

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
August 9, 2022 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: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey, Mayor Giordano, Mr. Pennington, and Dena Hrebenak, RMC. Also present Mike Finelli, Engineer.

Absent: Mr. Cogle

Minute Approval: 7.12.22

A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to approve minutes 7.12.22 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Kelsey, Mrs. Gesumaria and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Pennington

Minute Approval: 8.2.22

A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to approve minutes 8.2.22 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 22-51

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL
PROSECUTOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE
REMAINDER OF THE YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A 40A: 11-1 et seq., requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, such Professional Services are necessary and are required by the Township of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the appointed Municipal Prosecutor has withdrawn from such position and the Township has determined that Steven M. Siegel, Esq. has the ability and expertise to perform the legal services required by the Township for the position of Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are funds available for this contract, which certification is annexed hereto; and

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

1. That Steven M. Siegel, is hereby appointed as Municipal Prosecutor for the Township of Independence for a term commencing immediately and ending December 31, 2022.

2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and the Township Clerk to attest to, respectively, an agreement with Steven M. Siegel, Esq. in accordance with the provisions of this resolution.

3. That a copy of the written determination of value by the Township Administrator shall be placed on file with this resolution.

4. That a certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Township Clerk to the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution 22-52

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION TO NJDCA FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FIREFIGHTER GRANT 2022

Whereas, the Township of Independence desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$ 75,000 to carry out a project to \$75,000 (dollar amount of request) to provide necessary equipment for safety of the fireman while protecting the Township residents within the Township to the Independence Township Fire Department.

Be it therefore RESOLVED, 1) that the Township of Independence does hereby authorize the application for such a grant; and, 2) recognizes and accepts that the Department may offer a lesser or greater amount and therefore, upon receipt of the grant agreement from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, does further authorize the execution of any such grant agreement; and also, upon receipt of the fully executed agreement from the Department, does further authorize the expenditure of funds pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Independence Township and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the persons whose names, titles, and signatures appear below are authorized to sign the application, and that they or their successors in said titles are authorized to sign the agreement, and any other documents necessary in connection therewith:

Resolution 22-53

AUTHORIZING INDEPENDENCE FIRST AID SQUAD TO SOLICIT FUNDS IN THE ROADWAYS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2022-05 permits application to be made to the Township of Independence by charitable organizations to solicit funds in the roadway of the Township of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Independence First Aid Squad has submitted an application to the Municipal Clerk as required per said ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the dates and times of the charitable solicitation are listed within the written application submitted by the Independence First Aid Squad and included on this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police of the Township of Independence has reviewed the application of the Independence First Aid Squad and has determined that there is no public safety reason for the Township of Independence to deny this application; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee, of the Township of Independence, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby grants permission for the Independence First Aid Squad to solicit funds on the roadways of Independence Township on the dates as set forth below.

8/12/2022, 8/14/2022, 8/26/2022, 8/28/2022, 9/9/2022, 9/10/2022, 9/24/2022, 9/25/2022

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to approve Resolutions 22-51 thru 22-53 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington (abstain 22-52) and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mr. Pennington (22-52)

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

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted via email. Tax billed mailed out July 28.
Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.
Environmental – Nothing to report
Treasurer – Report posted
Recreation/Green Acres – Spoke on Men’s Basketball. Ice Cream Social on August 11
Police – Report submitted via email
Emergency Services –nothing to report.
DPW – DPW Supervisor gave a report.
Municipal Clerk: Tax bills mail out July 28, 2022 Due date August 23, 2022
Land Use Board – NJDCP discussed

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: report submitted

Engineer Finelli: Discussed 2023 NJDOT Grants submitted and Ryan Road/Catswamp Road reconfiguration.

Mr. Pennington made a motion for Finelli Consulting to send a letter to the Warren County for the reconfiguration of Ryan and Catswamp Roads as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Neumann – electric issues with JCP&L; Mr. Cornine – S curve on Barkers Mill Road; Ms. Hill – thanked the first aid squad and Patrolman Kinney and Patrolman Bernard; Mr. Snyder – inquired about the ordinance on shooting in the backyard; Mr. Aiello – why did the police not respond to a call.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator