

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
June 3, 2015 7:00 p.m.

This is a workshop meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 7:01 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, Bonnie Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Glenn Williams, Glenn Cogle, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli

Absent: None recorded

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 15-46: Appointment of Part Time Summer Worker for the DPW

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

Shayne W Lauter, position of part time summer worker, at a rate of \$ 12.00 per hour effective May 26, 2015.

Resolution 15-47: Great Meadows Regional Municipal Alliance

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of Independence Township of the Great Meadows Regional Municipal Alliance, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Meadows Regional Municipal Alliance, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of an application for the Great Meadows Regional Municipal Alliance grant for calendar year 2014-2016 in the amount of \$ 20,493.
2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution 15-48: Approval of Fire Department Member (Dhaval Trivedi)

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

Whereas, Dhaval Trivedi 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 *Dhaval Trivedi* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

**Resolution 15-49: Granting approval of the support for Warren County’s purchase of a development easement on the estate of Gabriella Klimas Farm Block 14 Lots 10 & 12.01 in Independence Township and Block 101.02 Lots 43 & 44 in Mansfield Township and consisting of approximately 195.7 (3%+) acres.
This Resolution was Held.**

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adopt Resolutions 15-46 through and including 15-48 as written. Resolution 15-49 is HELD. Deputy Mayor Williams seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Discussion of Resolution 15-49: This land has been preserved and most of the area is in Mansfield Township. This contains a development easement. Ms Hrebanak received copies of Resolutions from WC Board of Freeholders, WC Agricultural Development Board, Township of Mansfield which have all been adopted. There is an existing single family cabin on the property. This will be reviewed further at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Cummins noted the outpouring of young people at the last meeting in support of the Rec Commission. Mr. Cummins stated that he sent a letter to the Committee noting his concern over the fact that he was at the field for over 2 hours on one occasion and the shed was open with no employee on site. The equipment was exposed to anyone who may want to come in. Mayor Giordano said they are looking at reorganizing the commission into a committee to have more accountability. Unidentified man stated that it wasn’t made clear as to what was going on at the last meeting and noted that there is a fear of people coming here to speak against the commission. Mayor Giordano noted that there was a lot of misinformation being passed around. Susan (no last name was stated) thanked Mayor Giordano and Mr. Cogle for running again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:40 pm – 9:05 pm

WHEREAS: N.J.S. 2:4-12, Open Public Meetings Act, 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, State of New Jersey, as follows:

the public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters:

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
personnel

It is anticipated at this time that the above matter will be made public upon completion of the matter being discussed.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams to approve this Resolution at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Cogle and followed by a roll call of all ayes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Williams at 9:05 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mr. Cogle followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Mayor Giordano stated that personnel matters were discussed in the executive session and certain individuals will be noticed to attend the next meeting.

Chief Riley asked the Committee for approval to advertise for a replacement officer. A motion was made by Mr. Feula to approve the requested authorization for Chief Riley to advertise for a replacement officer. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Feula to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk