

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**September 11, 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. A moment of silence in remembrance of September 11.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Mayor Robert Giordano, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Mike Pennington, Bonnie Kelsey, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli.

**Absent:** Tim Norton

**Minute Approval: 6.04.18, 6.12.18 & 7.10.18**

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve the 6.4.18 and 6.12.18 Minutes as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mayor Giordano made a motion to approve the 7.10.18 Minutes as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Cogle

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

Stan Prater – JCP&L Area Manager Spoke about upcoming working items for Independence Township

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution 18-78**

**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
20	4	Craig Gallo 168 Alphano Road Great Meadows, NJ 07840	Duplicate Payment	\$1849.71
Total to be refunded				\$ 1849.71

**Resolution 18-79**

**DECLARING TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT  
FOR THE JCP&L RELIABILITY PLUS**

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** recognizes that reliable electric service plays a crucial role in the daily lives of Township residents; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** recognizes that reliable electric service also is critical to the local businesses within our community, and drives commerce in our Township and across the region; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** supports efforts to enhance our energy infrastructure to continue to provide families and businesses the reliable source of energy they need; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** supports efforts to enhance the reliability and resiliency of the electric distribution system against severe weather and reduce the number of customers affected by outages and shorten the duration of outages; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** has been informed that Jersey Central Power and Light Company's (JCP&L) Reliability Plus includes approximately \$400 million in targeted investments above and beyond its regular annual investments to enhance JCP&L's service reliability and resiliency; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** has been informed that the JCP&L plan includes nearly 4,000 enhancements that will help the reliability and resiliency of overhead and underground distribution lines, as well as new equipment to reduce the number of customers affected by outages and shorten the duration of outages; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** has been informed that the JCP&L plan also outlines additional vegetation management to reduce the potential for tree damage, which is the primary cause of outages during severe storms in JCP&L's service area.

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** has been informed that JCP&L expects the plan's economic benefit to customers and businesses from enhanced reliability and resiliency will be \$1.9 billion over the estimated life of the equipment installed through the program; and

**WHEREAS: The Township of Independence** has been informed that JCP&L estimates the initial increase on the monthly bill for an average residential customer would be about 25 cents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Mayor and Committee of Independence hereby finds and declares:

That JCP&L's Reliability Plus will benefit residents and businesses in the Township of Independence and throughout Warren County by making JCP&L's electric distribution system during storm and non-storm events more resistant to outages and enabling the system to recover more quickly when outages do occur and increase the distribution system's resiliency, operational flexibility, safety and security.

JCP&L's Reliability Plus should be approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

**Resolution 18-80**

**Title or Subject: Salaries 2018**

**Amended Salary Resolution 18-28**

<b>Construction/Zoning</b>	
TACO	\$ 15.00/hr.
Zoning Official	\$ 16,812.68

**Resolution 18-81**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF THE TOWNSHIP TO CARRY ON BANKING MATTERS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary, pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:5-1 et seq., to designate and authorize certain public officials of the Township of Independence to carry on banking matters on behalf of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has previously designated such public officials, however, has been asked by its banking institution for a Resolution memorializing same;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, being the Governing Body of said Township, as follows:

1. The Township of Independence is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey (herein called "Corporation").
2. Deposits: That funds of this Corporation be deposited in one or more accounts in Fulton Bank of New Jersey, (herein called "Bank") subject to the rules and regulations of said Bank; items for deposit may be received from any person and may be endorsed in the name of the Corporation by stamp or otherwise and said bank may supply all missing endorsements.
3. Checks and other withdrawals: That any of the following officers of this Corporation:

NAME TITLE AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:

Robert M. Giordano, Mayor

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Deborah M. Hrebenak, Administrator

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Derek Macchia, CFO

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may, in the name of the Corporation, execute checks and other instruments for the withdrawal of said funds, and all checks and other instruments so executed may be paid to or received from any holder and for any purpose by the Bank, without inquiry, whether payable to the order of one or more of the signers, or otherwise.

4. Authorization to Certify: That the Administrator of the Township of Independence furnish to the Bank a certified copy of this Resolution setting forth the names and titles of the above described corporate officers, together with specimens of their signature and confirming that the Bank is authorized to rely on this Resolution until written notice of revocation or change thereof shall be delivered to the Bank.

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 18-78, 18-79, 18-80, and 18-81 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle 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. Pickle ball court on hold. Basketball registration. DPW working on parking lot with Harrington  
Police – Report has been 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. November 13-15 League Meeting  
Land Use Board – Meeting September 17 Cancelled  
Seniors – Meeting still on Thursdays  
Board of Education – School funding will be decreased due to enrollment. Security system at the school

#### **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Report Submitted. New Sick leave law effective October 29, 2018 - working with Clerk. SUEZ Water Company meeting with BPU October 29.

Engineer Finelli: Report submitted. DEP - Liberty Square approval - Site sceptic WMP approval. Cell Tower – same status. Mt. Rascal DOP Grant – awaiting DEP approval. 2019 Road Grant – Russling Road Section 2 and Johnson Road. Results for Senior Center Grant within the next 2 months

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to apply 2 grant applications. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

#### **Old Business**

#### **Second Reading Ordinance 2018-06**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE,  
COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
AMENDING CHAPTER LXXXIII, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE ENTITLED  
“AFFORDABLE HOUSING REGULATIONS” TO ADDRESS THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND THE  
UNIFORM HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS (UHAC)  
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP’S  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS**

Deputy Mayor Cogle 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. Cogle, 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle to close the public hearing. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Ordinance 2018-06 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Introduction/First Reading Ordinance 2018-07**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SALARIES AND COMPENSATION**

<b>Building – Zoning</b>	
Zoning Officer	\$ 7,000 –17,000.00

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Ordinance 2018-07 for First Reading. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano  
Nays: None recorded  
Abstain: None recorded.  
Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.  
Second reading and public hearing will be on October 9, 2018

Invitation of Grand Opening of the Warren County Library Southwest Branch

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mrs. Cullen thank you for removing the sign. Mr. Feula thanked the First Aid Squad for the quick response to an accident by his house and Fire Department for structure fire in the township. DPW for re-painting the signs entering into the township. Mr. Mailloux asked about the 2018-07 ordinance (vacant/abandoned property)

**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, and Mayor Giordano  
Nays: None recorded  
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:00 pm – 8:40 pm**

The following Resolution was approved at 8:00 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Deputy Mayor Cogle, 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 8:40 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, 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.

Recreation John Cummins discussed at open meeting. Part time hours reduced to 15 hours for administration work. Effective November 2, 2018. Several recreation committees spoke about the hours needed to work and the field.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, 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