

The following notice appeared on the Township Committee's January 10, 2022 Workshop Agenda and was read by Mayor Miller Prunty at the start of the Meeting

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
SUNSHINE NOTICE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
January 10, 2022**

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, and the Governor's Executive Orders related to the same, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford will conduct the January 10, 2022 Township Committee Workshop Meeting remotely and by electronic means.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") and consistent with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services guidelines, the Township Committee Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing can access the videoconference at meet.google.com/efu-rqry-qoy or by telephone at 1-904-580-6156, with the access code (PIN): 921677998#

Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of a meeting, which will be read during the public portion of the meeting. Written public comments submitted prior to the meeting must identify the name and address of the commenter. No anonymous comments will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail with the subject line "Public Comment-Township of Cranford Township Committee- Meeting Date of _____" to the Clerk of the Township Committee, Patricia Donahue at clerk@cranfordnj.org or by mail addressed to: Patricia Donahue, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cranford, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. E-mailed comments must be received at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting. Mailed comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on January 10, 2022 at 7:03 p.m. remotely and by electronic means.

THIS MEETING IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT" AS ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY E-MAILING THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS TO THE WESTFIELD LEADER, THE UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, THE STAR LEDGER, AND TAP INTO CRANFORD, BY POSTING SUCH ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE ON A BULLETIN BOARD IN THE TOWN HALL RESERVED FOR SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE FILING OF SAID NOTICE WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK OF CRANFORD. FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

Present: Mayor Kathleen Prunty
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis
Commissioner Brian Andrews
Commissioner Gina Black*
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

Commissioner Black joined the Workshop Meeting at 7 :04 p.m.

Administrator Jamie Cryan, Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

Public Comments

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue if she had received public comments correspondence. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that no public comments mail had arrived via the U.S. Post Service and no public comments had arrived via the Clerk's email address. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Capital Budget Parameters

Administrator Jamie Cryan provided an overview of the Capital Budget. He inquired whether the Township should work towards a Capital Budget encompassing approximately four (4) million dollars. He stated that last year's Capital Budget was close to five (5) million dollars. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson provided an overview of the current state of the Township's finances. She provided figures which showed that the pool revenues and Township revenues were down. Ms. Patterson stated that the finances were very tight this year. Commissioner O'Connor inquired about received FEMA funding and whether the received monies had to be used for infrastructure projects or whether such monies could be used for soft costs, i.e., costs associated with Rahway River costs. Mayor Miller Prunty inquired if the

Township staff was aware of the tight budget situation. Administrator Cryan responded that they were and briefly elaborated. Ms. Patterson stated that the Township's revenues were half a million dollars "down" going into the budget process. She stated that the Township debt was also down and briefly elaborated. Commissioner Andrews asked to be informed about big-ticket items. Ms. Patterson suggested that the Capital Budget be capped at four million dollars. Commissioner Andrews inquired about the Storm Ida debris removal which cost about \$500,000 and possible reimbursement. Ms. Patterson stated that the Township would learn in a few months as to whether the debris costs would be reimbursed and briefly elaborated. Commissioner Andrews inquired if there were any other large expenses in addition to Fire Department outlays and the debris pickup expenses. Ms. Patterson spoke again about the Township's loss of revenue, i.e., the local revenue was down and the pool revenues were down. Ms. Patterson stated that the Tax Collection efforts were very good.

Commissioner Gareis inquired about the debris pickup costs and whether such costs should be considered into the Capital Budget. Ms. Patterson responded that the debris costs should not be considered in the Capital Budget.

Mayor Miller Prunty inquired when the Township staff would be contacted regarding the Capital Budget. Mr. Cryan responded that staff meetings regarding the Capital Budget would occur during the week and the following week.

Rahway River Mayors Council Annual Contribution

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about the 2022 annual contribution to the Rahway River Mayors Council. She stated that the members of the Mayors Council had reached a consensus that lobbying isn't as important as it once was and stated that the Council was interested in moving forward with a plan in which the Mayors Council funding would now also be allocated to engineering work. Commissioner O'Connor inquired about the type of engineering work which was planned. She stated that she was upset regarding this process as she believed the Township Committee should have had an extensive discussion regarding this matter and elaborated.

Mayor Miller Prunty described the expected tasks to be completed by Mott MacDonald, including a survey of the Orange Reservoir, a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, an overview of nearby potable wells and a feasibility report. Commissioner O'Connor inquired about how the "needle" would move the project once the tasks were completed. She stated that there should be in-depth conversations with the five (5) Commissioners about this matter.

Commissioner Black inquired about what Engineering work had already been communicated. Mayor Miller Prunty inquired what work would a lobbyist now be used for. Commissioner Black inquired about the contribution amount. Commissioner Gareis inquired whether the Mayors Council had met. Mayor Miller Prunty responded that they had last met in December. Further discussion ensued. Commissioner Andrews inquired about the "up River"

communities. Commissioner Black requested that backup materials be sent to the Township Committee for review before discussions occurred.

Flood Control Advisory Committee

Mayor Miller Prunty referenced an email she had sent to members of the Township Committee earlier that day regarding a Flood Control Advisory Committee proposal. She recommended that the Flood Control Advisory Committee work closely with the Township Committee.

Commissioner Gareis stated that his experience with the Committee work during the previous year was that some people thought that the Committee did not have a purpose. Commissioner Black spoke about her experience on last year's Committee and noted that it seemed like it was a group without a mission. She stated that she wasn't sure that three (3) working groups were needed.

Board of Health 2022 Meeting Schedule

Administrator Jamie Cryan recited the proposed 2022 Board of Health Meeting dates. A brief discussion ensued pertaining to the Board of Health scribe, whether a resolution was needed to authorize the 2022 Meeting dates and publicizing the 2022 Board of Health Meeting Schedule.

Municipal Alliance (also known as the Cranford Prevention and Wellness Committee)

Mr. Brad Young, Chair, was present.

Referencing a clarity of mission and working to make drug and alcohol free as humanly possible for teenagers, Mr. Brad Young spoke about the group's name change from the Municipal Alliance to the Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance. Mr. Young stated that the Alliance had surveyed the Alliance's members, multiple constituents and stakeholders regarding the name change. Mr. Young stated that the County had been informed about the proposed name change. Mr. Young noted that the acronym for Prevention and Wellness was PAW and that a paw was expected to be the group's logo. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper recommended that the name change be authorized through the Township Committee's adoption of an ordinance designating the group's new name. Commissioner Black inquired if the group would be referred to as an "Alliance" or a "Committee". Mr. Young responded that the request was to change the name to Alliance, specifically the Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue inquired about placing resolutions and an ordinance on an upcoming Township Committee meeting pertaining to the appointment of the new Alliance Director, the resignation of the current Alliance Director and the name change

Coronavirus, Municipal Building and Meeting Protocols

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that in light of the Coronavirus public health crisis, the Township Committee Meetings would be virtual until January 30th. She also stated that the Municipal Building would be closed to members of the public until January 30th. Administrator Jamie

Cryan spoke about protecting both the Township employees and the Township's residents from the Coronavirus. Mayor Miller Prunty asked the members of the Committee for their feedback on moving forward, in regards to the Coronavirus, as of February 1st. Commissioner Black spoke about meeting in-person with social distancing protocols and briefly elaborated. Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about her distaste for virtual meetings. Commissioner O'Connor suggested that the Township pay attention to the "numbers" and meet in-person as quickly as possible. Commissioner Andrews stated that he wanted in-person meetings. He noted that while in-person meetings for January seemed ambitious, he was in favor of in-person meetings during February. Commissioner Gareis stated that if "things" were in a better place, the Township Committee should conduct its Meetings in-person.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Mayor Miller Prunty reviewed the Mayoral Appointments to the Library Board. Commissioner Black inquired about a committee appointment, specifically about Chrissa Stulpin's appointment. A brief discussion ensued. Mayor Miller Prunty suggested that this matter be discussed in the Closed Session Meeting.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Andrews stated that an amendment to the recently-adopted ordinance pertaining to 750 Walnut Avenue would be introduced for consideration at the following Township Committee Official Meeting. A brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that surrounding-community Mayors were forming an "information sharing" Committee to discuss shared traffic concerns related to redevelopment. She stated that the first meeting was scheduled for the upcoming Thursday. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Andrews briefly elaborated about a grant for North Avenue.

Public Comments

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Closed Session

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

Resolution No. 2022-98.1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss the following, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

Legal

- Legal Update
- Elm Street Area Drainage Improvements Project

Personnel

- Collective Bargaining
- Affordable Housing Liaison
- Vaccine Policy – Coronavirus

Contracts

- Centennial Avenue Indoor Pool Operations

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Black & O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Gareis and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:37 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk

Dated: January 10, 2022