

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Meeting held at the Municipal Building, Great Meadows, NJ.
August 8, 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 NJ Herald 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, Attorney Parikh.

Absent: none

Minute Approval: 7.11. 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to approve minutes 7.11.23 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 recorded

Presentation: Comcast spoke about the renewal of their contract.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Tax Collector – Report submitted via email

Construction/Zoning – Reports submitted via email.

Environmental – No meeting

Recreation/Green Acres – report submitted

Police – Report submitted via email.

Emergency Services –Chief Vasquez gave July Report. Fire Department raffles -

October 19 money raffle and December 10 raffle Ranger SP 570 Premium

DPW – All is going well. Russling Road paving done awaiting stripping.

School – 2 new principles started. Mrs. Flynn and Mrs. Westberg.

Land Use Board – No meeting.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS:

Attorney Parikh: report submitted. Proposed personnel policy change for pregnant workers.

Engineer Finelli: report submitted.

ORDINANCE:

2023-05 Second Reading/Public Comment

ORDINANCE 2023-05

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED SALARIES AND
COMPENSATION**

Mrs. Gesumaria 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, Mr. Stuber, Mrs. Gesumaria, Mrs. Kelsey and Mayor Giordano

Nays: None recorded

Abstain: None

Absent: None

As there were no comments, a motion was made by Mr. Stuber to close the public hearing. 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

Absent: None

A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to adopt Ordinance 2023-05 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

Absent: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 23-53

2023 Lead Grant Assistance Program Grant

WHEREAS, NJS 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget, and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for an equal amount, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Independence has received notice of an award of \$1, 100.00 from the State of New Jersey, Special Legislative Grant and wishes to amend its 2023 Budget to include this amount as a revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence in the County of Warren State of New Jersey hereby requests the Director and the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2023 in the amount of \$1,100.00 which is now available as revenue from:

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated
With Prior Written Consent of the Director of the
Division of Local Government Services:
State and Federal Revenues Off-set with
Appropriations: State of New Jersey Special Legislative Grant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of \$1,100.00
Be and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of
General Appropriations:

(a) Operations Excluded from CAPS
State and Federal Programs Off-Set by
Revenues: 2023 Lead Grant Assistance Grant Program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk forward one certified copy of this resolution to the Director of Local Government Services for approval.

Resolution 23-54

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF RUSSLING ROAD SECTION 2

Be it resolved, that on August 8, 2023 the Township Committee of the Township of Independence adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Russling Road Section 2, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of \$122,200.

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby rescind the award from July 11, 2023 to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vender

South State. South State has been unable to fulfill their award and the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council has reassigned District #3 work to Tilcon NY for the remainder of the contract term.

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$122,182.55. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Tilcon NY Inc.,

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$2,176.00. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Denville Line Painting, Inc,

Resolution 23-55

A RESOLUTION OF AWARD, RESURFACING OF RUSSLING ROAD SECTION 3

Be it resolved, that on August 8, 2023 the Township Committee of the Township of Independence adopted this resolution to award unit bid prices for individual construction items to perform the necessary construction to complete the Resurfacing of Russling Road Section 3, a New Jersey Department of Transportation Local Aid funded project with a total project grant award in the amount of \$128,500.

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby rescind the award from July 11, 2023 to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vender South State. South State has been unable to fulfill their award and the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council has reassigned District #3 work to Tilcon NY for the remainder of the contract term.

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$127,094.95. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Tilcon Inc.,

Be it further resolved, that the Township Committee of the Township of Independence does hereby award unit prices for individual construction items based unit prices as awarded under the individual contracts awarded by the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council bidding process with a total cost of \$2,122.96. The award is made to the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council vendor, Denville Line Painting, Inc,

Resolution 23-56

Title or Subject: Salaries 2023

Be It Resolved by the Independence Township Committee that the following salaries shall be paid to Township employees, effective January 1, 2023 unless otherwise noted.

Public Works	
Assistant Supervisor (Eff. 6/13/2023)	\$ 26.44/hr
Construction/Zoning- Shared Service Portion	
Construction Official	\$ 6,499
Building Subcode	\$ 8,124
Electrical Sub Code Official / Electrical Inspector	\$ 6,499
Plumbing Sub Code Official	\$ 6,499
Fire Subcode	\$ 4,874
Land Use	
Land Use Board Administrator	\$ 9,540

Mrs. Kelsey made a motion to approve Resolutions 23-53 thru 23-56 as written. 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 recorded

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Wiseman – he would like police presence at residence from 4-7 pm for speeders. Mr. Cullen – what is done with millings from the road.

BILLS: A motion was made by Mr. Pennington to pay the bills as presented. 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

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Mrs. Kelsey to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. 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

Respectfully submitted,

Dena M. Hrebenak, RMC
 Municipal Clerk/Administrator