

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
September 8, 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 7:10 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, Mike Pennington, Glenn Cogle, Bonnie Kelsey and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Lt. Prell via zoom
Absent: none

Minutes Approval 6.9.20, 7.14.20 and 8.11.20

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve minutes 6.9.20 and 7.14.20 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve minutes 8.11.20 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 20-56

Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Fiscal Grant Cycle October 2021-June 2025

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Great Meadows Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$1,272.00
Cash Match	\$318.00
In-Kind	\$954.00
2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution 20-57

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT TO THE COUNTY OF WARREN PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:14-178 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,940.50 AND APPROVING THE EMPLOYEE REPAYMENT AGREEMENT FOR A NEW HIRE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Independence Township Police Department was in need of a new police officer in order to maintain department staffing; and

WHEREAS, Independence Township found it to be in the best interest of the Township and the Township residents to hire Patrol Officer Jacob Lloyd, who was previously employed by the Warren County Sheriff’s Office; and

WHEREAS, the County, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-178, requested the Township reimburse it for fifty percent (50%) of the total certified costs incurred by the County for the examination, hiring and training of Patrol Officer Lloyd; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-178, fifty percent (50%) of the total certified costs for the new hire shall be reimbursed by the Township of Independence to Warren County in the amount of \$15,940.50; and

WHEREAS, the Township and Patrol Officer Lloyd agree that it would be most equitable if both parties were to share in the reimbursement effort by Township; and

WHEREAS, the parties believe it to be fair and equitable that Patrol Officer Lloyd reimburse the Township \$7,500.00, which represents approximately fifty percent (50%) of the Township’s obligation in this regard and 25% of the County’s total certified costs.

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

1. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue a 50% reimbursement payment to Warren County pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-178, in an amount totaling \$15,940.50.
2. The Mayor and/or Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached Employee Repayment Agreement and any other necessary documents in connection therewith; and
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve Resolution 20-56 thru 20-57 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Resolution 20-58

Animal Control Services Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT, made this September 8, 2020 between Township of Independence and Animal Control Rebecca Burton and Jeff Eyre, ACO, and

Whereas, the Recipient has heretofore funded the expenses of its animal control officer; and

Whereas, the Provider has entered into a professional contract for the provision of Animal Control Services; and

Whereas, the Recipient and the Provider has arrived at an agreement whereby the Recipient will pay a contractual amount to the Provider, the Provider in turn assuming the aforementioned Animal Control Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED between the parties that this Agreement shall be entered into to memorialized the payment of the costs attributable to Animal Control Services:

1) Services to be provided

- a) The Provider shall provide Animal Control Services as required by New Jersey Statute and township ordinances of the Township of Independence, as well as for boarding of animals at Happy Tail Inn. The Animal Control Officer shall be authorized to enforce (including the issuance of summonses) animal control ordinances and licensing requirements of the Township of Independence.
- b) The provider shall provide for the investigation of wild and possible rabid animals and removal and disposal as necessary.
- c) The Recipient shall pay the contractor for those services according to the schedule set forth below.
- d)

2) Term of Agreement

- a) The agreement shall commence on the first of the month following the date of certification as a licensed animal control officer of the contractor retained by the Provider.
- b) The contract shall continue from 9.08.20-12.31.2020.

3) Manner of Payment

- a) The recipient shall reimburse the Provider the following amounts for services to be provided with the Township of Independence:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Monthly Minimum (includes up to 5 call outs)		\$450.00
Non-Emergent Response	8am to 8 pm	\$ 75.00
Non-Emergent Response	8 pm to 8 am	\$100.00
Per Transport		\$ 25.00
Per hour for second person assistance		\$ 25.00

- b) The Recipient shall reimburse for the boarding of the boarding of non-reclaimed pets at the per day rates set forth below:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Cats	All	\$10.00
Dogs	Small to Medium	\$12.00
Dogs	Medium to Large	\$15.00
Dogs	Large to X-Large	\$20.00

Resolution 20-59

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PENSION REIMBURSEMENT TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Mayor and Committee that two employees were not made members of the Pension System upon being initially hired by the Township; and

WHEREAS, it has been confirmed that one employee was not a participating member from April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997 and in order to recoup the time, must purchase additional service credit in the amount of \$4,275.81; and

WHEREAS, it has been confirmed that another employee was not a participating member from May 1, 1996 through April 30, 1997 and in order to recoup the time, must purchase additional service credit in the amount of \$5,977.74; and

WHEREAS, it appears as if the foregoing did not occur as a result of the fault of either employee; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee is desirous to reimburse the two employees in the amounts set forth above.

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

4. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue reimbursement payments to each of the two (2) affected employees in the amounts of \$4,275.81 and \$5,977.74 respectively.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

Resolution 20-60

Title or Subject: 2020-2021 Renewal Liquor Licenses

WHEREAS, the renewal applications for the following liquor licenses have been submitted to the Municipal Clerk with the proper fees, and

WHEREAS, Clearance certificates from the State Division of Taxation have been received by the Municipal Clerk for all of the licenses, and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has not indicated the need for special restrictions on any of the establishments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township Committee, that the following liquor licenses be renewed for the period of July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021:

Club:	
Independence Twp Vol Fire Dept	2112-31-010-001
Retail:	
Zoey's LLC	2112-33-001-012
Nykuns Store Inc	2112-33-004-002
Top Of The Hill Entertainment LLC	2112-33-003-005
Grow With Map	2112-44-009-003

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to approve Resolution 20-58 thru 20-60 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Pennington (abstain 20-60), Mr. Cogle and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report was submitted.

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted. Vaps collection as of 8/31/20 \$14,000

Environmental – Clean up October 17 & Oct 18, Shredding Oct 17

Treasurer – Posted

Recreation/Green Acres – Fields being rented.

Police – Report has been submitted. Letter from Mr. Hall thanking the police department for there quick response for a medical call

Emergency Services – Fire Department is holding the money raffle on October 15 via Facebook live.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Ballots to be mailed by the end of September. Tax bills going out on Thursday. Needs a motion to pay 2 employees for 2019 vacation time as they have not been able to use due to Covid-19. Municipal Building still closed. Cancel the workshop meeting for October, November, and December.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to pay the employees. Mrs. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Land Use Board – Meeting September 21.

Seniors – meeting on Thursday at senior center

Board of Education – next board meeting scheduled for September 17 @ 5:00

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted.

Finelli Consulting: Report submitted. Working with DPW on Asbury Road. Paving in October 2020.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:55 pm – 8:20 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 7:55 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mr. Pennington 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:

Personnel

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 Mr. Cogle at 8:20 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey followed by a roll call of all ayes

Mayor Giordano stated that Personnel issues were discussed and no action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey 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