

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
November 1, 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. Kelsey, Mayor Giordano, Mr. Pennington, and Dena Hrebenak, RMC. Also, Leslie Parikh, Attorney. And Mike Finelli, Engineer

Absent: Mrs. Gesumaria

CONSENT AGENDA:

Nothing

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted via email.

Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.

Environmental – Nothing to report

Treasurer – Nothing to report.

Recreation/Green Acres – everything is good.

Police – Report submitted. Attend trunk or treat at GMRS

Emergency Services – Chief Vasquez gave a report. Fire Department breakfast 11/13

DPW – DPW Supervisor gave a report.

Municipal Clerk: nothing to report

Land Use Board – Mr. Fuela reported on the land use board meeting.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: report submitted. One item for executive session.

Engineer Finelli: Report submitted. Spoke on Floodplain Ordinance. Sending draft Floodplain Ordinance to the State of New Jersey. Spoke on Ryan Road

Resolution 22-62

AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES INCLUDING SMOKE DETECTOR AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR INSPECTIONS TO THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence, County of Warren and the Township of Washington, County of Morris, desire to renew a shared services agreement for the provision by Washington Township of Fire Prevention Office services to Independence Township; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are permitted to enter into such agreements pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65 -1 et seq.

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

That the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to renew the Shared Services Agreement between the Township of Independence, County of Warren and the Township of Washington, County of Morris, for Fire Prevention Office services for a term to commence January 1, 2023 and to terminate on December 31, 2027.

1. A copy of the Agreement is on file in the office of the Township Clerk for inspection by the public.
2. A copy of this Agreement shall be filed, for informational purposes, with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Division.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately

Mr. Pennington a motion to approve Resolutions 22-62 as written. Mayor Giordano seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

ORDINANCE:

2022-11 Second Reading/Public Comment

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE,
COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
AMENDING CHAPTER LXXXIII, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE ENTITLED
“AFFORDABLE HOUSING REGULATIONS” TO ADDRESS THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND THE
UNIFORM HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS (UHAC)
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP’S
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS**

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to open up discussion on this ordinance to the Public. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to close the public hearing. Mr. Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adopt Ordinance 2022-11 as written. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

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. Kelsey, Mr. Pennington and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Fuella thanked the committee for not making things more restrictive. Mayor appointed Glenn Cogle as a Class IV to fill the unexpired term of Robert Best.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:38 pm – 8:16 pm

The following Resolution was approved at 7:38 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mayor Giordano, seconded by Mrs. Kelsey 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

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 Mrs. Kelsey at 8:16 p.m. to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Pennington.

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, which was carried by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator