

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
November 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.

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 Herald Times 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: Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mayor Giordano, Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Dena Hrebenak, Leslie Parikh and Mike Finelli

Absent: None

Minute Approval: 10.12.2021

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve minutes 10.12.21 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 21-61

Title or Subject: Civil Service Appointing Authority

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence is a Civil Service Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Dena M. Hrebenak, Registered Municipal Clerk of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey is hereby named the Appointing Authority if the Municipality; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Dena M. Hrebenak is hereby authorized to abide with Civil Service Rules and Regulations regarding employees of the Municipality.

Resolution 21-62

2021 Body Worn Camera Grant

WHEREAS, NJS 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence has received notice of an award of \$22,418.00 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2021 Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director and the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2021 in the amount of \$22,418.00 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated
With Prior Written Consent of the Director of the
Division of Local Government Services:
State and Federal Revenues Off-set with
Appropriations: State of New Jersey Special Legislative Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of \$22,418.00
Be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of
General Appropriations:

- (a) Operations Excluded from CAPS
State and Federal Programs Off-Set by
Revenues: 2021 Body Worn Camera Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk forward one certified
copy of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

Resolution 21-63

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
Group Insurance O/E	\$ 38,000.00	Municipal Clerk S/W	\$ 26,000.00
		Finance S/W	\$ 800.00
		Tax Collector S/W	\$ 800.00
		911 Coordinator S/W	\$ 400.00
		Vehicle Maintenance O/E	\$ 6,000.00
		Recreation S/W	\$ 1,600.00
		Social Security O/E	\$ 2,400.00
 TOTAL	 \$ 38,000.00	 TOTAL	 \$ 38,000.00

Resolution 21-64

STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP (hereinafter "Local Unit") is a member of the
Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in
N.J.S.A.

40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund
Commissioner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE (Local Unit) that Dena Hrebenak is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Christopher Prell is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit's Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

Resolution 21-65

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR DIVISION OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Department of Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits requires all municipalities to designate a Certifying Officer and Supervising Certifying Officer to certify the accuracy and validity of all documents and forms sent to the Division of Pensions and Benefits;

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

1. The Certifying Officer for the Township of Independence Public Employees Retirement System and Police and Fire Retirement System shall be Derek Macchia, Chief Financial Officer;
2. The Supervising Certifying Officer for the Township of Independence Public Employees Retirement System and Police and Fire Retirement System shall be Dena Hrebenak, Registered Municipal Clerk, Administrator;
3. A certified copy of this resolution shall be filed with the State of New Jersey, Department of Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Resolution 21-66

OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN CHECKS AND WARRANTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that each check and warrant of the Township be signed by two of the following and that they hereby are authorized to sign same.

- Mayor, Robert Giordano
- Township Clerk/Administrator, Dena Hrebenak
- Chief Financial Officer, Derek Macchia

Resolution 21-67

Title or Subject: APPOINTMENT

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

Antoinette Theesfeld-Certified Tax Collector P/T position, rate of \$ 26,520.00 per annum effective November 15, 2021.

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 21-61 thru 21-67 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted via email.
Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.
Environmental – nothing to report
Treasurer – Reports submitted. Working on 2022 budget
Recreation/Green Acres – Basketball sign-up. Field of Dreams scrapbook by Gary Smith.
Field Hockey season ending.
Police – Report submitted via email.
Emergency Services - Chief Snyder – breakfast on Sunday. Chief Vasquez gave a report of calls in and out of town.
DPW – Report submitted via email.
Municipal Clerk: Free Rabies clinic November 13 1-3 pm. Closed for Veterans Day
Land Use Board – Working on master plan.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Engineer Finelli: Mr. Finelli spoke on the DOT 2022 Russling Road Section 2 Grant received, DOT 2021 Asbury Road Grant update, and Woodmont construction continues (water issue being addressed).

Attorney Parikh: League of Municipality next week in Atlantic City

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Ulmer – Speeder on Water Street, Steve Wiseman – digital sign hard to read with some of the colors, and Geoffrey Cullen – sign too bright.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR