

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**August 13, 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 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, Bonnie Kelsey, Mike Pennington, Glenn Cogle, Tim Norton and Debi Hrebenak. Also present was Engineer Michael Finelli.

*Absent:* none

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resolution 19-71:**

**Approval to submit a Grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Asbury Road, Section 1 Resurfacing project.**

**WHEREAS**, Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey has given Finelli Consulting Engineers the approval to submit this grant on the behalf of the Township of Independence,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Committee of the Township of Independence formally approves the grant application for the above stated project,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **MA-2020-Asbury Road, Sec 1 Resurfacing-00280** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Independence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Independence and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**Resolution 19-72**

**Approval to submit a Grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Russling Road Resurfacing, Section 2 project.**

**WHEREAS**, Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey has given Finelli Consulting Engineers the approval to submit this grant on the behalf of the Township of Independence,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Committee of the Township of Independence formally approves the grant application for the above stated project,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as **MA-2020-Russling Road Resurfacing, Section 2 Project-00279** to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Independence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Independence and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

**Resolution 19-73**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF HEARING OFFICER**

**WHEREAS**, there exists an emergent need for the performance of services of a Hearing Officer for the Township of Independence (“Township”) in connection with a personnel matter; and

**WHEREAS**, the emergent need is based upon the recent passing of Thomas Portelli, Esq., who was retained to act as hearing officer in connection with a disciplinary matter that began but has not yet concluded; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are or will be made available for this purpose to be certified by the Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, *et seq.*, authorizes engaging a Hearing Officer without competitive bidding providing that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for “Professional Services” without competitive bidding and the contracts be available for public inspection;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. **David F Corrigan, ESQ.**, is hereby appointed to act as a Hearing Officer for the Township in connection with a personnel matter for the Township at a rate of \$160.00 per hour for all attorney hours and \$ 60.00 an hour for all paralegal services, plus expenses.
2. The Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute a mutually agreeable written agreement with said Hearing Officer consistent with the terms of the Proposal within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution, subject to the Chief financial Officer certifying there are adequate funds in the Township’s budget to fund the agreement.
3. This agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a “Professional Service” under the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-71, 19-72 and 19-73 as written. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Norton, Mr. Cogle, 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 – nothing to report
- Treasurer – Posted
- Recreation/Green Acres –Report were submitted.
- Police – Report has been submitted.
- Emergency Services – Fire Department Chief Snyder gave a report.
- DPW – Report was submitted.
- Municipal Clerk: No workshop meeting in September.
- Land Use Board – No meeting in August.
- Seniors –Seniors attending on Thursday.

Board of Education – Last month meeting was cancelled.

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.

Engineer Finelli: Discussion on the Wireless Edge Cell Tower, 2020 DOT Grant, 2019 DOT Grant, and Senior Center Grant update.

**Old Business:**

**Ordinance 2019-06                      Second Reading/Public Hearing**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF  
CAPITAL PURCHASES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF  
INDEPENDENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY,  
APPROPRIATING NOT IN EXCESS OF \$24,000 THEREFOR FROM  
VARIOUS SOURCES OF THE TOWNSHIP**

Mr. Cogle made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

As there was one comments, a motion was made by Mr. Cogle to close the public hearing. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adopt Ordinance 2019-06 as written. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**New Business:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mrs. Neumann commented on the shutters on the building. Mr. Barabas commented on field of dreams mowing and holes on Cemetery Rd.

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

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

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

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