

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
October 8, 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 Deputy Mayor Cogle.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: none

Minutes 7.09.19, 8.13.19, and 9.16.19

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve 7.09.19, 8.13.19, and 9.16.19 minutes as written. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 19-77

Emergency Resolution per NJS 40A:4-48

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to an unexpected legal matter for the Township and, no adequate provision was made in the 2019 budget for the aforesaid purpose, and NJS 40A:4-46 provides for the creation on an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created, including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$80,000.00 and three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2019 is \$141,950.74, and

WHEREAS, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations does not exceed three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren State of New Jersey (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJS 40A:4-48:

1. An emergency appropriation is here by made for Legal Expense – Other Expense in the amount of \$80,000.00.
2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2020 budget, and is requested to be excluded from CAPS, pursuant to NJS 40A:4-53c(1).
3. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolutions 19-77 as written. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: none recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – New bench in hall from the recycling of plastic

Treasurer – Report submitted

Recreation/Green Acres – Report submitted. Mr. Patton spoke on behalf of the recreation committee. Lining of the field was discussed. Pickle ball courts was also discussed.

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – Fire Department Clyde Snyder gave a report. Money Raffle October 17 and anniversary open house October 27. Fire Department purchase a used fire truck.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk – Toy and Food Drive December 3 workshop meeting cancelled.

Election November 5 Looking for poll worker. Moving municipal court to our municipal building.

Land Use Board – Mr. Cogle advised the approved Pio Costa inquiry and 206 Route 46 application.

Seniors – Meeting on Thursday.

Board of Education – Mr. Norton spoke on emergency system. State looking at regionalization.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: report submitted. Wireless edge meeting discussed.

Engineer Finelli: Report Submitted. Senior Center project out to bid- November 5. Johnson Road project – final paperwork completed. Quick turnaround and big thank you to DPW.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting with Senator Oroho, Assemblyman Space, and Assemblyman Wirths
October 22, 2019 @ 10:30 Blirstown Municipal Building

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Fuela thanked the DPW for there work on Johnson Road and Animal Control for helping with a bat removal. Request a proclamation for Julius Zaporozec Vietnam veteran.

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Addendum to Bill List: Gebhardt & Kiefer PC \$7,986.52

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adopt addendum as presented. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Giordano, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Cogle, and Mr. Pennington,
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:00 pm – 8:15 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 8:00 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Deputy Mayor Cogle, seconded by Mr. Norton 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 Mr. Norton at 8:15 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 litigation. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 8:17p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Giordano, Mr. Cogle, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Kelsey, and Mr. Pennington
Nays: None recorded
Abstain: None recorded
Motion carries with five (5) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk/Administrator