

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

**Absent:** none

**Minute Approval:** 4.11.23

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to approve minutes 4.11.23 as written. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: Mayor Giordano

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Tax Collector – Report submitted via email

Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.

Environmental – No meeting

Recreation/Green Acres – Adult Community going well. Pot luck dinner last weekend. Lunch cruise on Lake Hopatcong in July. Dinner/show Bus trip planned for October 5. Longwood Gardens in planned in November. Spring Sports are up and running.

Police – Report submitted via email.

Emergency Services – Sam Vasquez gave a report on squad. Chief Snyder gave a report. Breakfast May 14

DPW – All is going well. Mowing at field of dreams and roadside mowing.

School – working on budget.

Land Use Board – HMUA Tower and reviewing of the checklist.

**PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:**

Attorney Parikh: report submitted

Engineer Finelli: Spoke on Russling Road Section 2 & 3 Project, Woodmont, and MS4 Stormwater permit.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resolution 23-32**

**Title or Subject: Cancellation of Stale Dated Checks**

**WHEREAS,** there exists outstanding checks for the current fund which have been outstanding for over one year; and

**WHEREAS**, the checks have been investigated and have been determined to have been lost or otherwise destroyed:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, that the following checks be cancelled and the expenditures be deposited into the proper fund:

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
30177	06/01/21	46.67
30453	10/12/21	35.00

### **Resolution 23-33**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has determined the need for a Laborer/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works; and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Committee have also determined that this position will be filled at a rate of \$23.95 an hour for forty hours per week; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED.**, that the Mayor and Township Committee have authorized the Township Administrator to proceed with the hiring process as needed.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-32 thru 23-33 as written. Mrs. Gesumaria seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**Agreement with Island Dragway and Township of Independence was discussed.**

### **ORDINANCE:**

#### **2023-04 First Reading**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04**

#### **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 175-2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE ENTITLED “CONSTRUCTION CODES; UNIFORM” TO ADJUST THE CONSRUCTION FEE SCHEDULE FOR MECHANICAL FEES**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that Chapter 175-2 of the Code of the Township of Independence be amended as follows:

#### **Section 175-2. Schedule of Fees.**

##### **Mechanical Fees**

The fee for a mechanical inspection in a structure of Group R-3 or R-5 shall be as follows:

\$65.00 for the first device and \$15.00 for each additional device

No separate fee shall be charged for gas, fuel, oil, or water piping connections associated with the mechanical equipment inspected.

**REPEALER:** All Ordinances of the Township of Independence, which are inconsistent with the provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such

inconsistency. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of the Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Ordinance shall take effect following its final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading by the Independence Township Committee at its regular monthly meeting held on May 9, 2023, which Ordinance shall be given further consideration for final passage following a public hearing to be conducted thereon at its regular monthly meeting to be held on June 13, 2023, at the Independence Township Administrative Offices, 286B Route 46, Great Meadows, New Jersey 07838.

Mr. Pennington made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-04 with a public hearing advertised to be held on June 13, 2023, which was seconded by Mrs. Gesumaria.

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

Second Reading June 13, 2023

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Cullen asked about the cell tower. Chief Snyder advised that the fire department will be visiting Woodmont Properties with mutual aid companies. Mr. Barabas asked about the portable lights at field of dreams and the Aiello Case. Mr. Wiseman asked about the Township Committee's position for safe harbor.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:20 pm – 7:40 pm**

The following Resolution was approved at 7:20 p.m. to enter Executive Session with a motion by Mrs. Kelsey, seconded by Mr. Pennington 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 7:40 p.m. to return to regular session, seconded by Mr. Stuber.

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

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to consent to sign the agreement with Finelli/UTRS as written. Mr. Pennington the motion with roll call as follows:

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Mrs. Gesumaria to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion with roll call as follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator