

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
July 14, 2020 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

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 NJ Herald 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 via zoom, Mike Pennington, Glenn Cogle via zoom, and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh, Mike Finelli and Lt. Prell via zoom

Absent: none

Committeeman Norton has resigned from the Township Committee as of July 14, 2020

The Mayor thanked Mr. Norton for his time served on the township committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle accept the resignation. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 20-49

2020 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 \$14,717.26 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2020 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 2020 in the amount of \$14,717.26 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 \$14,717.26
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: 2020 Clean Communities Grant

Resolution 20-50

**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 2019 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 20-51

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY

Approval to submit a Grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Asbury Road, Section 2 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-2021-Asbury Road, Section 2-00320** 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 20-52

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP, WARREN COUNTY

Approval to submit a Grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Russling Road 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-2021-Russling Road Section 2 - 00133** 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve Resolution 20-49 thru 20-52 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report was submitted.

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – Everything on hold

Treasurer – Posted

Recreation/Green Acres – no meeting. Pickleball court is completed.

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – Fire Dept is not hosting any events at this time 7/24 blood drive
DPW – Report was submitted. Great job at the field of dreams
Municipal Clerk: Thanked the DPW on cleaning of the building. Thanked the Fire Department for having election. August 1st taxes due.
Land Use Board – meeting in July via zoom. Pio Costa Used Variance
Seniors – back in August
Board of Education – opening on hold. Waiting on the Governor

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Working on policies for Covid-19

Engineer Finelli: Worked on 2021 grants. Asbury Road project discussed.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cougle to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR