

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 B Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,
May 5, 2015 7:00 PM

The Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 7:00pm. Mayor Giordano made 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:

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Mr. Feula, Mrs. Kelsey (arrived 7:05pm), Mr. Williams (arrived 7:10pm) Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano.

Absent: None

Resolution 15-42: RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the performance of legal services for Independence Township for the year 2015; and

WHEREAS, funds are, or will be made, available for this purpose to be certified by the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*) authorizes the hiring of an attorney without competitive bidding providing that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding and the contract itself be made available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey, as follows:

1. Martin Allen, ESQ. of Di Francesco, Bateman, Coley, Yospin, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C. are hereby appointed to serve as Municipal Special Tax Attorney for Independence Township during the year 2015 in order to provide legal services for Independence Township.
2. The Mayor and Committee shall enter into a mutually agreeable written compensation agreement with said Attorney within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution.
3. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve Resolution 15-42 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Feula, Mr. Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Absent: Kelsey, Williams

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano questioned the Animal Control bill from 89 Russling Road, the bill was in the amount of \$ 1,714.00, he wanted to know if the Township responsible for payment. Deb will review with the Chief to see if any reimbursement to the township is available.

Mayor Giordano stated that no workshop meetings will be held during June, July, August and September, unless meet is needed.

Municipal Clerk reported the Environmental Commission had a successful Cleanup event collecting \$ 1,573.66, this was the first time the Township had a shredding event which was very successful.

Recreation:

Mayor Giordano invited the full Recreation Commission to attend this meeting. Frank Spender, Recreation Leader/ Dave Sawicki Commissioner/ Donna Re Commissioner attended meeting Mayor Giordano explained some of the issues at that are ongoing:

- Mayor Giordano stated that he, Carmen and Frank met to discuss several issues concerning Recreation today with the various complaints
- Mayor stated that he and Chris Bishop, Recreation Commission Chairperson, met today to discuss the various complaints the Township Committee has received.
- Mayor Giordano stated that on Friday, May 1, 2015 a complaint came from a parent of one of the softball players, she was extremely upset over how she was treated by a Coach, which lead to an email blast from the Coach to the team parents, many parents responded to the email, this email was sent over the Recreation Leaders email account by the coach. Frank Spender said the this complaint should have gone to Dave Sawicki as Softball Chair, which he never received, the coach or parent never called the Softball Chair with the complaint. Dave Sawicki stated he never received the complaint, he also said many people have complained to him concerning the process of field usage, scheduling, treatment at meetings, etc. Dave discussed the Township website on-line registration/scheduling.
- Donna Re said the Recreation Commission works to serve the residents of the Township

After a lengthy discussion Deputy Mayor Williams recommended the upgrade to the website to better serve the public with information, he complimented Frank for a good job over the years, recommending to show respect when complaints and concerns are brought to Frank and the Commission. Mayor Giordano said many citizens feel there will be retribution if they come with a complaint.

Carmen Feula complimented Frank Spender for a job well done over the last 20 years, Carmen is very concerned about the complaints of disrespect and fair treatment of Independence Taxpayer's; Carmen described how disrespectful he was treated going into a Recreation Commission meeting by a Commissioner. Carmen quoted the Township Attorney's report with respect to the Commission; it states the Recreation Commission is an arm and representative of the Township Committee. Carmen proposed dissolving the Commission creating a new Ordinance to form a Recreation Committee, which the Township Attorney researched; with this change there will be more accountability from the Recreation Committee to the Township Committee.

Public Comment:

None

Executive Session Resolution:

The following Resolution was approved at 9:05 p.m. to enter into Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mr. Feula 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:

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.

Members of the governing body returned after closed session at 10:05pm. Mayor Giordano stated no action taken during executive session.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams authorizing Township Engineer Michael Finelli to attend conference meeting with the DEP in Trenton concerning the Township's Waste Water Management Plan. 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.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Cogle seconded by Mr. Feula the meeting adjourned at 10:10pm, with no further business before them and followed by a unanimous roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Clerk/Administrator