

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, 286 Route 46, Great Meadows, NJ,**  
**January 27, 2018 9:00AM**

The Budget Meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Giordano at 9:00am. Mayor Giordano made 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 Star Gazette 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:**

The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Mayor Robert Giordano, Deputy Mayor Glenn Cogle, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey (arrived 9:10am) and Mr. Pennington. Also present Deborah Hrebenak, Municipal Clerk/Administrator, Kevin Lifer, CFO, Departments Heads, First Aid Squad Captain and Fire Chief.

**Resolution 18-21A: Appointment Tax Collector-Marie Kenia**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENT**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that the following appointment is hereby made:

**Marie Kenia-Certified Tax Collector P/T position, rate of \$ 35.00 per hour effective January 27, 2018.**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Resolutions 18-21A as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano  
Nays: None recorded  
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

**Resolution 18-22: Raffle Tricky Tray-Thomas R Kitchen Jr. Memorial Fund**

**Title or Subject: Raffle Tricky Tray**

**WHEREAS, Thomas R. Kitchen Jr. Memorial Fund** is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (181-5-41307) and,

**WHEREAS,** they have submitted an application for a Raffle to be held on June 3, 2018, and all fees have been paid,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 445 is issued to Thomas R Kitchen Jr. Memorial Fund

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Resolutions 18-22 as written. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano  
Nays: None recorded  
Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

The following Resolution was approved at 9:03 a.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cogle and followed by a unanimous roll call.

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, this public body believes such circumstances presently exist.

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

Personnel

The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

It is anticipated now that the above-stated matter will be made public when deemed appropriate.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to come out of Executive Session at 9:10a.m. and enter regular session. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Mayor Giordano stated no action taken.

**Resolution 18-22A: Appointment DPW Supervisor-Ernest Kinney**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENT**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that the following appointment is hereby made:

**Ernest Kinney-DPW Supervisor position, rate of \$ 31.25 per hour with OT effective January 1, 2018.**

A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adopt Resolutions 18-22A as written.

Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

**Budget:**

CFO, Kevin Lifer presented the preliminary budget, each Department Head discussed their budgets including capital projects. Mayor Giordano requested to stay under the 1cent tax increase for the municipality.

A motion was made by Mr. Norton to approve the Verizon equipment for the DPW. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Discussion on the employment of a fourth (4) person for the DPW, requirements are applicants have a CDL, Class B, Endorsement Air Brakes. Position open to residents only, the following vote was taken;

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: Mr. Norton

Position to be advertised to Independence Residents first, if position is not filled, position opened to applicants outside of Township.

Kevin Lifer recommended this position be filled on November 1, 2018.

A motion was made by Mayor Giordano approving DPW Capital as requested. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to reduce the Recreation budget by \$ 4,000.00. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Fire Chief Shawn Snyder stated they are in need of new Fire Truck and gear.

A motion was made by Mayor Giordano approving the capital request of three (3) sets of gear for the Fire Dept. Deputy Mayor Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Cogle, and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Pennington

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle approving the Police Department budget and capital requests including e-ticket machine and car cameras. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Fire Aid Squad Captain Nick Vazquez and Treasurer Pati Jarvis presented the budget. They gave projections for a \$ 10,000 roof in 2019 and new transportation ambulance in 2020 costing \$ 240,000.00.

Other capital projects include a roof for the Senior Center building.

Committee agreed with the 2% increase for the employees.

Increase of 2 % plus \$ 1.00 per hour given to the following: Kait Ouverson, Susan Snyder and Jackie Mowbray.

**Public Comment:**

Mrs. Cullen complimented the committee concerning the budget then discussed Great Meadows Regional School issues.

**Adjournment:**

Motion made by Mayor Giordano seconded by Mrs. Kelsey the meeting adjourned at 12:40p.m. no further business before them.

Ayes: Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Deputy Mayor Cogle, Michael Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Clerk/Administrator