

**INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.**  
**April 11, 2023            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 Michael Pennington 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 Deputy Mayor Pennington.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Mr. Stuber, Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey and Dena Hrebenak. Also present were Attorney Leslie Parikh and Engineer Mike Finelli.

**Absent:** Mayor Giordano

**Minute Approval:** 3.14.23

A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to approve minutes 3.14.23 as written. Mr. Stuber seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mrs. Kelsey

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Tax Collector – Report submitted via email

Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.

Environmental – No meeting

Treasurer – Report submitted

Recreation/Green Acres – Adult Community - 2 bus trips planned. Eagle Scout finishing the sandbox project. May 7 pot luck dinner planned. Spring sports going.

Police – Report submitted via email. Officer in Charge Prell gave a report.

Emergency Services – Nick Vasquez gave a report on squad. Next fire house breakfast May 14.

DPW – All is going well.

Municipal Clerk: Everything going well. Tree recovering program - 220 tree seedling to be disbursed on April 21 from 9-12 at the Municipal Building.

Land Use Board – Meeting next week

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: Report submitted

Engineer Finelli: Spoke on Russling Road Section 2 & 3 Project, Woodmont Building 1 co certificate issued, and MS4 Grant submitted.

### **Budget Adoption 2023 Budget Resolution 23-23**

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

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to close the public hearing. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adopt Resolution 23-23 as written. Deputy Mayor Pennington seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None recorded

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **Resolution 23-28**

**Title or Subject: APPOINTMENT**

***BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence the following reappointment is hereby made:

**Derek Macchia-Chief Financial Officer beginning 1.01.2023, which is a tenured position.**

#### **Resolution 23-29**

**Redemption of Tax Lien  
Certificate #21-00043**

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2021, Tax Lien Certificate #21-00043 or property assessed to WYATT LINEBURG and known as Block 7; Lot 3.01, Sold to TAX LIEN FUND, LP

**WHEREAS**, redemption of Certificate # 21-00043 was made by WYATT LINEBURG

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that the Tax Collector, having received redemption monies from WYATT LINEBURG and having received Tax Lien Certificate #21-00043 from TAX LIEN FUND LP, be authorized to forward said redemption monies to TAX LIEN FUND LP, the amount being \$12,652.53.

### **Resolution 23-30**

**Title: 50/50 Raffle**

**WHEREAS, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County** is registered by the State of New Jersey to operate legalized games of chance, (31-4-29993) and,

**WHEREAS**, they have submitted applications for a 50/50 Raffle to be held on June 2, 2023 and all fees have been paid,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, that RA# 2023-07 be issued to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center.

### **Resolution 23-31**

**Title: PETTY CASH**

WHEREAS, J. Grosinski was the custodian of the Recreation and Administration Petty Cash Fund, and

WHEREAS, J. Grosinski is no longer employed by the Township of Independence, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:5-21, the Township of Independence is changing custodians to Dena Hrebenak for Administration and Melissa Lyons for Recreation, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the *Township of Independence*, County of Warren hereby requests that the NJDCA Bureau of Financial Regulation and Assistance remove the previous custodian and reflect the new custodians. The Township Committee hereby directs the Municipal Clerk to file two copies of this

resolution with the NJDCA Division of Local Government Services for approval and action.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Township of Independence at an Official Meeting held on April 11, 2023.

Mrs. Gesumaria made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-28 thru 23-31 as written. Mr. Stuber seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None

**ORDINANCE:** none

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Charlie Barabas asked about Ryan and Catswamp Road roadwork.

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

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None

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

Ayes: Deputy Mayor Pennington, Mrs. Kelsey, Mr. Stuber, and Mrs. Gesumaria

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator