

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**November 7, 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, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Mike Pennington, Bonnie Kelsey, Tim Norton and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh  
**Absent:** none

Harry Noble, Environmental Commission Chairman – Recycling Program

Derek Macchia REVIEW CY 2018/SFY 2019 BEST PRACTICES INVENTORY

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution 18-87**

**Title or Subject: Approval of Fire Department Member (Rylee J Legreide)**

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

**Whereas**, *RYLEE J LEGREIDE* 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 *RYLEE J LEGREIDE* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

**Resolution 18-88**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointment is hereby made:

Jennifer Noll-Police Matron hourly rates are as follows:  
Police Matron Call Out \$ 52.02/2 hrs.  
Matron hrs. After Call Out \$ 20.81 hr.  
Effective November 7, 2018.

**Resolution 18-89**

Vacant and Abandoned Property Registration

**WHEREAS, NJS 40A: 4-87** provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Independence has received notice of an award of \$5,000.00 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2018 Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director and the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2018 in the amount of \$5,000 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Local Revenues:

Vacant and Abandoned Property Registrations

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the sum of \$5,000.00

Be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of General Appropriations:

(a) Operations Within "CAPS"

Uniform Construction Code-Appropriations Offset by Dedicated Revenues (N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.17):

Other Code Enforcement Functions – Salaries and Wages

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk forward one certified copy of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

#### **Resolution 18-90**

#### **AWARD OF CONTRACT - IMPROVEMENTS TO MT. RASCAL ROAD**

**WHEREAS**, Tilcon New York was previously awarded the contract for paving through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Township Engineer that a contract be awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of funds for the payment of charges pursuant to the contract hereby awarded has been certified by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that a contract for the improvements to Mt Rascal Road in an amount not to exceed \$170,000.00 (or such lessor amount as determined upon final costs incurred in the repairing of the road) is hereby awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc, 9 Entin Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

#### **Resolution 18-91**

#### **New Jersey DOT Trust Fund Authority Act Grant – Mt. Rascal Road**

**WHEREAS**, NJS 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

**WHEREAS**, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Independence has received notice of an award of \$130,000.00 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2018 Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director and the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2018 in the amount of \$130,000.00 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated  
 With Prior Written Consent of the Director of the  
 Division of Local Government Services:  
 State and Federal Revenues Off-set with  
 Appropriations: State of New Jersey Special Legislative Grant

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the sum of \$130,000.00 Be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of General Appropriations:

- (a) Operations Excluded from CAPS  
 State and Federal Programs Off-Set by  
 Revenues: New Jersey DOT Trust Fund Authority Act  
 Grant – Improvements to Mt. Rascal Road

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk forward one certified copy of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

**Resolution 18-92**

**2018 APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in the below listed account(s) to meet the demands thereon for the balance of the current year, and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in the below listed account(s) over and above the amount deemed necessary for the balance of the current year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58, part of the surplus in the account(s) heretofore mentioned be and same are hereby authorized as transfers to the account(s) mentioned as being insufficient, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Officer is hereby directed to make the following transfers:

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
Clerk S&W	\$ 3,000.00	Landfill Closure O/E	\$ 2,000.00
Financial S&W	\$ 3,000.00	Community Services Act	\$ 1,800.00
Tax Collector S&W	\$ 4,000.00	Unemployment/Disability Insurance	\$ 200.00
Tax Assessment S&W	\$ 4,000.00	Police Department O/E	\$ 7,000.00
Senior Citizens S&W	\$ 6,000.00	Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00
Social Security	\$ 3,000.00	Utilities O/E	\$ 9,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 23,000.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,000.00</b>

**Resolution 18-93**

**Title or Subject: Tax Refund**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends to the Township Committee that the necessary administrative action be taken to authorize a refund of the following:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township Committee, that the following refunds be made: see attached documentation.

Block	Lot	Name/Address	Reason	Total
6.02	230	Aimee Savage 230 Harvard Drive Hackettstown, NJ 07840	Duplicate Tax Payment	\$1,578.61
Total to be refunded				<b>\$1,578.61</b>

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolutions 18-87 thru 18-93 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle Mr. Norton and Mayor Giordano  
 Nays: None recorded  
 Abstain: None recorded  
 Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

**Resolution 18-94**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ PATROLMAN**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointment is hereby made:

**Khillian Bernard-Police Officer Recruit Step, at a rate of \$ 30,000.00 while attending the police academy effective January 1, 2019. After successful completion of the academy, the next step is Probationary \$ 42,448.32 for one (1) year from the date of graduation. Once the 2019 PBA Contract has been settled new salary rates are in effect as of January 1, 2019.**

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolutions 18-94 as written. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle Mr. Norton and Mayor Giordano  
 Nays: None recorded  
 Abstain: None recorded  
 Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- Tax Collector - Posted
- Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.
- Environmental – Chairman spoke.
- Treasurer – Report submitted.
- Recreation/Green Acres – Report submitted. Bus trip cancelled due to lack of participation. Golf Outing profit of \$2,100. 2 members still needed
- Police – Report submitted.
- Emergency Services – First Aid Squad Nick Vasquez gave a report. Fire Department Ryan Snyder gave a report.
- DPW – Report was submitted.
- Municipal Clerk: Everything is running well. Workshop meeting cancelled in December
- Land Use Board – No report
- Seniors – Meeting on Thursdays.
- Board of Education – Mr. Norton gave a report.

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

- Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Suez approved by BPU to purchase IMUA
- Engineer Finelli: Report submitted.

**Announcement:**

Free Rabies Clinic – November 10, 2018 from 1-3 pm  
Toy and Food Drive – December 4, 2018 from 5-8 pm

**Old Business:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mrs. Milano on flooding issues at the race track.

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:45 pm – 8:30 pm**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:45 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle at 8:30 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey followed by a roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton, 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/Administrator