

**Independence Township Committee
Regular Meeting Agenda
October 14, 2025
7:00 pm**

Call to Order, Flag Salute, Open Public Meetings Act

Roll Call: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Stuber, Mayor Giordano

Minutes

Mr Pennington made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 9, 2025, which was seconded by Mr. Stuber.

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Stuber, Mayor Giordano

Nays; None

Absent: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey

Abstain: None

Mrs. Kelsey arrived at 7:07.

Department Reports:

Chief Prell reviewed his report.

Mrs. Shurack reviewed the recreation report.

Mr. King, reported that the DPW attended PEOSHA training, met with Donna Becker to review Ryan road milling and paving, and that all else is going well.

Consent Agenda:

25-59

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY/STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF RYAN ROAD, SECTION 2

Be it resolved, that on October 14, 2025 the Township Committee of the Township of Independence adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Ryan Road, Section 2, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of \$179,046.00

Be it further resolved that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$94,621.00. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Road Safety Systems, LLC.

25-60

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

WARREN COUNTY/STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF RYAN ROAD, SECTION 2

Be it resolved, that on October 14, 2025 the Township Committee of the Township of Independence adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Ryan Road, Section 2, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of \$179,046.00

Be it further resolved that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$115,198.80. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Tilcon NY, Inc.

25-61

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

WARREN COUNTY/STATE OF NEW JERSEY

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF RYAN ROAD, SECTION 2

Be it resolved, that on October 14, 2025 the Township Committee of the Township of Independence adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Ryan Road, Section 2, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of \$179,046.00

Be it further resolved that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$1,689.70. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Dan Swayze & Son, Inc.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

Warren County, New Jersey

No. 25-62

Date of Adoption: October 14, 2025

Title: Raffle

WHEREAS, Project Graduation of Hackettstown is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-32289) and,

WHEREAS, they have submitted applications for a Off Site Raffle to be held on January 4, 2026 and all fees have been paid,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 2025-06 (Raffle) be issued to Project Graduation of Hackettstown.

25-63

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP
REQUESTING WARREN COUNTY TO CONDUCT A TRAFFIC STUDY AND IMPLEMENT A
SPEED LIMIT RESTRICTION ROUTE 613 (ALPHANO ROAD)**

WHEREAS, the Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey, is committed to preserving the safety, quality of life, and infrastructure for its residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, recent decisions by the Board of County Commissioners of Warren County, adopted by resolution 658-23, which established a weight limit of 13 tons for through traffic on County Route 517, Country Route 519, and County Route 521 in Warren County, have resulted in a substantial and measurable increase in heavy truck traffic on County Roads within Independence Township, specifically Route 613 (Alphano Road); and

WHEREAS, the impacted roads were not designed to accommodate the volume and weight of this redirected traffic, creating safety hazards, increasing noise and emissions, and impacting the quality of life of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the impacted roads traverse through a school zone, the Municipal Complex and Fire Department, parks and playgrounds, and preserved open space; and

WHEREAS, the Independence Township has received numerous complaints and concerns from residents regarding the negative impacts of the increased traffic volume and heavy vehicle use; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive traffic study is necessary to assess the full impact and determine appropriate measures to mitigate further deterioration and ensure public safety, including but not limited to the consideration of further weight limit restrictions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Independence Township, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Township formally requests that the Board of County Commissioners of Warren County initiate a traffic study focusing on affected roads within the Independence Township;
2. The scope of the study shall include, but not be limited to: traffic volume, commercial vehicle frequency, safety concerns, and the speed limit reduction;
3. The Township further requests Warren County take immediate interim steps, where appropriate, to protect Independence residents, including signage, enforcement assistance, and temporary speed limit reduction;
4. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners and any other relevant County or State agency.

This resolution shall take effect as provided by law.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

RESOLUTION # 2025 - 64

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A STIPEND TO CHIEF CHRISTOPHER PRELL

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence has entered an agreement with the Chief for coverage of the department due to injuries; and

WHEREAS, Chief Christopher Prell shall receive a one time stipend of \$7,225 for the extra hours that he worked to ensure coverage of the department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the Township Committee authorizes payment of stipend to Chief Christopher Prell as set forth above.

This Resolution will take effect immediately.

**TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-65**

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township has a need for an animal control officer; and

WHEREAS, the Township received a proposal from Community Animal Control, LLC, to provide animal control services on behalf of the Township; and

WHEREAS, this contract is not subject to public bidding pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A .40A:11-1 et seq. because it does not exceed the current bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, a contract (the “Contract”) for animal control services with Community Animal Control, LLC for a term beginning November 1, 2025 until December 31, 2025.

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

1. The Township Committee hereby appoints Community Animal Control, LLC as the Township Animal Control Officer authorized to enforce Chapter 126 of *the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Independence*.
2. The Township Committee hereby memorializes, ratifies and confirms the award of a contract for animal control services within the Township to Community Animal Control, LLC for a term commencing on November 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025 for a fee of \$7,020.00 to be paid in monthly installments of \$585.00 as set forth in the Contract, a copy of which is annexed hereto.
3. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification shall be placed on file with this Resolution.
4. The Chief Financial Officer certifies that funds to pay for this Contract at a maximum dollar amount of Seven Thousand Twenty Dollars (\$7,020) Dollars.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Stuber.

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Stuber, Mrs. Kesley, Mayor Giordano

Nays; None

Absent: Mrs. Gesumaria

Abstain: None

Bill List

Mr. Stuber made a motion to approve the bill list as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Kelsey.

Ayes: Mr. Pennington, Mr. Stuber, Mrs. Kesley, Mayor Giordano

Nays; None

Absent: Mrs. Gesumaria

Abstain: None

Public Comment:

Mayor Giordano opened the floor for public comment; seeing none the public comment period was closed.

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to adjourn at 7:11pm, which was carried by all.