

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
July 10, 2018 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, Bonnie Kelsey, Mike Pennington, Tim Norton, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli.
Absent: Deputy Mayor Glenn Cogle

Appointment/Oath of Office

Police Provisional Lieutenant – Christopher Prell
Police Sergeant 1st Class – Scott Stocker
Police Sergeant 1st Class – Gregory Varina

Mayor Giordano and Chief Aiello sworn in the above officer's. Mr. Pennington spoke on behalf of the officer's and their new positions. Mr. Feula also spoke about the officer's and the police department.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 18-61

Title: Rescind Resolution 18-53: Authorizing the Appointment of Richard T. Burke, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge for the Township of Independence.

Resolution 18-62

Title: Tricky Tray Raffle

WHEREAS, New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet 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 Tricky Tray Raffle to be held on September 23, 2018 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 454 be issued to New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet.

Resolution 18-63

Title: 50/50 Raffle

WHEREAS, New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet 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 September 23, 2018 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 455 be issued to New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet.

Resolution 18-64

Title: Raffle

WHEREAS, Project Graduation of Hackettstown, Inc. is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-32289) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Raffle to be held on November 17, 2018 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 456 be issued to Project Graduation of Hackettstown, Inc.

Resolution 18-66

Title or Subject: Extension of Third Quarter Taxes

WHEREAS, the date of the mailing of the Independence Township tax bills cannot be determined at this time, and

WHEREAS, NJSA 54:4-66.3 provides that no interest shall be charged for a minimum of 25 days after tax bills are mailed or otherwise delivered,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township Committee as follows:

No interest shall be charged on 3rd quarter taxes, due August 1, 2018, if payment of said taxes is received by Independence Township on or before the 25th day after the date of a mailing as certified by the Tax Collector to the Municipal Clerk and provided further, however, that if any such payment is not received on or before the 25th day, interest at the usual rate will be charged from August 1, 2018.

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve Resolutions 18-61, 18-62, 18-63, 18-64, and 18-66 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – No report.

Treasurer – Report submitted.

Recreation/Green Acres – Report submitted

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – First Aid Squad Nick Vasquez gave a report.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Everything is running well. No workshop meeting in August.

Land Use Board – No report

Seniors – Meeting still on Thursdays

Board of Education – Meeting changed 3 times.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report Submitted. New Sick leave law effective October 29, 2018 - working with Clerk.

Engineer Finelli: Report submitted. DEP - Liberty Square approval - Site sceptic WMP approval. Mt. Rascal DOP Grant. Senior Center Grant site inspection 8/18/18 at 1:45 and 9/10/18 presentation. Wireless Edge project status

Old Business

Second Reading Ordinance 2018-04

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
"MAINTENANCE OF VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTIES"**

Mr. Pennington made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public.
Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

As there were no comments, a motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to close the public hearing. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adopt Ordinance 2018-04 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter from Justin Choka – Disc golf tee pad issue. 10 people volunteer to help clean up the course. Looking for money to help pay to fix.

Water Issue – Krestrel Lane between two neighbors. Leslie will contact parties

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

BILLS: A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to pay the bills as presented. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:15 pm – 8:45 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 8:15 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mrs. Kelsey, seconded by Mayor Giordano and followed by a unanimous roll call

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 discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Norton at 8:45 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey followed by a roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mayor Giordano stated that the executive session was to discuss personnel and no action will be taken at this time. No workshop meeting in August.

Resolution 18-65

Title: Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Dominick Santini, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge for the Township of Independence

WHEREAS, J. Edward Palmer, Esq., Independence Township's long-time Judge is retiring as of August 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended that Dominick Santini, Esq. be appointed to replace Judge Palmer as Municipal Court Judge in the Township of Independence, effective August 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the appointment of a Municipal Court Judge is a professional service, and therefore exempt from the strict bidding requirements of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq, and

WHEREAS, the Judge of the Municipal Court shall be compensated at the same rate specified for the Judge of the Municipal Court pursuant to the Township's salary ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren State of New Jersey hereby appoints Dominick Santini, Esq. as Municipal Court Judge for the remainder of Judge Palmer's term, effective August 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of the within Resolution be forwarded to the following:

1. Administrative Office of the Courts, CN986, Trenton, NJ 07625
2. Dominick Santini, Esq, Municipal Court Judge
3. Municipal Court Administrator

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to approve Resolutions 18-65 as written. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk/Administrator