

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

**Workshop Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ,
May 5, 2020 7:00 PM via Zoom**

This is a Workshop meeting of the Township Committee of Independence Township, Warren County, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Giordano at 7:02 pm 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 NJ Herald 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, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Cogle, Mr. Pennington, and Deborah Hrebenak.

Absent: Mr. Norton

RESOLUTION 20-44

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, INSTITUTING A GRACE PERIOD CONCLUDING ON JUNE 1, 2020 FOR THE PAYMENT OF SECOND- QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey issued Executive Order 103 on March 9, 2020, declaring a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, said Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency continue to exist; and

WHEREAS, property taxpayers may be suffering from financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, loss or drop of income or unexpected expenses due to necessary health care; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), the Township has instituted a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for the second-quarter property taxes, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 130 (2020) was issued on April 28, 2020, which authorized municipalities to establish a grace period extension no later than June 1, 2020 for payment of second-quarter property taxes; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the governing body to adopt a resolution instituting a grace period of June 1, 2020 for the payment of second-quarter property taxes, to assist the property taxpayers of the Township of Independence; and

WHEREAS, any delinquency in payment beyond June 1, 2020 will still result in the accrual of interest as of May 2, 2020.

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

1. That the governing body does hereby institute a grace period of June 1, 2020 for the
the
payment of second-quarter property taxes for properties in the Township, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 130 (2020).
2. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the
Municipal Clerk to the
Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs within three (3) business days of the adoption of this Resolution.
3. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector, Chief Financial Officer, and the Township Administrator.

RESOLUTION 20-45

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence wished to apply for funding of approximately \$ 30, 000.00 with a match of \$ 124,569.13 for an approximate project total cost of \$154,569.13 for a project under the State of New Jersey Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, the Independence Township Committee has reviewed the accompanying application and has approved said request, and

WHEREAS, the project is a joint effort between the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Township of Independence for the purpose described in the application;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Independence Township Committee that

1. As a matter of public policy, the Township of Independence wished to participate to the fullest extent possible with the Department of Law and Public Safety and does accept grant number 20-2112 for the period 8.11.19 to 8.10.20
2. The Attorney General will receive funds on behalf of the applicant.

3. The Division of Criminal Justice shall be responsible for the receipt and review of the applications for said funds.
4. The Division of Criminal Justice shall initiate allocations to each applicant as authorized.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolution 20-44 thru 20-45 as written. Mr. Cogle seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

RESOLUTION 20-46

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL CONFLICT COUNSEL

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the performance of legal services for the Township due to a matter which has presented a conflict for existing counsel, Leslie A. Parikh, Esq. regarding a matter before the Construction Board of Appeals currently scheduled for May 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, funds are, or will be made, available for this purpose to be certified by the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 *et seq.*) authorizes the hiring of an attorney without competitive bidding providing that the Resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bidding and the contract itself be made available for public inspection.

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

1. Frank Whittlesey, Esq. is hereby appointed to serve as special conflict counsel for the Township of Independence regarding a matter before the Construction Board of Appeals, currently scheduled for May 12, 2020.
2. The Mayor and Committee shall enter into a mutually agreeable written compensation agreement with said Attorney at an hourly rate of \$165.00.
3. This Agreement is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" under the provision of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve Resolution 20-46 as written. Mrs., Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Public Comment: none

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Hrebenak, RMC
Clerk/Administrator