

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**January 11, 2022 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. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mayor Giordano, and Dena Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh

**Absent:** None

**Oath of Office:** Deputy Mayor Michael Pennington – 1 year term expiring 12.31.22

**Areas of Responsibility:** Recreation – Kathleen Gesumaria

**Minute Approval:** 12.14.21 & 1.7.22

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve minutes 12.14.21 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

A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to approve minutes 1.7.22 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Pennington and Mrs. Kelsey

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resolution 22-19**

**2021 APPROPRIATION RESERVES 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
Legal Services O/E	\$ 1,600.00	Construction S&W	\$ 500.00
		Social Security	\$ 1,000.00
		DCRP \$ 100.00	

**Resolution 22-20**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS**

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

**Danielle Stephany-F/T Administrative Assistant to Police Department, at a salary of \$46,000.00 per annum effective January 31, 2022.**

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 22-19 and 22-20 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- Tax Collector – Report submitted via email
- Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.
- Environmental – No meeting
- Treasurer – Working on Budget
- Recreation/Green Acres – New gutters on pavilion. Basketball is going
- Police – Report submitted via email
- Emergency Services – nothing.
- DPW – Report submitted
- Municipal Clerk: Dog licenses are being issued.
- Land Use Board – Mr. Fuella re-org meeting held last night.

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Spoke on the new ordinance.

Engineer Finelli: Report submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Barabas asked about the Aiello case and the Clerks position. Mr. Fuella thanked the DPW on a good job on the storm.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:17 pm – 8:14 pm**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:17 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Pennington, seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria 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:

Litigation/ Personnel Contract

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 8:14 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mayor Giordano followed by a roll call of all ayes

Mayor Giordano stated that Litigation and Personnel Contract 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 8:15 p.m. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator