

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
November 8, 2017 7:00 p.m.

This is a 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, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Carmen Feula, Bonnie Kelsey, Mike Pennington, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present Attorney Leslie Parikh

Absent: None

Mayor Giordano congratulated Bonnie Kelsey and Tim Norton on the election for Township Committee. Swearing in will be January 2, 2018 at 7 pm.

Food and Toy drive will be Tuesday, December 5 from 5-8 pm at the Independence Township Fire House.

Correspondence – Gary Whyte – Thank you note

Correspondence – Jeff Lyon

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 17-76

Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

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

Ernest Kinney-Acting Supervisor, with a one- time \$ 500.00 stipend until such time the Supervisor's exam is taken and the list is certified, effective date is October 11, 2017.

Resolution 17-77

Title or Subject - APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in one or more current budget appropriations to meet the demand thereon for the balance of the current year; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in one or more current budget appropriations over and above the demand deemed to be necessary for the balance of the current year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, Warren County, New Jersey that in accordance with the provision of R.S. 40A: 4-58, that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized and directed to make the following transfers:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Clerk s/w	\$6,000.00	
Clerk o/e	\$2,000.00	
Group Insurance o/e	\$5,500.00	
Police s/w	\$18,000.00	
Road s/w	\$5,000.00	
Road o/e	\$5,000.00	
Utilities o/e	\$2,000.00	
Legal o/e		\$33,000.00
Unemployment/Disability Insurance o/e		\$500.00
Vehicle Maintenance o/e		\$5,000.00
Building & Grounds o/e		\$5,000.00
TOTALS	\$43,500.00	\$43,500.00

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve Resolution 17-76 and 17-77 as written. Deputy Mayor Cougle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cougle, Mr. Feula, Mr. Pennington Ms. Kelsey and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – No report. Working with temporary Tax Collector. Tax sale Dec. 19

Construction/Zoning – Report submitted.

Environmental – No meeting in November or December 2017

Recreation/Green Acres – Report Submitted. John gave a report. Field hockey done, basketball signup, fields are very busy. Looking into speed bumps.

Police – Report submitted. 3 new officers graduating on November 30.

Emergency Services – Assistant Chief Cavanagh gave a report on the fire department. 3 juniors to fire academy in January.

DPW – Report submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Report submitted.

Land Use Board – Report submitted. No Meeting in October

Board of Education –Report submitted. Next meeting November 21, 2017-7 pm GMMS

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Working on sale of Suez Water possible closing Feb or March

Engineer Mike Finelli: Report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter from Rose Lane residents. Zoning official working on it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

The following Resolution was approved at 7:20 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Feula, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey 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 believes 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:

Litigation/Personnel

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:

It is anticipated now that the above-stated matter will be made public when deemed appropriate.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to come out of Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. and enter regular session. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Tim Norton attended the executive session. He will stay on as Animal Control. He will abstain on voting on his contract.

Mrs. Kelsey left the executive session at 7:25 pm.

Mayor Giordano stated no action taken.

As the appointing authority for Civil Service purposes, I, Carmen Feula, move to name the Administrator and the Mayor as the appointing Authority designees.

Approval to hire a full time DPW employee with an ad closing date 11.21.17.

Mr. Feula made a motion to approve the hiring a full time DPW employee as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Feula seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator