

**Independence Township Committee
Regular Meeting Agenda
April 8, 2025
7:00 pm**

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

Department Reports:

Melissa Shurack, Recreation Director, stated that her report was submitted and that Spring sports are in full swing.

Presentation: Environmental Commission ANJEC grant

Consent Agenda:

25-32

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMISSION TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMISSIONS (ANJEC) 2025 OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Environmental Commission has determined that there is a need to maintain and the signage the Strawberry and Overlook trails; and,

WHEREAS, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) Grant supports the need to maintain and the signage the Strawberry and Overlook trails and,

WHEREAS, Independence Township desires to accept the grant awarded to the Environmental Commission in the amount of \$1,500.00 in order to place signage throughout the Beechwood Trail, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of Independence Township that:

1. Independence Township authorizes the \$1,500.00 acceptance of the grant to maintain and the signage the Strawberry and Overlook trails through the Environmental Commission; and
2. The funds will be used by the Environmental Commission for the aforementioned project

25-33

Title or Subject: A RESOLUTION PERMITTING EMPLOYEES TO WAIVE HEALTH BENEFIT

COVERAGE

WHEREAS, Independence Township provides health benefits coverage to its employees; and

WHEREAS, Independence Township wishes to permit employees who receive health benefits as a dependent of their spouse to waive employee coverage and receive an incentive which shall be 25% of the cost savings to the Township of Independence or \$5,000 annually, whichever amount is less, which shall be paid in quarterly installments; and

WHEREAS, Independence Township will permit an employee, who has waived coverage under the provisions of this law, to immediately resume health coverage under his or her employer's health plan in the event that dependent coverage under the spouse's plan is lost; and

WHEREAS, the decision of the municipality to allow its employees to waive coverage and the amount of the incentive to be paid cannot be subject to the collective bargaining process; and

WHEREAS, employees who participate in our health benefits plan who wish to waive coverage in order to receive an incentive must file a "Waiver/Reinstatement Form." To reinstate coverage under our current plan, an employee must complete a "Program Coverage Waiver/Reinstatement Form" along with a Group Coverage Application; and

WHEREAS, reinstatement will be effective immediately following the loss of the employee's coverage through a spouse's active health benefits coverage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, Warren County, New Jersey hereby approves the above Health Benefits Program Coverage Waiver Plan.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve the passage of the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Adoption of 2025 Budget Resolution 25-31

Mr. Stuber made a motion to open the meeting to the public for comments on the budget, which was seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Ordinance

First Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 63 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE TO ESTABLISH A “JOBS IN BLUE” PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence recognizes the need to enhance community safety and engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to provide opportunities for its law enforcement officers to supplement their income while maintaining a high level of professionalism and community interaction; and

WHEREAS, the Township believes that utilizing the skills and experience of its police officers in a structured, off-duty capacity can benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that the establishment of a "Jobs in Blue" program for off-duty police officers is a viable and beneficial approach to achieving these goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Independence, New Jersey, hereby establishes a "Jobs in Blue" program for its off-duty police officers, subject to the following guidelines and regulations:

SECTION 1. Chapter 63 of the Township Code is hereby amended to add § 63-10 as follows:

§ 63-10. Jobs in Blue Program. [Definitions.]

AUTHORIZED SERVICES or **AUTHORIZED WORK** — The police services authorized by this section.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION — An organization that has been deemed by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, and presents a certification thereof.

OFFICER — A sworn police officer employed by the Township of Independence in its Police Department.

SCHOOL DISTRICT — The Great Meadows Regional School District.

THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR — Any business, organization, association, or individual, other than the Township of Independence or the Great Meadows Regional School District, whether public or private, that enters into a contract with the Township for the services of an officer or officers to provide security, traffic control and other police-related services for the third-party contractor's business, project or function.

TOWNSHIP — The Township of Independence.

A. Authorization.

- (1) Sworn officers employed by the Township in its Police Department may be authorized by the Chief of Police to provide security, traffic control and other police-related services to third-party contractors, nonprofit organizations and the School District during times when officers are not scheduled for a tour of duty by the Police Department; provided, however, that all such work

performed and the arrangements therefor are made pursuant to this section. Special police officers may perform the services authorized by this section only when full-time officers are unavailable and when such an assignment would not otherwise interfere with a Special Police Officer's assigned duties.

- (2) Officers performing authorized services shall wear a Police-Department-issued uniform and shall use other Police Department equipment as the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee may authorize or require.
- (3) It is the express intention of this section that, to the extent permitted by law, officers who are injured while performing authorized services shall be entitled to the benefits provided by the Police and Firemen's Retirement System.

B. Program administration:

- (1) The Jobs-in-Blue program shall be administered by the Chief of Police under general oversight from the Mayor, Police Commissioner and/or Township Administrator in accordance with the parameters established herein.
- (2) The Governing body, upon consultation with the Chief, shall hire a third-party vendor to manage the Jobs-in-Blue program. The PBA shall procure the services of a third-party vendor consistent with the provisions of the N.J. Local Public Contracts Law. The third-party vendor shall charge the fees established in Subsection F below, along with a modest administrative fee for its services approved by the governing body. Said fees shall be collected by the third-party vendor, at the time of the application, and be held in a trust account pending disbursement in accordance herein.
- (3) The Chief shall upon implementation the Chief will establish a system to fairly and properly assign and disseminate the jobs to enable the Jobs-in-Blue program to be managed and administered jointly by the Township and the third-party vendor. Upon the hiring of the third-party vendor, the vendor shall execute a hold harmless agreement in the Township's favor which is acceptable to the municipal attorney. Such an agreement between the Township and the third-party vendor shall also include standards as to the third-party vendor's performance in administering the Jobs-in-Blue program, including the vendor's distribution of job assignments and fiduciary responsibilities for monies handled, collected and disbursed.
- (4) The third-party vendor shall post a bond to ensure that it will properly bill and collect payment from third-party contractors and nonprofits, and make timely payments to the Township and police officers who worked the assignments, including attestation of payroll tax and withholding payments being timely made.
- (5) The Chief shall also require the third-party vendor to keep a separate ledger for Township Jobs-in-Blue program transactions that is subject to inspection by the Township Administrator, CFO or auditor, along with forwarding monthly records of the Jobs-in-Blue service requests, officer assignments (including times and hours worked), use of Township police vehicles (by license plate or vehicle number) and vehicle job assignments, and all payroll records inclusive of mandatory federal and state withholdings, etc.

- C. Insurance. Third-party contractors and nonprofit organizations shall provide the Township with a certificate of insurance, naming the Township and the Statewide Insurance Fund as additional named insureds, and an indemnification agreement, as to the Township and the Statewide Insurance Fund. Said certificate of insurance shall indicate that the third-party contractor and nonprofit organization has sufficient workers' compensation insurance to meet the statutory requirements and general liability insurance in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000.

- D. Control of officers. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for directing and supervising officers who perform authorized work, and shall retain the discretion to manage 'jobs in blue' assignments so as not to adversely impact police operations, staffing, and/or overtime costs.
- E. Fees.
 - (1) Hourly rate: \$95 per hour together with an administrative fee that covers the actual costs regarding mandatory state and federal contributions and the third-party vendor's modest charges for administering the Jobs-in-Blue program. The hourly rate shall be \$115 per hour if the job is requested with less than 72 hours notice.
 - (2) Police vehicle: \$25 per hour/per vehicle.
 - (3) Each job shall have a mandatory minimum charge equivalent to two hours per officer requested, which shall also be the nonrefundable cancellation charge if the party requesting services cancels the job. The cancellation fee shall be payable to the police officer(s) assigned to the job.

SECTION 2. Severability. Should any section, clause, sentence, phrase or provision of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. Repealer. All prior Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 4. When Effective. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

Second Reading

ORDINANCE 2025-02

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 6.02, LOT 3/ 922-930 ROUTE 517

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-1, *et seq.*, authorizes municipalities to determine whether certain parcels of land in the municipality constitute areas in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2013, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Independence (the "Committee") adopted a resolution authorizing and directing the Township Land Use Board to conduct an investigation pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A- 6 to determine whether Block 6.02, Lot 3 located within the Township could be designated as an "area in need of redevelopment" (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, after a review of the Property and recommendations of the Township Land Use Board on July 9, 2013, the Committee adopted a resolution designating the Property as an area in need of redevelopment pursuant to of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-5 (the "Redevelopment Area"); and

WHEREAS, the Township Planner prepared a Redevelopment Plan entitled, "REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF BLOCK 602, LOT 3 922-930", (the "Redevelopment Plan") in accordance with the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 40A:12A-7; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2014, pursuant to Ordinance 2014-05, the Township Committee adopted the Redevelopment Plan for the Property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2014-05, adopted on October 9, 2014, the Township Committee designated Woodmont Independence Urban Renewal, LLC (“Woodmont”) as the redeveloper for the Property; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the Redevelopment Plan, the Township Land Use Board granted approval to Woodmont, pursuant to a Resolution adopted on September 18, 2017, to develop a 120 unit (108 market rate and 12 affordable) residential apartment complex on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Township entered into a Redevelopment Agreement with Woodmont dated January 12, 2016 pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:T2A-1 et seq.*) and a Financial Agreement dated December 6, 2016 pursuant to the Long Term Tax Exemption Law (*N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, the Township entered into a Rider to the Redevelopment Agreement dated June 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Woodmont has requested that the Township allow the conversion of the “model unit” on the Property to a unit to be occupied by a staff member, bringing the total number of residential units on the Property to 121 units; and

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

Section 1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

Section 2. The Redevelopment Plan is hereby amended to permit 121 residential units on the Property.

Section 3. If any part of this Ordinance shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereby shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

Section 4. A copy of this Ordinance and the Redevelopment Plan shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with all applicable laws.

Mr. Stuber made a motion to open the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2025-02, which was seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mr. Stuber made a motion to close the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2025-02, which was seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve the passage of Ordinance 2025-02 and requested that the results be advertised, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03
TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE BY THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 222 FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION AND TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 222 ENTITLED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND ADOPTING FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; DESIGNATING A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to open the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2025-03, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

Mr. Pennington made a motion to close the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2025-03, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve the passage of Ordinance 2025-03 and requested that the results be advertised, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

ORDINANCE TO AMEND

Chapter 215 – Fire Prevention

Article I : Uniform Fire Code

§ 215-1 **Local enforcement.**

Pursuant to Section 11 of the Uniform Fire Safety Act (P.L. 1983, c. 383),^[1] the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code shall be locally enforced in the Township of Independence.

§ 215-2 **Enforcing agency.**

The local enforcing agency for fire code services, including local amendments, fee schedules and non-life-hazard-use inspection schedules, shall be Washington Township, in the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, with which the Township of Independence enters into a shared services agreement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq. (the “Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act”).

§ 215-3 **Duties of enforcing agency.**

The local enforcement agency shall enforce the Uniform Fire Safety Act and the codes and regulations adopted under it in all buildings, structures and premises within the established boundaries of Independence Township, other than owner-occupied one- and two-family dwellings, and shall faithfully comply with the requirements of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and the Uniform Fire Code.

Article II: Non- Life Hazard Uses and Life-Hazards Uses

§ 215-4 **Non-life-hazard uses**

A. In addition to the registrations required by the Uniform Fire Code, the following non-life-hazard uses shall register with the Bureau of Fire Prevention. These uses shall be inspected once per year and shall pay an annual fee as set forth below:

Use	Annual Fee
A — Assembly Use Group	
A-1 Eating establishment under 50	\$75.00
A-2 Take-out food service (no seating)	\$75.00
A-3 House of worship not exclusively used for religious purposes	\$75.00
A-4 Recreation centers, multipurpose, etc. (fewer than 50)	\$100.00
A-5 Courtrooms, library, fraternal organizations, condominium centers (fewer than 50)	\$100.00
A-6 Senior centers (fewer than 50)	\$75.00
B — Business Use Group	
B-1 Professional use one- and two-story (up to 1,000 square feet)	\$75.00
B-2 One- and two-story (1,001 to 2,500 square feet)	\$75.00
B-4 Three-to-five story (Up to 10,000 square feet)	\$150.00

B-5 Three-to-five story (10,001 square feet or greater) \$190.00

C — Retail/Mercantile Use Group

M-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$125.00

M-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$150.00

M-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$200.00

M-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$225.00

D — Manufacturing/Factory Group

F-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$100.00

F-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$125.00

F-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$175.00

F-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$200.00

S — Storage Use Group

S-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$100.00

S-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$125.00

S-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$175.00

S-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$200.00

R — Residential Use Group

R-1 As defined in Uniform Fire Code \$100

R-2 As defined in Uniform Fire Code See E — Common Areas Use Group

R-3 As defined in Uniform Fire Code See E — Common Areas Use Group

R-4 As defined in Uniform Fire Code See E — Common Areas Use Group

U — Utilities Use Group

U-1 Under 2,500 square feet \$100.00

U-2 2,500 and over square feet \$125.00

E — Common Areas Use Group

E-1 One- and two-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$100.00

E-2 One- and two-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$100.00

E-3 One- and two-story (more than 12,000 square feet) \$125.00

E-4 Three- to five-story (less than 5,000 square feet) \$125.00

E-5 Three- to five-story (more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet) \$150.00

E-6 Three- to five-story (more than 12,000 square feet) \$200.00

F — Agricultural Use Group \$75.00

B. Uses not classified above that are subject to the Uniform Fire Code shall be classified as business uses.

C. Uses required to register with the state as life-hazard uses shall not be required to register under this section.

- D.** Township-owned buildings, buildings owned and occupied by municipal fire companies and/or rescue squads, buildings owned and occupied by nonprofit religious organizations that are used solely for religious purposes and buildings owned and occupied by nonprofit organizations used solely for nonprofit purposes shall be exempt from inspection fees.
- E.** All residential uses except R-1 Uses shall be inspected in the common areas only and the fees established for the Common Areas Use Group shall apply.
- F.** Failure to pay registration fee shall result in a penalty of double the outstanding registration fee, in addition to the initial registration fee.

Article III – Certificate of smoke detector and carbon monoxide alarm and Portable Fire Extinguisher compliance (CSDCMACPFE)

215-5 Certificate of Smoke Alarm, Carbon Monoxide Alarm and Portable Fire Extinguisher compliance (CSACMACPFE)

- A.** Before any existing single family, two family or multifamily dwelling, on or after the effective date of this ordinance, is sold, leased or otherwise made subject to a change of occupancy for residential purposes, the owner shall obtain a certificate of smoke alarm, monoxide alarm and portable fire extinguisher compliance. No dwelling unit shall change occupancy until one or more smoke alarms (or other approved fire alarm system) are installed for each dwelling unit subject to changing of occupancy in accordance with all the requirements of the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code and the Uniform Fire Code.
- B.** Certificate of smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm compliance (CSACMACPFE) certificate:
 - (1) Requests for a CSACMACPFE received more than 10 business days prior to the change of occupant: \$40;
 - (2) Requests for a CSACMACPFE received four to 10 business days prior to the change of occupant: \$70;
 - (3) Requests for a CSACMACPFE received fewer than four business days prior to the change of occupant: \$125.
 - (4) The fee for each additional inspection after failure(s) of Subsection B(1), (2), or (3) above shall be the same as the fee for the initial inspection.
- C.** In addition to requirements established by the Uniform Fire Code N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.3 and N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.19, a portable fire extinguisher shall be installed in accordance with the following:
 - 1. The extinguisher shall be within 10 feet of the kitchen and located in the path of egress;
 - 2. The extinguisher shall be readily accessible and not obstructed from view;
 - 3. The extinguisher shall be mounted using the manufacturer's hanging bracket so the operating instructions are clearly visible;
 - 4. The extinguisher shall be an approved listed and labeled type with a minimum rating of 2A-10B:C and no more than 10 pounds;
 - 5. The owner's manual or written operation instructions shall be provided during the inspection and left for the new occupant;

6. The extinguisher shall be serviced and tagged by a certified Division of Fire Safety contractor within the past 12 months or the seller must have a receipt for a recently purchased extinguisher; and
 7. The top of the extinguisher shall not be more than five feet above the floor.
 8. Exception: Portable fire extinguishers shall not be required for seasonal summer units. For purposes of applying this exception, "seasonal summer unit" shall mean a dwelling unit rented for a term of not more than 125 consecutive days for residential purposes by a person having a permanent residence elsewhere, but shall not include use or rental of living quarters by migrant, temporary, or seasonal workers in connection with any work or place where work is being performed.
- D. Failure to obtain a Certificate of smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm, portable fire extinguisher compliance certificate(CSACMACPFE) in accordance to section A, shall result in a penalty of \$250.

§ 215-6 **Organization. – Reserved**

§ 215-7 **Appointments; term of office; removal. – Reserved**

§ 215-8 **Appeals.**

Pursuant to Sections 15 and 17 of the Uniform Fire Safety Act,^[1] any person aggrieved by any order of the local enforcement agency shall have the right to appeal to the Construction Board of Appeals of Warren County.

§ 215-9 **Permit fees.**

- A. All state permit fees and Fire Code status fees shall be as established by the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70-1.1 et seq., except for the following, as permitted by N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(f):
- B. Failure to pay permit application fee shall result in a penalty of double the outstanding permit fee, in addition to the initial fee.

Article IV Fire Lanes

§ 215-10 **Designation.**

The Local Enforcing Agency or the Independence Police Chief shall designate fire lanes on private property to which the public is invited or which is devoted to public use, if it is necessary to provide safety for the public or to provide proper access for Fire Department operations in the event of an emergency.

§ 215-11 **Notification.**

Whenever a determination has been made for the fire lane designation pursuant to § 10 above, the Local Enforcing Agency shall notify the owner of the property in writing, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal notification, by hand delivering such notice, specifically describing the area designated and the reason(s) for making the designation.

§ 215-12 **Marking.**

The marking of fire lanes shall be the responsibility of and at the expense of the property owner and shall be accomplished within 30 days of the receipt of the notification.

§ 215-13 **Obstruction prohibited.**

It shall be a violation of this article for any person, for any reason, to park a motor vehicle in or otherwise to obstruct a fire lane.

§ 215-14 **Enforcement.**

It shall be the duty of the Independence Township Police Department or Local Enforcing Agency to enforce this article.

§ 215-15 **Violations and penalties.**

- A. For violation of any provision of this article, the penalty, upon conviction, shall be a minimum fine of \$100 and a maximum penalty of one or more of the following: a fine not exceeding \$2,000, imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a period of community service not exceeding 90 days. Except as otherwise provided, each and every day in which a violation of any provision of this article exists shall constitute a separate violation.
- B. For violations of any provision of article I, II, and II, which continue to exist, shall constitute a separate violation each day until the violation is abated.

Mr. Stuber made a motion to open the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2025-04, which was seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Mr. Stuber made a motion to close the floor for public comment on Ordinance 2025-04, which was seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve the passage of Ordinance 2025-04 and requested that the results be advertised, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

Bill List

Mr. Stuber made a motion to approve the Bill list as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Public Comment:

Stacy Smith, Fern Drive, asked what information the Township Committee has in reference to the School Budget.

Executive Session:

Mr. Pennington made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:38 to discuss personnel issues in the Police Department with staffing and the DPW with hiring, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to return to regular session at 8:17 pm, which was seconded by Mr. Stuber.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria and carried by all.