

**Independence Township Committee  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
September 9, 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

**Minutes**

June 19, 2025  
August 12, 2025

Mrs. Gesumaria made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meetings on June 19, and August 12, which was seconded by Mr. Stuber.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve 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

**Department Reports:**

Chief Prell reported that they are back up to full staff and that the recruits are doing well in the academy.

Joseph King, CPWM, reported that everything is going well both of the new people have started, the department has removed 8 trees and used 6 tons of blacktop for repairs to various roads.

Mr. Pennington reported that the bingo has been going well and that they will be moving it into the bays up until it gets colder. Breakfast will start again in October.

**Consent Agenda:**

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTION NO. 25-57**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO TAKE THE  
NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO CANCEL PROPERTY TAXES**

**ON BLOCK 6.02, LOT 185, 182 KEMPER COURT, A 100 PERCENT TOTALLY  
AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED  
UNITED STATES VETERAN**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 54:4-3.30 provides, in pertinent part, that the dwelling house and the lot whereas the same is erected of any citizen or resident of this State, now or hereafter honorable discharged from active service in time of war from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been or shall be declared by the United States Veterans Administration to be 100 percent permanently disabled may make claim for exemption from real estate taxation of such person's real and personal property; and

**WHEREAS**, Jaime Esquilin, of 182 Kemper Court in the Township of Independence has submitted an application for real estate tax exemption as a 100 percent permanently and totally disabled veteran and has submitted documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs office in Washington, DC confirming said 100 percent permanent and total disability as of May 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Jaime Esquilin aforementioned real estate has been deemed totally exempt as of May 20, 2025, the date of purchase of his residence in the Township of Independence, as a result of the foregoing by the Township of Independence Tax Assessor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector, Toni Theesfeld, has requested that the necessary administrative action be taken to cancel the taxes on this property from May 30, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$627.75 to the Township of Independence from May 30, 2025 through the calendar year 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the request was duly considered by the Township Committee as its regular meeting held on September 9, 2025 at which time the Township Committee deemed the recommendation to be proper and justified;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this 9th of September, 2025 that the request of the Tax Collector, Toni Theesfeld, has been granted to make the necessary administrative action to cancel the taxes on this property from May 20, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$3,929.71 to the Township of Independence for calendar year 2025, for Jaime Esquilin, a 100 percent totally and permanently disabled veteran; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Tax Collector is hereby authorized to process the cancellation in said amount following receipt of a true copy of this resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE**

*Warren County, New Jersey*

No. 25- 58

Date of Adoption: September 9, 2025

Title or Subject: APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

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

**Julius Somogyi-Sergeant, at a rate of \$ 117,041.00 per annum effective September 9, 2025.**

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve 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

**Bill List**

**Mr. Stuber made a motion to approve the bill list s presented, 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 adjourn at 7:20 pm, which was seconded Mrs. Gesumaria and carried by all.**