

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
October 27, 2020 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

This is a special meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 9:34 a.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, Mike Pennington (via zoom), Bonnie Kelsey and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh (via zoom)

Absent: Glenn Cogle

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 20-65

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY FUND (CRF) GRANT

WHEREAS, as the public health emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the most significant negative financial impacts faced by county and municipal governments throughout New Jersey result from extreme economic contraction, deficits in tax and fee revenues, and extraordinary increases in public safety and health and human services expenditures; and

WHEREAS, severe fiscal stress limits the ability of counties and municipalities to maintain essential services and take the steps necessary to fight COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, without substantial federal assistance, residential taxpayers would absorb the primary impact of meeting these extraordinary needs and closing any associated operating deficits; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA"), through the Division of Local Government Services ("DLGS" or "Division"), has been deemed the lead agency for the distribution of the Local Government Emergency Fund (the "LGEF" or "Program"), provided through an allocation of the State of New Jersey's CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF Funds); and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities excluded from the federal government's direct CRF allocation plan, as well as those counties and municipalities that are currently the most impacted by COVID-19 in comparison to their available resources, are eligible for LGEF funds pursuant to a maximum distribution determined by formula; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$60 million is currently being made available under the Program, with a potential \$60 million more to be allocated; and

WHEREAS, LGEF Grants exist to support costs incurred as part of a local unit's response to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren, that the Independence Township will apply for a LGEF Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to approve Resolution 20-65 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR