

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**May 14, 2019                      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 Deputy Mayor Glenn Cougle 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 Deputy Mayor Cougle.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**Minutes 2.13.2019, 2.28.2019, 3.5.19 Joint Meeting, 3.5.19 Special Meeting, and 3.26.19**

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve 2.13.19 minutes as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mr. Norton  
Nays: None recorded  
Abstain: None recorded  
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

Mr. Norton made a motion to 2.28.19, 3.5.19 Joint Meeting, 3.5.19 Special Meeting, and 3.26.19 minutes as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**Consent Agenda:**

**Resolution 19-54 IMUA**

**RESOLUTION 19-54**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 40A:5A-15 requires the governing body of each local authority to cause an annual audit of its accounts to be made, and

**WHEREAS**, the annual audit report for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019 has been completed and filed with the Independence Municipal Utilities Authority pursuant to N.J.S.A 40 A:5A-15 and

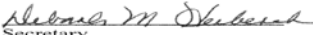
**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A 40A:5A-17, requires the governing body of each authority to, within 45 days of receipt of the annual audit, certify by resolution to the Local Finance Board that each member thereof has personally reviewed the annual audit report, and specifically the sections of the audit report entitled "**General Comments**" and "**Recommendations**", and has evidenced same by group affidavit in the form prescribed by the Local Finance Board, and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the governing body have received the annual audit and have personally reviewed the annual audit, and have specifically reviewed the sections of the annual audit report entitled "**General Comments**" and "**Recommendations**", in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A:5A-17,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the governing body of the Independence Municipal Utilities Authority hereby certifies to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that each governing body member has personally reviewed the annual audit report for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, and specifically has reviewed the sections of the audit report entitled "**General Comments**" and "**Recommendations**", and has evidenced same by group affidavit in the form prescribed by the Local Finance Board.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the secretary of the authority is hereby directed to promptly submit to the Local Finance Board the aforesaid group affidavit, accompanied by a certified true copy of this resolution.

**IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING HELD ON** 5.14.2019

  
Secretary  
5.14.2019  
Date

## **Resolution 19-55**

### **GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2018 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the "*Municipal Clerk*" pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S.52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

## **Resolution 19-56**

### **Stigma Free Communities Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Warren County Department of Human Services, supports the designation of **Stigma-Free Communities** in every municipality, and;

**WHEREAS**, at their November 14, 2018 meeting the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously passed a resolution supporting the designation of Warren County as a Stigma-Free Community, and;

**WHEREAS**, Warren County recognizes that one in four Americans has experienced mental illness, including substance use disorders, in a given year according to the National Institute of Mental Health, and;

**WHEREAS**, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, affecting children and adults, including more than half of our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans treated at Veteran's Administration hospitals, and;

**WHEREAS**, given the serious nature of this public health problem, we must continue to reach the millions who need help;

**WHEREAS**, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and;

**WHEREAS**, **Stigma-Free Communities** aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the

disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma and;

**WHEREAS**, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed, and;

**WHEREAS**, local resources are available to treat the disease of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless, and;

**WHEREAS**, establishing **Stigma-Free Communities** will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided, and;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that *THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE* recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Warren in designating *THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE* as a **Stigma-Free Community**.

### **Resolution 19-57**

#### **Title: Raffle**

WHEREAS, Independence Township Volunteer Fire Dept. is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (224-9-21561) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Raffle to be held on October 17, 2019 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 464 be issued to Independence Township Volunteer Fire Dept.

### **Resolution 19-58**

#### **Title: Special Events License**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 261 of the Township Code of the Code of Independence Titled "Licenses and Permits", permits a Special Events License and,

**WHEREAS**, Main Street Fairs, Inc. on behalf of the Independence Township Fire Department 24 Cemetery Road, Great Meadows, NJ has submitted an application for the Special Events License to be held on August 17, 2019, during the hours of 11:00AM-7:30PM at 24 Cemetery Road Great Meadows and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that the Special Events License be issued to Independence Township Volunteer Fire Department.

## Resolution 19-59

Resolution 2019-59

### TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE

#### New Jersey DOT Trust Fund Authority Act Grant – Johnson 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 \$156,000.00 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2019 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 2019 in the amount of \$156,000.00 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 \$156,000.00  
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 Johnson Road

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-54 to 19-59 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Pennington 19-57 & 19-58

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – Spring Clean-up and shredding went well

Treasurer – Report submitted

Recreation/Green Acres – Report submitted. June 15 movie in the park at field of dreams

Police – Report has been submitted. Academy graduation June 3

Emergency Services – First Aid Squad Hailey gave a report. Fire Department Clyde Snyder gave a report. Next breakfast June 9.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk – Election in June - 3 District will be voting at the firehouse. Special Meeting on May 22 at 10 am and Senator Oroho meeting on May 20 at 10:30

Land Use Board – Wireless Edge was discussed

Seniors – Meeting on Thursday.

Board of Education – Budget passed 978 enrollment at GMRSD increase 2.48% for Independence Township and .91% for Liberty Township.

### PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: executive session discussion. Monthly lease for Wireless Edge.

Engineer Modzelewski for Finelli: Report Submitted. 2018 Mt. Rascal Rd Grant - inspection completed. Submitted Stormwater Permit. Senior Center Grant working with architect. Johnson Road Grant. 2020 Grant application needs to be in by July 2019.

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to start the process of the application for 2020 Grant. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Food truck – Field of Dreams-** 2 people have inquired about having a food truck at field of dreams.

**Johnson Road Complaints** – several complaints regarding the condition of the road

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Pequest River Project Budget-Inter-Local Agreement**

**Warren County Mosquito Control Commission-virus testing**

**Path to Progress Resolution**

**Vacant/Abandoned Properties-** fees collected as of 4.30.2019 \$22, 250.00

Wetlands – more water on Alphano Road

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Wiseman asked about the water with all the heavy rain. Mrs. Neumann asked for Mr. Barabas regarding the trucking company for extra paving on roadways. Mrs. Neumann questioned the new voting location.

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:50 pm – 9:15 pm**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:50 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:

Litigation – Attorney/Client matter

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 9:15 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Deputy Mayor Cogle stated that the executive session was to discuss litigation. No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

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