

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,
January 26, 2019 9:00AM

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Giordano at 9:00am. Mayor Giordano made 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:

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Mayor Robert Giordano, Deputy Mayor Glenn Cogle, Mr. Norton (9.05 am), Mrs. Kelsey and Mr. Pennington. Also present Deborah Hrebenak, Municipal Clerk/Administrator, Derek Macchia- CFO, Departments Heads, First Aid Squad Captain and Fire Chief.

Resolution 19-19

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MUNICIPAL CLERK TO PROVIDE NOTICE
TO THE GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF ITS INTENT TO HOLD A JOINT MEETING WITH INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP
TO HOLD A HEARING TO CONSIDER MOVING THE SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTIONS TO THE MONTH OF APRIL; BEGINNING IN 2020 AND EVERY APRIL
THEREAFTER, RATHER THAN IN NOVEMBER,
AS A PART OF THE GENERAL ELECTION**

WHEREAS, Independence Township and Liberty Township had previously formed the Great Meadows Regional School District to provide educational services to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, annual school elections for the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education are conducted in November simultaneously with the general election, with voting on school budgets limited to requests for additional funds pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:60-1.1(a)1 and N.J.S.A. 18A:7F -5; and

WHEREAS, more than four such annual school elections have been conducted since the date was changed from April to November and based on its review of public participation in public input into the school budget process the Township Committee of the Township of Independence/Liberty believes it to be in the best interest of Independence/Liberty Township to return the date of annual school elections to April thereby allowing the voters the ability to vote on the District's general fund tax levy for the budget year pursuant to N.J.S.A 19:60-1.1(a)1; and

WHEREAS, in order to effect such a change, the Township Committee is statutorily obligated to give the Regional Board of Education sufficient notice of a hearing to be held by the Township Committee on the question.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence/Liberty, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Municipal Clerk shall give written notice in the form of this Resolution to the Great Meadows Regional Board of Education that the Township Committee shall consider enacting a Resolution returning the date of the annual school election from November to April in a hearing to be conducted at a joint meeting of the Townships of Independence and Liberty Committees on 5 March 2019, at 7:00 pm within the Independence Fire House, located at 24 Cemetery Road, Great Meadows, NJ.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption in accordance with law.

A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adopt Resolutions 19-19 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Budget:

CFO, Derek Macchia presented the preliminary budget, each Department Head discussed their budgets including capital projects.

Public Comment: none.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Norton seconded by Mrs. Kelsey the meeting adjourned at 3:20p.m. no further business before them.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Clerk/Administrator