

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**December 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.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Absent:** none

**Minutes Approval: 8.14.18, 9.11.18, 10.02.18, 10.09.18, 11.07.18**

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve the 8.14.18 Minutes as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mrs. Kelsey

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to approve the 9.11.18 Minutes as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Norton

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve the 10.2.18 Minutes as written. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mrs. Kelsey

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve the 10.9.18 Minutes as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve the 11.7.18 Minutes as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

**2018 Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Grant** – Mike Finelli spoke about the grant.

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve the 2018 Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Grant as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution 18-96** Drive Sober Year End Holiday Crackdown

**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 \$5,500.00 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 \$5,500.00 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 \$5,500.00

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: Drive Sober Year End Holiday Crackdown

**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 18-97**

Res. 18-97: ***Proclamation/Resolution Supporting the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2018 Year End Holiday Crackdown***

**Whereas,** impaired drivers on our nation's roads killed 10,874 people in 2017; and

**Whereas**, 20% of motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey are alcohol-related; and

**Whereas**, an enforcement crackdown is planned to combat impaired driving; and

**Whereas**, the season at the end of the year is traditionally a time of social gatherings which often include alcohol; and

**Whereas**, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies throughout the state to participate in the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Crackdown*; and

**Whereas**, the project will involve increased impaired driving enforcement from December 7, 2018 through January 1, 2019; and

**Whereas**, an increase in impaired driving enforcement and a reduction in impaired driving will save lives on our roadways;

**Therefore**, be is resolved that Independence Township declares it's support for the *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2018 Year End Holiday Crackdown* from December 7, 2018 through January 1, 2019 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

### Resolution 18-98

**Title or Subject: Approval of Kennel License-Happy Tails Inn, Pet Resort**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, the Kennel license is hereby issued to Timothy Norton t/a Happy Tails Inn, Pet Resort, 69 Route 46 East, Hackettstown New Jersey, the license commences on January 1, 2019 and terminates on December 31, 2019.

### Resolution 18-99

#### STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUNDING MUNICIPAL ALLIANCES

Grant Year: FY 2020

APPLICANT MUNICIPALITY/IES: Independence Twp. and Liberty Twp.	COUNTY: Warren
ALLIANCE NAME: Great Meadows Regional Municipal Alliance	ALLIANCE WEBSITE: None
ALLIANCE STREET ADDRESS: Great Meadows Middle School 243 Rt. 46	
TOWN: Great Meadows STATE: NJ ZIP: 07838	
TELEPHONE: ( 908 ) 637-4349 Ext.	FAX: ( 908 ) 637-4492
ALLIANCE CHAIRPERSON: Israel Marmolejos	ALLIANCE COORDINATOR: Rosemary Kumma
STREET ADDRESS: Great Meadows Middle School 243 Rt. 46	STREET ADDRESS: Great Meadows Middle School 243 Rt. 46
TOWN: Great Meadows STATE: NJ ZIP: 07838	TOWN: Great Meadows STATE: NJ ZIP: 07838
EMAIL:	EMAIL:
DATE OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STRATEGIC PLAN (MM/DD/YYYY): / /	

A) Alliance DEDR Allocation	\$ 9,662.00
B) Cash Match (must be 30% of DEDR Allocation)	\$ 2,899.00
C) In-Kind Match (must be 75% of the DEDR Allocation)	\$ 7,246.00
TOTAL ALLIANCE BUDGET (add A+ B+C)	\$ 19,807.00

**Resolution 18-100**

**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	512	HMUA PO 450 Hackettstown, NJ 07840	Tax Sale Charges	\$ 302.47
Total to be refunded				\$ 302.47

**Resolution 18-101**

**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
19.01	10.03	Green Tree c/o Corelogic 1 Corelogic Dr. Westlake, TX 76262 Owner: Michael & Melissa Guarino	Duplicate Tax Payment	\$2,610.09
1.03	17	Fred & Jeanine Miller 136 Phillips Drive Magnolia, DE 19962	Duplicate Tax Payment	\$2,772.08
Total to be refunded				\$5,382.17

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve Resolutions 18-96 thru 18-101 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: Mr. Norton 18-98  
 Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Tax Collector - Posted  
Construction/Zoning – Reports was submitted.

Environmental – Report was submitted  
Treasurer – Report submitted. Budget meeting 1/26/19  
Recreation/Green Acres – report submitted  
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.

A motion was made by Mr. Norton authorizing payment to Ernest Kinney and Deborah Hrebenak for unused vacation time. Mrs. Kelsey 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.

Land Use Board – No report  
Seniors – Meeting on Thursdays.  
Board of Education – Mr. Norton gave a report.

### **PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Sale of IMUA to Suez closing date 12.14.18

Engineer Finelli: Report submitted.

**Carmen Feula**: Year-end toast He knowledge the Mayor, Township Committee, and Township Employees for a job well done

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mrs. Cullen thanked Mr. Feula for his service to the community

**BILLS:** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to pay the bills as presented. Mrs. Kelsey 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.

Mayor Giordano stated that the Organization meeting will be January 2, 2019 at 7 pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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