

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
December 14, 2021 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 Herald Times 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: Mr. Cogle, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mayor Giordano, Mr. Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Dena Hrebenak, and Mike Finelli

Absent: None

Minute Approval: 11.09.2021

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to approve minutes 11.09.21 as written. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 21-68 Municipal Alliance

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Township Council of the Township of Independence County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Great Meadows Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2023 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$1,611.00
Cash Match	\$402.75
In-Kind	\$1,208.25
2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution 21-69

APPROPRIATIONS TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, there appears to be insufficient funds in the below listed account(s) to meet the demands thereon for the balance of the current year, and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a surplus in the below listed account(s) over and above the amount deemed necessary for the balance of the current year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence that, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-58, part of the surplus in the account(s) heretofore mentioned be and same are hereby authorized as transfers to the account(s) mentioned as being insufficient, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Finance Officer is hereby directed to make the following transfers:

FROM	AMOUNT	TO	AMOUNT
Group Insurance O/E	\$ 1,000.00	Animal Control O/E	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00	TOTAL	\$ 1,000.00

Mr. Cogle made a motion to approve Resolutions 21-68 thru 21-69 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Tax Collector – Report submitted via email.
- Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.
- Environmental – nothing to report
- Treasurer – Reports submitted. Working on 2022 budget
- Recreation/Green Acres – Suspended Basketball at GMRSD.
- Police – Report submitted via email.
- Emergency Services – Squad gave a report of calls
- DPW – Asbury Road done. Salt shed is full.
- Municipal Clerk: Re-organization meeting on January 4.
- Land Use Board – Omis Coffee was reviewed.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Engineer Finelli: Mr. Finelli spoke on the DOT 2022 Russling Road Section 2 Grant project, Woodmont project and Asbury Road project.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Fuela thanks everyone for everything

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

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:42 pm – 8:25 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 7:42 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Cogle, seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria 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:

Personnel Matter

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. Cogle at 8:25 p.m. to exit the executive session, seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria followed by a roll call of all ayes

Mayor Giordano stated that Personnel Matter issues were discussed and no action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Cogle to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC/CMR