

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,  
January 7, 2022  
12:00 p.m.**

The Reorganization meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Committeeman Robert M Giordano. The following announcement was made: "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 Robert M Giordano.

Dena M Hrebenak, Municipal Clerk/Administrator administered the Oath of Office to elected Township Committeeman Robert M Giordano and Committeeman Glenn Cogle for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

Roll Call:

Glenn Cogle, Robert Giordano and Kathleen Gesumaria

Nomination for Mayor: Mr. Cogle made a motion to nominate Robert Giordano. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano  
Nays: None  
Absent: Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey  
Abstain: None  
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Nomination for Deputy Mayor: Mr. Cogle made a motion to nominate Michael Pennington as Deputy Mayor, Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano  
Nays: None  
Absent: Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey  
Abstain: None  
Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Areas of Responsibility:

Mayor Giordano made the following liaison appointments:

Board of Education – Robert Giordano  
DPW – Glenn Cogle  
Emergency Services–Robert Giordano  
Environmental – Glenn Cogle  
Land Use Board-Bonnie Kelsey/Glenn Cogle  
Personnel – Robert Giordano  
Police Commissioner– Michael Pennington  
Recreation – Michael Pennington

Annual Appointments:

Mayor Giordano made the following appointments:

Payroll Clerk	Dena M Hrebenak
Deputy Treasurer	Dena M Hrebenak
Tax Search Officer	Tax Collector
Assessment Search Officer	Dena M Hrebenak
Solid Waste Advisor	Environmental Commission
Recycling Coordinator	JoAnn Fascenelli
OEM	Ernest Kinney, Coordinator
	Thomas Tagliareni - Deputy Coordinator
911 Coordinator	Dena M Hrebenak

Township Professionals:

Mayor Giordano made the following Professional Services appointments with the endorsement of the full Township Committee:

Attorney:	Gebhardt & Kiefer Law Firm
Prosecutor:	Roger Skoog
Public Defender:	Scott M. Wilhelm
Auditor:	Man Lee, Nisivoccia & Company
Bond Counsel:	Michael Israels
Planner:	David Banisch, Banisch Associates, Inc.
Insurance Agent:	Randy May – Otterstedt Insurance Agency

Boards and Commissions:

Land Use Board:		
Bonnie Kelsey	Class I 1Yr. Term	Exp. 12/31/22
George Ulmer	Class II 1Yr. Term	Exp. 12/31/22
Glenn Cogle	Class III 1Yr. Term	Exp. 12/31/22
Robert Best	Class IV 4 Yr. Term	Exp. 12/31/25
Don Engels	Class IV 4 Yr. Term	Exp. 12/31/25
Mark Rafalko	Alternate #1	Exp. 12/31/23
Melissa Milano	Alternate #2	Exp. 12/31/23

Consent Agenda:

**Resolution 22-01**

**Title or Subject: Cash Management Plan**

Interest Rate on Delinquent Taxes and Municipal Charges

In accordance with RS: 4-67, the interest rate on delinquent taxes and municipal charges shall be as follows:

1. 8% per annum on the first \$1,500 of the delinquency
2. 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500

No interest shall be charged for a 10-day grace period; after the 10-day grace period, interest shall be calculated from the due date.

An additional penalty of 6% of the amount of the delinquency will be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year.

The Tax Collector is authorized to process or cancel without further action on part of the governing body, any property tax overpayment or delinquency of less than \$10.00. The Tax Collector is further authorized to conduct the annual sale of delinquent taxes for the calendar year 2021.

Investment of Funds

The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to invest funds, as they shall become available, to attain the highest rate of return, provided that all investments are reported to the Township Committee at the next meeting subsequent to the making of the investments.

Official Depositories

In accordance with NJSA 40A: 5-15, all monies collected by taxation, received from any source by or on behalf of any local unit or any board or department shall be deposited or turned over to the Chief Financial Officer within 48 hours.

The following banks are designated as official depositories for checking and/or escrow funds for the Township for 2022, as well as savings funds and investment accounts:

First Hope Bank

Authorized Signatures

All withdraws against the foregoing accounts shall bear the signatures of two of the following officials: Mayor and Chief Financial Officer.

**Resolution 22-02**

**Title or Subject: Official Newspapers**

Be It Resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that the following newspapers be designated as official newspapers of the Township of Independence for the purpose of legal notices:

**Resolution: 22-03**

**Title or Subject: Annual Meeting Notice**

WHEREAS, on October 21, 1975, The Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law) became the law of the State of New Jersey, which became law effective on January 19, 1976 and has from time to time been amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, requirements of notice to the Public are prescribed for meetings of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence which notice shall occur at its annual reorganization meeting, but not later than January 10<sup>th</sup> of each year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence Township, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that the following days during 2021 are designated as the workshop and regular meetings of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence:

Reorganization Meeting January 7, 2022 at 7:00PM

Township Committee Workshop Meeting

February 1, 2022	7 p.m.	July 5, 2022	7 p.m.
March 1, 2022	7 p.m.	August 2, 2022	7 p.m.
April 5, 2022	7 p.m.	September 6, 2022	7 p.m.
May 3, 2022	7 p.m.	October 4, 2022	7 p.m.
June 8, 2022	*Wed 7 p.m.	November 1, 2022	7 p.m.
		December 6, 2022	7 p.m.

Township Committee Meeting

January 11, 2022	7 p.m.	July 13, 2022	7 p.m.
February 9, 2022	7 p.m.	August 10, 2022	7 p.m.
March 9, 2022	7 p.m.	September 14, 2022	7 p.m.
April 13, 2022	7 p.m.	October 12, 2022	7 p.m.
May 11, 2022	7 p.m.	November 9, 2022	7 p.m.
June 8, 2022	7 p.m.	December 14, 2022	7 p.m.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 286-B RT. 46, GREAT MEADOWS NEW JERSEY UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY MEETING.

**Resolution 22-04**

**Title or Subject: Temporary Budget**

WHEREAS, 40A: 4-19 Local Budget Act provides that temporary appropriations be made for the purpose and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided: and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty days of January 2022 and

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2021 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance, is the sum of \$4,608,904.55; and

WHEREAS, 26.25% of the total appropriations in the 2021 budget, exclusive of any appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance in said 2021 budget is the sum of \$1,209,837.45.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that temporary appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for his records.

**Resolution: 22-05**

**Title or Subject: Tax Appeals and Other Action Involving**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of Independence Township are aware that the Tax Assessor of the Township of Independence may be required from time to time to correct errors made in computing the tax assessments of properties located within Independence; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee are aware that the laws of New Jersey permit any taxpayer of Independence Township to file a Petition of Appeal with the Warren County Board of Taxation or the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey to adjust this valuation of property or to correct errors made therein; and

WHEREAS, the municipality must be represented at such hearings by its Tax Assessor and by the Municipal Attorney, who by law shall be authorized to settle such appeals with taxpayers of Independence Township when it appears that such settlement is in the best interest of the Township and the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, in the event a settlement is reached, the laws of the State of New Jersey require that a Stipulation of Settlement be prepared memorializing the agreement which was reached which Stipulation must then be filed with the Warren County Board of Taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor of the Township of Independence has requested the Mayor and Township Committee to enact a resolution specifically authorizing the Tax Assessor to enter into agreements with taxpayers of the Township of Independence to correct errors and to settle appeals including the authority to execute stipulations of Settlement with taxpayers and appellants. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Independence that the Tax Assessor is hereby authorized to adjust errors found in the tax assessments covering property within Independence Township, negotiate and enter into settlements of appeals by taxpayers of their tax assessments and in all respects the Tax Assessor is authorized by law including the signing of all such stipulations and settlement agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Attorney of the Township of Independence is hereby authorized to represent the Township in connection with all matters concerning the assessment of taxes including but not limited to negotiation of settlements, the preparation of settlement stipulations, and the signing of all documents as may be required by law on behalf of the Township of Independence;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Assessor and the Township Attorney be and the same are hereby authorized to appear on behalf of the Township of Independence before the Warren County Board of Taxation and the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey and to do and perform all lawful acts before such Board and Court on behalf of the Township of Independence as may be provided by law including the authority to enter into settlement agreements and judgments by consent.

**Resolution 22-06**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A  
NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR THE POSITIONS  
OF ENGINEER, BOND COUNSEL, PLANNER & AUDITOR  
FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE  
CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence has a need to acquire an Engineer, Bond Counsel, Planner and Auditor as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, Engineer Michael Finelli, Special Bond Counsel Michael Isreals, Banisch Associates, Inc. and Man Lee of Nisivoccia LLP for Township Accountant/Auditor have determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of these contracts is one year; and

WHEREAS, Michael Finelli, Finelli Consulting Engineers, Michael Isreals, Esq., Banisch Associates, Inc. and Nisivoccia LLP have submitted proposals tracts indicating they will provide the following services:

Michael Finelli-Township Engineer  
Michael Isreals, Esq-Special Bond Counsel  
Banisch Associates, Inc.-Professional Planning Services  
Nisivoccia LLP – review of 2021 financial records and preparation of annual audit.

WHEREAS, Attorney Michael Isreals, Banisch Associates, Inc. and Nisivoccia LLP have completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the aforesaid have not made

any reportable contributions to a political candidate or candidate for Township Committee in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Attorney Michael Isreals, Banisch Associates, Inc. and Nisivoccia LLP from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are funds available for the procuring of these services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4 pending approval by the Township Committee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of the Township of Independence is authorized to enter into contracts with Attorney Michael Isreals, Banisch Associates, Inc. and Nisivoccia LLP as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this Resolution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notice of this Resolution will be published in the NJ Herald and Express-Times NJ Zone, the official newspapers of the Township of Independence.

#### **Resolution 22-07**

#### **RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY**

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the performance of legal services for Independence Township for the year 2022; and

WHEREAS, funds are, or will be made, available for this purpose to be certified by the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) authorizes the hiring of an attorney without competitive bidding providing that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding and the contract itself be made available for public inspection.

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

1. Richard P. Cushing, Esq., and Leslie Parikh of Gebhardt & Kiefer, P.C., are hereby appointed to serve as Municipal Attorney for Independence Township during the year 2022 in order to provide legal services for Independence Township.
2. The Mayor and Committee shall enter into a mutually agreeable written compensation agreement with said Attorney within thirty (30) days of the date of this Resolution.
3. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

#### **Resolution 22-08**

#### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR THE POSITIONS OF SPECIAL TAX COUNSEL FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence has a need to acquire a Special Tax Counsel as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, Martin Allen Esq., as Special Tax Counsel have determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of these contracts is one year; and

WHEREAS, Martin Allen Esq. has submitted a proposal indicating he will provide the following services of Special Tax Counsel

WHEREAS, Martin Allen Esq. have completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the aforesaid have not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or candidate for Township Committee in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Martin Allen Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are funds available for the procuring of these services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4 pending approval by the Township Committee;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of the Township of Independence is authorized to enter into contract with Martin Allen Esq.as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this Resolution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Notice of this Resolution will be published in the NJ Herald, the official newspaper of the Township of Independence.

**Resolution 22-09**

**TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE  
DESIGNATING THE PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.2 each public agency shall designate an individual to serve as its Public Agency Compliance Officer or P.A.C.O; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of The Township of Independence, (hereinafter "Public Agency") in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, hereby designates Dena M Hrebenak, R.M.C., as its Public Agency Compliance Officer;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Contracts Compliance and Equal Employment Opportunity in Public Contracts.

**No. 22-10**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Gerrit Kinney-Patrolman Second Class, at a rate of \$ 88,864.00 per annum effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution 22-11**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Joseph Bozzone-Patrolman Third Class, at a rate of \$ 80,716.00 per annum effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution 22-12**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Michael Meistrell-Patrolman Third Class, at a rate of \$ 80,716.00 per annum effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution 22-13**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Rafael Ortiz-Patrolman Third Class, at a rate of \$80,716.00 per annum effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution 22-14**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointments/adjustments are hereby made:

Khilian Bernard-Patrolman Fourth Class, at a rate of \$ 75,356.00 per annum effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution 22-15**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following appointment is hereby made:

Jacob R Lloyd-Police Officer Fifth Class, at a rate of \$ 61,936.00 per annum effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution 22-16**

**Title or Subject: Approval of Kennel License-Happy Tails Inn**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, the Kennel license is hereby issued to Animal Control Officers Rebecca Burton and Jeff Eyre owners of Happy Tails Inn, 69 Route 46 East, Hackettstown New Jersey, the license commences on January 1, 2022 and terminates on December 31, 2022.

**Resolution 22-17**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM  
RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION #22-17  
A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence wished to apply for funding of approximately \$ 16,200.00 with a match of \$145,493.38 for an approximate project total cost of \$161,693.38 for a project under the State of New Jersey Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program, and  
WHEREAS, the Independence Township Committee has reviewed the accompanying application and has approved said request, and  
WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Township of Independence for the purpose described in the application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township Committee that

As a matter of public policy, the Township of Independence wished to participate to the fullest extent possible with the Department of Law and Public Safety and does accept grant number 22-2112 for the period 8.11.21 to 8.10.22  
The Attorney General will receive funds on behalf of the applicant.

The Department of Law & Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General shall be responsible for the receipt and review of the applications for said funds.

The Department of Law & Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General shall initiate allocations to each applicant as authorized.

**Resolution 22-18**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WARREN COUNTY  
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Independence Township, NJ, has experienced natural hazards that result in public safety hazards and damages to private and public property and;

WHEREAS, the hazard mitigation planning process set forth by the State of New Jersey and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offer the opportunity to consider natural hazards and risks, and to identify mitigation actions to reduce future risks and;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management has provided federal mitigation funds to support development of an updated mitigation plan and;

Whereas, a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed by the County Department of Public Safety and Mitigation Planning Committee and;

Whereas, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property and;

WHYEREAS, the draft plan was provided to each participating jurisdiction through a website hosted by Michael Baker International, Inc. (Michael Baker), the contracted vendor assisting with the planning process. Links were links also posted on the Department of Public Safety website so as to introduce the planning concept and to solicit questions and comments and to present the Plan and request comments, as required by law and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township:

The Warren County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as submitted on September 14, 2021 by the Warren County Department of Public Safety to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management and submitted on October 13, 2021 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and subsequently approved by both agencies on November 5, 2021, be and is hereby adopted as an official plan of the County of Warren; with the required yearly updates and minor revisions recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management may be incorporated without further action.

The Independence Township departments identified in the Plan are hereby directed to further pursue potential or suggested implementation of the recommended high priority activities that are assigned to their departments.

Any action proposed by the Plan shall be subject to and contingent upon budget approval, if required, which shall be at the discretion of the Independence Township, and this resolution shall not be interpreted so as to mandate any such appropriation.

The Independence Township Emergency Management Coordinator is designated to coordinate with other offices and shall periodically report on the activities, accomplishments, and progress, and shall prepare an annual progress report to be submitted to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. The status reports shall be submitted on a yearly basis by a predetermined date agree upon by all stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the Warren County Department of Public Safety. PASSED by the Township Committee of the Independence Township on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve the passage of Resolutions 22-01 through 22-18, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

Ayes: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey

Abstain: None

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

New Business:

Ordinance 2021-01

Introduction/First Reading

**2022-01**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

**MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO  
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**



**(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2022 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body hereby determines that a 1% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$33,005.44 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the governing body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2022 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Independence shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$115,519.04, and that the CY 2022 municipal budget for the Township of Independence be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adopt Ordinance 2022-01 for First Reading. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey

Abstain: None

Second reading and public hearing will be on February 8, 2022

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion made by Mrs. Gesumaria at 12:12 pm to adjourn meeting, which was carried by all.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mr. Cogle, Mayor Giordano

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey

Abstain: None

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dena M Hrebenak, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator