

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
July 9, 2019 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 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:

Present: Mayor Robert Giordano, Bonnie Kelsey, Mike Pennington, Mr. Cogle, Tim Norton and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Michael Finelli.

Absent: none

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 19-69: Cancellation of Stale Dated Checks

WHEREAS, there exists outstanding checks for the current fund which have been outstanding for over one year; and

WHEREAS, the checks have been investigated and have been determined to have been lost or otherwise destroyed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, that the following checks be cancelled and the expenditures be deposited into the proper fund:

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
22884	10/11/2012	\$ 50.00
22886	10/11/2012	\$ 680.53
23758	01/14/2014	\$ 250.00
23847	02/12/2014	\$ 250.00
23941	03/12/2014	\$ 57.00
24952	06/10/2015	\$ 200.00
11262	Unknown	<u>\$ 626.00</u>
	Total	\$ 2,113.53

Deputy Mayor Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-69 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – nothing to report

Treasurer – Posted

Recreation/Green Acres –Report were submitted. Discussion on lining of the fields, pickle ball court and food trucks at the field of dreams. Recreation Committee will send the Township Committee their recommendation.

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – report was submitted

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: No workshop meeting in August. Awaiting on tax rate.

Land Use Board – No meeting in July.

Seniors –Seniors attending on Thursday.

Board of Education – report was submitted

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Cannabis- new law being reviewed

Engineer Finelli: DEP Grant on Mt. Rascal Road update. Senior Center Grant update. Johnson Road update. 2020 State Aid DOT update. Update on property on Russling Road.

Old Business:

Ordinance 2019-05 Second Reading/Public Hearing AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXCHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF ROADWAYS IN INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF WARREN

Mr. Pennington made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Cogle

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

There was one comment, a motion was made by Mr. Cogle to close the public hearing. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adopt Ordinance 2019-05 as written. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Cogle

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Wendy Cirinelli – 3 Old Vienna Road letter regarding the road. She lives on a state road.

New Business:

Thank you from Dr Phil Linfante

Larry Hafner-58 Barkers Mill Road (Construction Dept/Tax Collector)

Donation Field of Dreams Disc Golf Club-\$100.00

Warren County Annual County Auction-September 7, 2019

Liberty Square-Attorney John Horan and Property Owner Art Robinson

First Reading/Introduction: Ordinance 2019-06

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
CAPITAL PURCHASES BY THE TOWNSHIP OF
INDEPENDENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY,
APPROPRIATING NOT IN EXCESS OF \$24,000 THEREFOR FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES OF THE TOWNSHIP**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW
JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 2 of this ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$24,000 (or such lesser amount as may be determined by the Administrator or the Chief Financial Officer upon determination of the actual cost of the improvement or purpose described in Section 2 below) from the moneys available in various sources of the Township.

Section 2. The improvements hereby authorized and purpose for which said appropriation is made is the acquisition, by purchase, of police equipment, including but not limited to a live scan system, by the Township for use by the Independence Police Department, (estimated cost \$24,000 to be funded from the Capital Improvement Fund [\$6,000] and the Capital Outlay Fund –Police Equipment [\$18,000]).

Section 3. The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved, by the Director, Division of Local Government Services are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect after publication after final adoption, as provided by law.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adopt Ordinance 2019-06 for First Reading. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded.

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Second reading and public hearing will be on August 14, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Neumann asked about the pickleball court and historical buildings in the township.

BILLS: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:00 pm – 9:19 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 9:00 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion Mr. Norton, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cogle 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:

Litigation/Personnel

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 Deputy Mayor Cogle at 9:19 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey followed by a roll call of all ayes.

Mayor Giordano stated that the executive session was to discuss personnel/litigation and no action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk