

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
June 11, 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, Mr. Cogle, Tim Norton and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: none

Introduction of the following:

**Dr. Phil Linfante, Chairman-Warren County Community College Board of Trustee
Samir Elbassiouny-Executive Assistant to the President for Advancement**

Oath of Office-Patrolman Khilian Bernard

Resolution 19-61: Appointment Tax Collector-Antoinette Theesfeld

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-61 as written. Mrs. Kelsey 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

Minute Approval: 3.12.2019, 4.02.2019, 5.07.2019

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve minutes 3.12.19, 4.02.19 and 5.07.19 as written. Mr. Norton 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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 19-60: 2019-2020 Renewal Liquor Licenses – on hold

Resolution 19-62: 50/50 Raffle-NJ Civic Youth Ballet

Title: 50/50 Raffle

WHEREAS, New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-35863) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on

September 29, 2019 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 465 be issued to New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet.

Resolution 19-63: Tricky Tray Raffle-NJ Civic Youth Ballet

Title: Tricky Tray Raffle

WHEREAS, New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-35863) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Tricky Tray Raffle to be held on September 29, 2019 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 466 be issued to New Jersey Civic Youth Ballet.

Resolution 19-64: 2019 Clean Communities Grant

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 \$16,323.38 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 \$16,323.38 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 \$16,323.38
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: 2019 Clean Communities Grant

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 19-65: 50/50 Raffle- Easter Seals New Jersey Inc

Title: 50/50 Raffle

WHEREAS, Easter Seals New Jersey Inc. is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (114-4-19531) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted an application for a Raffle to be held on August 7, 2019 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 467 be issued to Easter Seals New Jersey Inc.

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-62 thru 19-65 as written. Mayor Giordano 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. VAP fees collected - May \$23,250.00

Environmental – Posted

Treasurer – Posted

Recreation/Green Acres –2 members are needed. Movie in the Park this weekend. Field Hockey discussed

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – Fire Department Chief Clyde Snyder gave the fire department report. Letter from the EMS Council regarding the squad.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Report was submitted. No workshop in July. Open meeting July 17-18

Land Use Board – Next June 17.

Seniors – 7-8 seniors attending on Thursday.

Board of Education – report was submitted

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.

Engineer Finelli: DOT Grants were discussed. Discussion on the 2020 DOT Grant application – Asbury Road and Russling Road part 2.

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve the 2020 DOT Grant application. Mrs. Kelsey 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

OLD BUSINESS:

Food Truck -Yvette Williams - not in attendance

NEW BUSINESS:

EMS Council of New Jersey Correspondence – discuss with squad at next meeting

Path to Progress Resolution – on hold

Paul Mische-105A Russling Road, water issue – Mike Finelli to review

Wendy Cirinelli-3 Old Vienna Road – Not in attendance

Gregory and Deborah Vanderydt-Johnson Road complaint

Josh Member of Congress Josh Gottheimer -resolution to combat illegal dumping – on hold

Annual Conference NJLM-November 19, 20 and 21

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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. Pennington, Mr. Cogle and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:15 pm – 10:50 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 8:15 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:

Litigation

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 10:50 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Mayor Giordano 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 10:55 p.m. Deputy Mayor 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