savings to the School, the Mayor will contact Elizabethtown Gas to see if the Township can also hook into the service line.

Peg Bandwidth Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to authorize Mayor Giordano to sign the agreement 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

MINUTE APPROVAL:

March 10, 2015 Motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey 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

Consent Agenda:

- **Resolution 15-34: Tonnage Grant Application**

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for such tonnage grants will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of The Township of Independence to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that Independence Township hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Nancy Mason CRP to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

- **Resolution 15-35: ITVFD Raffle**

WHEREAS, Independence Township Volunteer Fire Dept.is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (224-9-21561) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Raffle to be held on October 15, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 411 be issued to Independence Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

- **Resolution 15-36: Hackettstown Community Hospital Foundation Tricky Tray**

WHEREAS, Hackettstown Community Hospital Foundation is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-4-31694) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray Raffle to be held on September 19, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 412 be issued to Hackettstown Community Hospital Foundation.

- **Resolution 15-37: Approval of Fire Department Member (*Steven D Schaffer*)**

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

WHEREAS, *Steven D Schaffer* has 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 *Steven D Schaffer* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

- **Resolution 15-38: Refund of Driveway Bond-Sara Wojcicki**

WHEREAS, Sara Wojcicki, posted a driveway bond for Block 17, Lot 59.13, 2 Laurel Court with the Township of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has inspected the driveway and recommends the release of the driveway bond,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township that the driveway bond is refunded to Sara Wojcicki in the amount of \$ 1,200.00

- **Resolution 15-41: New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet, Inc 50/50 Raffle**

WHEREAS, New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet, Inc is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-35863) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on May 17, 2015 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 413 be issued to Hackettstown Community Hospital Foundation.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adopt Resolution 15-34 through 15-41 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

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted

Construction/Zoning –Report submitted

Environmental –Report submitted.

Treasurer – Budget and Audit

Recreation/Green Acres – Minutes 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 submitted. Chief Riley discussed the Press Release of Warren County Prosecutor Richard T. Burke from incident at 89 Russling Road, on April 1, 2015, charges include child neglect/child abuse against two children, ages three (3) and ten (10), the children had access to various deceased animals, some which were located as close as three (3) to six (6) feet from the residence. In addition, the complaints allege that the defendants failed to provide the children with adequate heat and hot water at the residence since February. The defendants had the legal duty for the care of the two (2) children. The investigation was conducted by members of the Independence Police Department, SPCA, and the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office, Special Victims Unit.

Emergency Services –no report

DPW – Report submitted

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

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

Engineer Michael Finelli-Report submitted, Mr. Finelli discussed the grant for Russling Road which was approved for \$ 165,000.

Old Business:

Second Reading/Public Comment

Ordinance 2015-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SLARIES AND COMPENSATION

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to open the public session for discussion of Ordinance 2015-03. Mayor Giordano 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. Cogle to close the public discussion portion. 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.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-03 as presented was made by Mrs. Kelsey. Mr. Feula 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Cindy Neumann –complaint about people parking on the grass at the Field of Dreams

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 8:05 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/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.

Mayor and Township Committee entered closed session at this time.

After meeting in closed session, Mayor Giordano and the governing body members returned at 9:15pm, 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 Mayor Giordano to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. 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