

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
September 12, 2023 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 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: Mr. Stuber, Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey, Mayor Giordano, and Dena Hrebenak. Also, Attorney Parikh and Engineer Finelli

Absent: none

Minute Approval: 8. 8. 2023

A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to approve minutes 8.8.23 as written. Mr. Stuber seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

CFO Report – Municipality will be municipal debt free on September 27

Tax Collector – Report submitted

Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted

Environmental – No meeting

Recreation/Green Acres – Ice cream social at field of dreams 9/13. Fall sports starting. Senator Oroho attending September 20 meeting.

Police – Report submitted.

Emergency Services – Officer Finnegan gave August Report. Chief Snyder gave a report. Fire Department raffles - October 19 money raffle and December 10 raffle Ranger SP 570 Premium. Breakfast - October 8

DPW – All is going well. Hot box delivered. Working at field of dreams for fall sports

Land Use Board – No meeting.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Spoke on the cable franchise.

Engineer Finelli: report submitted. Spoke on Russling Road projects and Woodmont Properties. Looking at 2024 State Aid Grants. Mayor Giordano asked Elizabethtown Gas paving and Woodmont paving on Bilby Road.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 23-56

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

2023 Stormwater Assistance 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 \$15,000.00 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2023 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 2023 in the amount of \$10,000.00 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 \$10,000.00

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: 2023 Stormwater Assistance 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 23-57

FORM 1B

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 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$2,650.00
Cash Match	\$662.50
In-Kind	\$1,987.50
2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution 23-58

Title or Subject: Approval of Fire Department Member (Erin V. Mackowiak)

WHEREAS, there is a need for members on the Independence Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, Erin V. Mackowiak has made application for membership to the Fire Department and has been approved by the Membership Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that *Erin V. Mackowiak* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Resolution 23-59

Title or Subject: Approval of Fire Department Member (Joseph Mahal)

WHEREAS, there is a need for members on the Independence Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, Joseph Mahal has made application for membership to the Fire Department and has been approved by the Membership Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that *Joseph Mahal* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Mrs. Gesumaria made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-56 thru 23-59 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Stuber, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain Mr. Pennington

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Cindy Neumann spoke on dead trees from bridge to her property located on township road frontage. Mr. John Snyder asked about road mortarium. Mr. Kevin Finnegan agreed about the condition on Bilby Road.

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator