

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**November 10, 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. 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 specifies the time of this meeting and provided instructions on how to access the meeting remotely.

Comments can also 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. Written comments must be no more than 450 words and must include your name and address. Such comments will be read into the record at the appropriate time.

Live 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. 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.

Please be advised that this meeting is being recorded.

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, Joe Vuich from Finelli (via zoom), and Officer in Charge Lt. Prell (via zoom)

**Absent:** none

**Correspondence**

Email from Barbara Shimchook regarding the guardrails in front of her house.

The Mayor thanked all the Veterans a Happy Veterans Day.

**Minutes Approval 10.13.2020 and 10.27.2020**

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to approve minutes 10.13.20 as written. 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

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to approve minutes 10.27.20 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resolution 20-66**

**2020-66 APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in the below listed account(s) to meet the demands thereon for the balance of the current year, and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in the below listed account(s) over and above the amount deemed necessary for the balance of the current year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58, part of the surplus in the account(s) heretofore mentioned be and same are hereby authorized as transfers to the account(s) mentioned as being insufficient, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Officer is hereby directed to make the following transfers:

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
Police S&W	\$ 16,500.00	Police O/E	\$ 16,500.00
Utilites O/E	\$ 14,500.00	Public Works O/E	\$ 10,500.00
		Land Use Board O/E	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 31,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 31,000.00

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve Resolution 20-66 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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- Tax Collector – Report was submitted. Tax sale on November 20
- Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.
- Environmental – Clean up and shredding went well.
- Treasurer – Posted. Sending out budget sheets for 2021
- Recreation/Green Acres – Everything is on hold. Working at the field of dreams. Thank you letter on the use of the fields.
- Police – Report has been submitted. St. Peter and Paul said a mass for all police officers on November 15
- Emergency Services – Fire Department money raffle went well via Facebook live. First Aid Squad Nick spoke regarding a paid service starting January 1 from 6 am to 6 pm
- DPW – Report was submitted. Paving work done on Asbury and Rolling View.
- Municipal Clerk: Municipal Building still closed. Seniors are still meeting Still awaiting school write in county. Rabies Clinic November 14. No workshop meeting in December.
- Land Use Board – Mr. Cogle gave an update from the October Meeting.
- Board of Education – Mr. Mai spoke on the current status at the GMRSD.

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Spoke on new procedures for workplace for Covid19.

Finelli Consulting: Report submitted. Thanked the DPW on the work done on Asbury Road for paving. Senior center grant on hold till next year.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none

**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 Mr. Pennington to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Mayor Giordano 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