

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**December 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, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Mayor Giordano, and Dena Hrebenak. Attorney Parikh

*Absent:* None

**Swearing in Patrolman Michael Sapunarich**

**Minute Approval:** 11.14. 2023

A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to approve minutes 11.14.23 as written. Mr. Stuber seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Pennington

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Tax Collector – Report submitted

Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted

Environmental – No meeting

Recreation/Green Acres – thanked everyone for their support.

Police – Report submitted.

Emergency Services – Fire Department Chief Snyder gave a report. Squad Chief Vasquez gave a report.

DPW – Report submitted

Land Use Board – No meeting.

Clerk – Re-organization meeting January 2. Budget Meeting January 20. Wine & Whiskey Store extended hours on 12/24 and 12/31. Warren County Re-organization meeting on January 1 at noon. Farmland Preservation on the Baduini property.

A motion was made by Mayor Giordano to extended the package good stores (wine and whiskey) 12/24 and 12/31 to be open until 9 pm. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with a roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: report submitted

Engineer Finelli: report submitted.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resolution 23-67**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT  
CONSULTANT  
2024 Fund Year**

**WHEREAS, Independence Township (hereinafter “Local Unit”) has joined 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 Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the “Fund”; and**

**WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk management Consultant; and**

**WHEREAS, the “Fund” has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position; and**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body of “Local Unit”, in the County of Warren County and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Independence Township (Local Unit) hereby appoints **Otterstedt Insurance Agency, Inc** its Risk Management Consultant.
2. The Mayor (authorized representative of the public entity) and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant’s Agreement for the year **2024** in the form attached hereto.

STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND  
**RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER**

**2024 Fund year**

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  
Independence  
Township (Local Unit) that Dena Hrebenak  
(entity’s elected official or employee) is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local  
Unit for the **Fund Year 2024**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Christopher Prell  
(second elected official or employee) is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund  
Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2024; 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 23-69

### 2023 APPROPRIATION 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
Community Service – O/e	\$ 3,000.00	UCC – S&W	\$ 6,000.00
Utilities – O/E	\$ 9,000.00	Engineer – O/E	\$ 3,000.00
		Municipal Court – S&W	\$ 3,000.00

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-67 thru 23-69 as written. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

**BILLS:** A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to pay the bills as presented. 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:** Mr. Goerke- Ketcham Road thanked the recreation and DPW on the work at the field of dreams. He would like the walking path shoveled during the winter.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:25 pm – 7:57 pm**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:25 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Pennington, seconded by Mayor Giordano 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:

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. Pennington at 7:57 p.m. to return to regular session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator