

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
October 13, 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." Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on in-person public gatherings by executive orders of the Governor of New Jersey, meetings of the Independence Township Committee will be held remotely via Zoom. The Zoom platform allows for members of the public to participate via computer, mobile device, or telephone. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.5(g): Both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting have been provided by publishing a revised annual notice in the two official newspapers designated by the Township, posting such notice on the door of the municipal building, and posting such notice on the municipal website. Such notice specified the time of this meeting and provided instructions on how to access the meeting remotely. The following is an explanation of the procedures and requirements for making public comment as required by N.J.A.C. 5:391.4(h).

Please keep yourself muted until the meeting moderator requests that you unmute yourself. The Township reserves the right to mute or remove disruptive meeting participants after an initial warning. Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and use of profanity.

Comments will be accepted in writing. Written comments must be no more than 450 words and must include your name and address. This equates to about 3 minutes of speaking, which is the amount of time allowed for each public comment. Such comments will be read into the record at the appropriate time. However, please be advised that the Township reserves the right to summarize duplicative comments consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:391.4(f). Comments can be emailed by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to dhrebenak@independencenj.com. Written comments may also be submitted via mail or dropped off at the municipal building by such day and time.

Comments will also be accepted during the appropriate times of the meeting via Zoom. If you wish to make a comment during the meeting please use the "raise hand" button on your screen if you are signed in via Zoom. If you are accessing the meeting via telephone, please hit *9 and the meeting moderator will call on you and identify you by the last few digits of your phone number. You can press *6 to unmute yourself. Please state your name and address before beginning your comment. As always, comments are limited to three minutes per person and there will be two comment sessions during the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Mayor Giordano.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Robert Giordano, Mike Pennington, Glenn Cogle (via zoom) , Bonnie Kelsey (via zoom) and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh, Mike Finelli (via zoom), and Lt. Prell (via zoom)

Absent: none

Correspondence

Thank you letter from the Domestic Abuse Center for the Christmas present donations.

Best Practices discussed, the Township attained the sufficient amount of points.

Minutes Approval 9.8.2020

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to approve minutes 9.8.20 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 20-61

EXEMPT PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, certain residents who are a disabled vet or serviceperson are entitled to Exempt Status and the taxes now Exempt.

WHEREAS, the exempt status of these properties make it necessary to cancel all or a portion of taxes and refund any payments made

WHEREAS, 2020 taxes to be refunded due to the bank paying in error.

WHEREAS, the total 2020 taxes to be refunded is as follows:

ASSESSED TO	PROPERTY LOCATION	BLOCK/LOT	AMOUNT
Meghan Jewell	8 Roosevelt Ave	1/49	\$1,233.12 2020/2
Meghan Jewell	8 Roosevelt Ave	1/49	\$ 18.01 2020/3
Brian & Tara Taylor	164 Petersburg Rd	21/14.07	\$2,736.15 2020/3
David White	74 Petersburg Rd	9/47.01	\$2,280.60 2020/3

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Independence, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to refund 2020 Taxes Receivable for the amount of \$6,267.88.

Resolution 20-62

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF ASBURY ROAD

Be it resolved, that on October 13, 2020 the Township Committee of the Township of Independence adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Asbury Road, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of \$140,000.

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$151,498.05. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Tilcon New York, which included the following items and unit prices:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL EXTENSION
1,2	2" Hot Mix Asphalt		2057	TN \$73.65	\$151,498.05

TOTAL \$151,498.05

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$3,828.00. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Denville Line Painting, Inc, which included the following items and unit prices:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL EXTENSION
3	4" Yellow Traffic Stripes, EPOXY method	12,760	LF	\$0.30	\$3,828.00
TOTAL					\$3,828.00

Resolution 20-63

Title or Subject: Approval of Fire Department Member (John A Batista)

WHEREAS, there is a need for members on the Independence Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, *John A Batista* has made application for membership to the Fire Department and has been approved by the Membership Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that *John A Batista* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Resolution 20-64

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$802,682 FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND TO REIMBURSE FOR COVID-19 RELATED EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES DURING THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 2020

WHEREAS, the State of NJ, Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services has awarded Warren County \$802,682 from the Local Government Emergency fund:

WHEREAS, the grant will be to reimburse for necessary and unexpected expenditures necessitated by the covid-19 pandemic:

WHEREAS, the grant covers the period of March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer are authorized to execute the grant agreement and other required documents.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve Resolution 20-61 thru 20-64 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle Mrs. Kelsey and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report was submitted. Tax sale on November 20

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – Clean up October 17 & Oct 18 8am – 4pm, Shredding Oct 17 1:30-4:30

Treasurer – Posted. Sending out budget sheets for 2021

Recreation/Green Acres – No recreation basketball due to school facilities cancellation per Superintendent Mai.

Police – Report has been submitted. 2 officers competed a fire arms class and Officer Lloyd participated in the Special Olympic Torch Run .

Emergency Services – Fire Department is holding the money raffle on October 15 via Facebook live. Fire Prevention being held this week.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: New insurance quote from Sharon Cooper. Guidelines for Halloween trick and treat 4:30-7:30 hours. Municipal Building still closed. Seniors are still meeting

Land Use Board – Meeting on October 19

Board of Education – Mr. Mai spoke on the current status at the GMRSD.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. New regulation on public meetings.

Finelli Consulting: Report submitted. Thanked the DPW on the work done on Asbury Road for paving.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: Blood Drive at the fire house on November 6. Rabies Clinic November 14 at 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm.

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

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR