

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
January 14, 2020 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 Deputy Mayor Glenn Cougle 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 Cougle.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Deputy Mayor Cougle, Bonnie Kelsey, Mike Pennington, Tim Norton and Debi Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Joseph Modzelewski.

Absent: Mayor Robert Giordano

William Miller property owner of Block 21/Lot 52 spoke to the committee about them buying the property next to the municipal building for \$189,000.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 20-20

EXEMPT PROPERTIES

WHEREAS, certain residents who are a disabled vet or serviceperson are entitled to Exempt Status and the taxes now Exempt.

WHEREAS, the exempt status of these properties make it necessary to cancel all or a portion of taxes and refund any payments made

WHEREAS, the total of 2020 taxes to be cancelled is \$4,561.20.

WHEREAS, the total 2019 taxes to be refunded is \$2,500.05.

ASSESSED TO	PROPERTY LOCATION	BLOCK/LOT	AMOUNT
David A. White	74 Petersburg Rd	9/47.01	\$2,500.05

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel 2020 Taxes Receivable for the amount of \$4,561.20.

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to approve Resolutions 20-20 as written. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cougle, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington, and Mr. Norton

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Resolution 20-21

Title or Subject: Approval of Fire Department Member (Joseph King)

WHEREAS, there is a need for members on the Independence Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas, Joseph King has made application for membership to the Fire Department and has been approved by the Membership Committee; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that *Joseph King* is hereby approved as a member of the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Norton made a motion to approve Resolutions 20-21 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Motion carries with three (3) affirmative votes

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector - Posted

Construction/Zoning – Reports were submitted.

Environmental – Collection of plastic bags. Shredding event in May

Treasurer – Budget meeting on January 25th

Recreation/Green Acres – Minutes submitted. Mike Palko spoke about basketball.

Registration for spring sport open.

Police – Report has been submitted.

Emergency Services – Reports submitted.

DPW – Report was submitted.

Municipal Clerk: Dog licenses are being issued. Working on budget.

Land Use Board – Mr. Cullen spoke regarding the meeting on Jan 13, 2020

Seniors – Meeting on Thursday.

Board of Education – Mr. Smith gave a report.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted. Domestic Violence training in March.

Engineer Modzelewski: Report submitted. Re-bid the Senior Center roof repairs.

Mr. Norton made a motion to start the re-bid the senior center project. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mr. Norton made a motion to authorize Finelli Consulting to review the option for Asbury Road. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to sign the 5-year lease post office. Mr. Norton seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mr. Norton made a motion to start the re-bid the senior center project. Mrs. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

Mr. Norton made a motion to authorize signing of the Tolling Agreement from Wireless Edge. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Cogle spoke about the insurance policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to open public comment. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Mr. Cullen asked about the increase of the post office contract.

Mrs. Neumann asked about the school sprinkler system and the handicap parking at the municipal building.

Mrs. Smith asked about the property that is for sale by Mr. Miller and how would the town pay for it.

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Norton to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Motion carries with four (4) affirmative votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR
Municipal Clerk