

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 7, 2023** at 7:34 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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 Municipal Building reserved for such announcements and the filing of said notice with the Township Clerk of Cranford. Formal Action will be taken at this meeting.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brian Andrews  
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis  
Commissioner Terrence Curran  
Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty  
Commissioner Gina Black

**ABSENT:** None

#### **INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis, followed by the flag salute.

#### **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Brian Andrews read the Mayor’s Proclamations:

##### *Commemoration of Black History Month*

**WHEREAS**, during Black History Month we celebrate the main achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, historian Dr. Carter Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be “Negro History Week”; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, as part of the nation’s bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, the observance of Black History month celebrates the lives, struggles, stories and achievements of Black Americans whose individual and collective experiences have become an integral part of our community, nation and American history; and

**WHEREAS**, Cranford’s rich history could not be written without including names like Culbreath, Randolph, Parrotts, Cannon, Bryant, Mason, Brown, Harris and so many more; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, Cranford saw the creation of the Cranford Equity and Inclusivity Initiative and the Cranford Unity Project to foster awareness and respect for cultures and contributions of all people; and

**WHEREAS**, these efforts promote a better understanding and will contribute to making Cranford a more welcoming and stronger community; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 Cranford Township Committee strongly supports these initiatives and is committed to standing against racism and standing for equal treatment, equal opportunities and respect for all people;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Brian Andrews, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, do hereby proclaim the month of February as Black History Month and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

Mayor Andrews invited Tara O’Connor, Shannon Gallo, and Gary Pascal of the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence to the podium and read the Mayor’s Proclamation:

*Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence*

**WHEREAS**, Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence (CFEE) is a nonprofit, community-based, philanthropic organization founded 25 years ago with the mission to foster academic excellence, promote innovation, and enhance the vitality of the Cranford Public Schools by generating additional resources through community involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, CFEE provides grants to teachers, teacher teams, administrators, and district staff to support projects that are aligned with the district's mission and curricular goals, but are outside the scope of the regular school budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of the CFEE are to create an environment that nurtures a rich variety of teaching and learning, serves as a catalyst for school change and supports projects that enable youth to prosper in an increasingly complex world; and

**WHEREAS**, CFEE funding comes from contributions made by parents, community members, local businesses, corporations, foundations and community service organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, CFEE grants have supported next generation computer skills, early education STEM and problem-solving, robotics, musical creativity, public speaking, intergenerational book study, hands-on math, flexible learning, and many other areas; and

**WHEREAS**, all grants are submitted according to one or more of the following categories of innovation: differentiation/personalization, technology/21<sup>st</sup> century skills, classroom design, zones/makerspaces, and sustainable projects supporting district wide-goals; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Brian Andrews, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, do hereby recognize and commend the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence for their important work that empowers Cranford teachers and administrators as well as inspires our students.

Tara O'Connor thanked the members of the Cranford Community including residents, business owners, and volunteers.

Shannon Gallo thanked the Township Committee for presenting the CFEE (Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence) with a proclamation and spoke about the important role that educators play in the community.

Mayor Andrews invited the Chair of the Environmental Commission and member of Cranford's Green Team, Jay Stevens, to the podium and read the Mayor's Proclamation:

*Green Team – Sustainable Land Use Pledge*

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford adopted Resolution No. 2009-292 "Creation of the Township of Cranford Green Team" at a regular meeting conducted on November 24, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford resolved in that resolution that they wished to pursue local initiatives and actions that would lead to Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford further resolved in that resolution to create the Township of Cranford Green Team, to serve as the Township of Cranford's agents for the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Green Team was composed of individuals who are interested in advancing the efforts of the Township of Cranford in the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification program, and that have been actively working as a Green Team for a period of six (6) years; and

**WHEREAS**, that group has been creating and cataloging significant sustainability actions so that the Township of Cranford may maintain Sustainable Jersey certification at the Bronze Level in Year 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Brian Andrews, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, do hereby proclaim that:

1. The Green Team of the Township of Cranford is active in the community and advancing sustainable practices and actions included in the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification program;

2. The Green Team has been and shall continue to be composed of individuals who have demonstrated interest in advancing the efforts of the Township of Cranford to pursue certification through the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification program;
3. The role of the Green Team has been and shall continue to be to lead and coordinate the sustainability activities of the community.

Jay Stevens spoke about the Sustainable Land Use Pledge and the impact that it has on Cranford. He also discussed the joint effort between the Cranford Environmental Commission and the Green Team. Mr. Stevens thanked the Township Committee for their support.

### **MAYORAL REMARKS**

Mayor Andrews announced that the Township would be entering Budget season and elaborated. He spoke about a previous boss and his words regarding allocating funds to areas that reflect values and aspirations. Mayor Andrews state that his values and aspirations included making Cranford more “walkable” and prioritizing pedestrian safety. He encouraged members of the public to “tune into” the Budget process.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

#### **Commissioner Curran – Finance**

- Announced that the Budget meeting would be held on the upcoming Saturday; stated that the meeting would be open to the public and all were welcome;
- Thanked Jay Stevens and the members of the Environmental Commission and the Green Team for their work in the Township; stated that Green Team (work) and environmental well-being of the Township was a priority for him.
- Discussed the financial well-being of the Township’s pools; spoke about the location of the seven (7) pools at two (2) locations, which encompassed pool programs and a Fitness Center; spoke about recent upgrades to the Pools including a new outdoor pool pump and a Splash Pad; spoke about the decline in pool memberships during the last decade and pool cost increases; spoke about the revenue trend of the last decade; noted that the revenue trend of the last decade would not be able to sustain the pool programs at the current rate; noted that the Township had a Swim Pool Utility whose role was intended to run the pools independently of the Township’s finances; spoke about negotiations with the YMCA which had occurred during the past year and that such proposed partnership would allow for substantial capital improvements, the expansion of wellness programs and the upgrade of fitness facilities; spoke about the YMCA and their work; noted that (with such proposed partnership) the Township would retain full title and ownership of the facilities; stated that the expected partnership with the YMCA would result in a partnership for program and upgrade work; stated that the Township recognized the inconvenience the proposed renovations would cause members; spoke about the expected benefits of a YMCA-Township partnership; stated that the Township hoped that the Indoor Pool area would re-open in the fall; stated that during the renovation period, members could use the YMCA and use their facilities.

Mayor Andrews noted that the YMCA which had been referred to was the Westfield YMCA. He stated that the Township was developing a fact sheet regarding these details. Commissioner Curran encouraged members of the public to send in questions regarding Pool matters which could be addressed in the fact sheet.

#### **Commissioner Miller Prunty – Engineering & Public Works**

- Noted that weekly Engineering and Public Works meetings were held; stated that she would like to keep members of the public apprised of such meeting matters;
- Stated that the Township had received a (New Jersey) Department of Transportation (DOT) grant for Spruce Street Road work; stated that the work would begin after school was finished; noted

that preliminary work, such as utility company mark-outs and survey work, was currently in progress;

- Provided an update on the gas company and gas company subcontractor work on Orchard Street; stated that paving would begin later in the Spring;
- Stated that road work was expected to begin on Edgar Avenue and Kensington Avenue in the upcoming weeks and elaborated;
- Spoke about dike work along Riverside Drive; stated that the dike near the River had eroded; spoke about dike height and restoration and repair;
- Announced that the water company had begun work on a number of streets; stated that once the work was completed, the water company would pave curb to curb at no cost to the Township; noted that such work would occur on a number of streets including a portion of the following streets and/or the following streets: Sylvester, Arbor, Sutton Place, Belmont, Casino Avenue, Claremont Place, Prospect and Orange Avenue.

#### **Deputy Mayor Gareis – Public Safety**

- Stated that he met with Police Chief Greco and Fire Chief Czeh regarding the Police department and Fire department budgets respectively;
- Asked that members of the public contact the Fire Department or call “911” if they notice red wires hanging from poles as such wires could indicate old fire alarm wires;
- Announced that the Cranford Police Department had partnered with the United States Secret Service to hold an upcoming free presentation on identity theft;
- Stated the Police Department would participate in a special Downtown Cranford story time to celebrate Black History Month at Max Luna;
- Commended Chief Greco about an open letter he wrote to Cranford residents after the video was released pertaining to the death of Tyre Nichols; stated that Chief Greco’s letter provided a frank and honest review of law enforcement as well as Cranford’s work with police reform;
- Announced that the Stormwater Infrastructure Subcommittee would hold a working lunch meeting on the upcoming Friday;
- Provided an update on home elevations in Cranford.

Mayor Andrews commended the home elevation work and briefly elaborated.

#### **Commissioner Black – Public Affairs**

- Stated that she wanted to highlight the activity that occurs at the Cranford Community Center; noted that the number of entries to the Cranford Community Center during the month of January totaled 14,198 people; provided additional statistics about the eighty (80) programs that take place at the Community Center; stated that nine hundred ninety-six (996) children participated in the Recreation Basketball program this year;
- Discussed the parking situation at the 375 Centennial Avenue Recreation Facility; requested that residents utilize the upper pool parking lot when visiting the 375 Centennial Avenue Recreation Facility and elaborated;
- Announced that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (Committee) would be holding its first meeting during the upcoming week; spoke about the membership of the Committee noting that there was a senior citizen representative, a Cranford West representative, a teen advisory representative, a special needs representative and a Cranford sports representative;
- Announced that there would be a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony at 375 Centennial Avenue on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS**

#### **Interim Township Administrator Ryan Greco**

- Discussed Resolution No. 2023-118 pertaining to an award of contract to Government

Strategy Group; explained that the firm would be conducting a search for a full-time Administrator; provided a brief explanation of the search process.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Andrews opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. He noted that there were members of the public from the Pool in attendance. Mayor Andrews stated a Pool Facts sheet was scheduled for release on the following day and briefly elaborated.

Deborah Brooks, 1 Buchanan Street – stated that she was present to discuss the hour changes at the Indoor Pool; described the use of the Indoor Pool in the morning and noted that the morning sessions were mostly utilized by Senior Citizens; inquired whether the Cranford water aerobics members would be able to attend the Westfield YMCA water aerobics class and elaborated. Ms. Brooks spoke about the Township’s assertion that the Indoor Pool was costly to maintain and noted that the Gators and the High School team would still be able to utilize the Indoor Pool in the afternoon; noted that the cost of the Indoor Pool still had to be maintained whether it would be used in the morning or not; She said that the decision to shut the Indoor Pool for the Seniors in the morning was not sitting well with her.

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – stated his concern regarding the removal of the second public comments section at Official Meetings. He requested that the second public comments section return. Referencing the explanation Mayor Andrews gave at the previous night’s Meeting regarding this matter, Mr. Smith asked Mayor Andrews to repeat why the second public comments section was removed from the Official Meeting Agenda. Mayor Andrews responded stating that the goal was to make the meetings more accessible to the public, more transparent and more accountable and elaborated. Discussion ensued.

Loretta Smith, 21 Oneida Place – inquired whether the vote (agreement) with the Westfield YMCA had been adopted. Commissioner Miller Prunty responded. Ms. Smith inquired about use of the Westfield YMCA facilities and possible challenges. Discussion ensued.

Doug Allcock, 5 Cayuga Road – noted that he had been a member of the Pool for thirty-nine (39) years and stated he had never seen a considerable problem with the facilities; inquired if the Westfield YMCA was determining the changes; inquired if the Township had asked the administrators of the Indoor Pool and Fitness Center about the desired changes. Commissioner Miller Prunty responded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Allcock inquired about the types of upgrades planned for the Indoor Pool and Fitness Center gym (which would take five (5) months for completion). Further discussion ensued including discussion regarding Township marketing efforts pertaining to Pool membership.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – spoke about the personnel practices regarding former Administrator Jamie Cryan and the search for a new Township Administrator; discussed the contract practices regarding the Township’s Municipal Prosecutor position. Mr. Carvalho expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the Township government handles its personnel matters and contracts.

Mr. Carvalho spoke about commending Commissioner Black on January 17<sup>th</sup> for her vote against the re-appointment of Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and her vote against the adoption of the revised by-laws. Referencing Commissioner Curran’s reminder that members of the public can comment at Workshop Meetings, Mr. Carvalho spoke about a previous experience pertaining to his attendance at a Workshop Meeting and the incorrect Meeting minutes associated with such Meeting. Mr. Carvalho stated that he no longer speaks to the Township Committee at meetings that are not “on camera.” Mr. Carvalho spoke about his dissatisfaction with Township Attorney Ryan Cooper.

Liz Allcock, 5 Cayuga Road – inquired why the Splash Pad was installed if the Pool’s finances were not good; inquired about the cost of the Splash Pad. Commissioner Miller Prunty responded. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Black spoke about Pool spending and the difference between capital spending and

Pool (operating) expenses. Discussion ensued regarding Pool finances. Ms. Allcock spoke about the gym renovation. She spoke about her concerns regarding utilizing the Westfield YMCA. Discussion ensued including discussion regarding membership (Commissioner Curran). Ms. Allcock stated that if the Indoor Pool could be open for the swim team, the Indoor Pool should be open for “us.”

Sally Kleeman, 130 North Lehigh Avenue – spoke about specific needed upgrades to the Cranford Pool & Fitness Center. She inquired whether the locker rooms would be included in the “upgrade” and whether there was a timeline for the locker room upgrade; noted that the locker rooms would be needed during the summer season. Ms. Kleeman inquired if the Early Bird swim could remain as construction probably would not begin until the Early Bird swim was completed. Ms. Kleeman spoke about safety concerns during the membership period. Ms. Kleeman stated that the Fitness Center did need to be upgraded and briefly elaborated. She spoke about residents and members of the public who were not members but were “drop-in” users.

Mayor Andrews stated that the evening’s feedback was very useful.

Karen Bennett, 38 Herning Avenue – spoke about the importance of keeping the Cranford Indoor Pool & Fitness Center open for the “Aquanutz”.

Referencing social (media) posts pertaining to a half day for middle school-age children on the previous day, Ms. Bennett discussed concerns about the Recreation Center. Ms. Bennett inquired what was being done at the Recreation Center to make sure it was safe. She spoke about language used by children (expletives) at the Recreation Center. Ms. Bennett inquired about accountability for children. Commissioner Black responded. Mayor Andrews spoke about how the Library and the Community Center was handling these matters and escalatory steps. Chief Greco spoke about a process that the Recreation Director Robertazzi utilized for children who were not behaving. Chief Greco stated that he would follow-up on this matter.

Liz Allcock, 5 Cayuga Road – in light of the expected construction, Ms. Allcock inquired if both the Centennial Avenue Pool and Orange Avenue Pool would be open for the upcoming summer season. Mayor Andrews and Commissioner Miller Prunty responded and stated that the Pools would be open this summer.

Joe Szefinski, 28 Omaha Drive – asked for clarification regarding why the locker rooms at the Indoor Pool would remain open to accommodate the Outdoor Pool but the Indoor Pool itself had to close. Commissioner Miller Prunty responded. Mr. Szefinski inquired if the Pool hours would be reduced once the Pool reopened. Commissioner Miller Prunty and Commissioner Black responded.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – stated that he had been a member of Orange Avenue Pool since it opened (for sixty (60) years). He spoke about the importance of appreciating the adults who spend the money at Orange Avenue Pool. Mr. Carvalho stated that the Splash Pad was a waste of money.

Deborah Brooks, 1 Buchanan Street – noted that the swimmers could not use the locker rooms during Covid and briefly elaborated.

Jerry Richards, 825 St. Marks Avenue, Westfield – stated that he had been a Pool member for forty-six (46) years. He stated that he felt welcome at both (Pool) facilities. He stated that a weakness of the Pools was the locker rooms and briefly elaborated. He stated “kudos” to all of you for the job that you do.

William Thilly, 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – stated that he was a member of the Indoor Pool; noted that he was at the Pool and gym every day from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Noting that he had attended Township Committee Meetings for the past eight (8) months, Mr. Thilly stated this was the first time he had heard about changes to the Indoor Pool and elaborated. Commissioner Miller Prunty spoke about the Swim Pool

Advisory Board and their work during the past few years. Mr. Thilly responded. Mayor Andrews, and Commissioner Curran spoke to Mr. Thilly about the fulfillment of his speaking time (five (5) minutes). Mayor Andrews and Interim Administrator Greco requested that Mr. Thilly take a seat.

James Henson – spoke about how important the Pool was to him. Mr. Henson stated that the word “temporary” to him meant “gone.” He also inquired as to who would resolve the situation when he had a dispute with the Westfield YMCA. Mr. Henson spoke about the pictures in the Council Chambers, the WPA and the consideration of wasted money.

Tom Hannen, 94 Belmont Avenue – inquired how the repairs on the (Nomahegan) Dike (along Riverside Drive) were being funded and how it would be implemented. Commissioner Miller Prunty responded. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Hannen stated that one (1) year and five (5) months had passed since (Storm) Ida. Ms. Hannen stated that there had been two (2) major Federal infrastructure bills passed during that time. He inquired what the Township had done to access Federal money for improvements on the Rahway River. Commissioner Miller Prunty and Mayor Andrews responded. Mr. Hannen urged the Township to re-engage and elaborated. Discussion ensued.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Andrews closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of January 17, 2023 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the minutes of the Official Meeting of September 27, 2022 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: Deputy Mayor Gareis and Commissioner Curran

Absent: None

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Commissioner Curran, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Bill List dated February 7, 2023, totaling \$5,552,852.06 was approved for payment by indicated vote of the Township Committee and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

### **RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda**

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

**Resolution No. 2023-115:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:54-12.1, the Township of Cranford Free Public Library may, and without advertising for bids, purchase library materials and specialized library services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford is in need of acquiring specialized library services from LMxAC Inc. (Libraires of Middlesex Automation Consortium, Inc.), 27 Mayfield Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, 08837 for inventory management (specifically access to the Integrated Library System) which provides 1) database services for both patrons and records of materials, 2) centralized cataloging services, 3) E-library NJ and 4) centralized Information Technology (IT) services) at the Township of Cranford Free Public Library; and such contract will include consortium membership fees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee authorizes the Township of Cranford to maintain membership in LMxAC Inc. (Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium, Inc.), effective July 1, 2023, and that such membership shall be for the period ending June 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds upon adoption of the 2023 Municipal Budget, which will be on file in the office of the Township Clerk, and that said contract amount shall be charged to Account Number 3-01-29-390-100-214.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a non-fair and open contract with LMxAC Inc. as described herein; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

**Resolution No. 2023-116:**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford required Cleaning Services for the Library of the Township of Cranford; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford requested quotes for General Cleaning Services through a non-fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and

**WHEREAS**, CBM Solutions LLC, 28 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite 301, Pine Brook, New Jersey, 07058, has submitted a proposal dated December 14, 2022 indicating they will provide Cleaning Services for \$ 24,000.00 for a one (1) year period commencing on January 1, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, CBM Solutions LLC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that CBM Solutions LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Cranford in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit CBM Solutions LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds upon adoption of the 2023 Municipal Budget, which will be on file in the office of the Township Clerk, and that said contract amount shall be charged to Account Number 3-01-29-390-100-214.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with CBM Solutions LLC as described herein; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

**Resolution No. 2023-117:**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (q), the Township may, by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase Library and Educational goods or services, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford is in need of acquiring Library and Educational Goods and Services from Baker & Taylor, LLC, 2810 Coliseum Centre Drive, Suite 300, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28217 for the Township of Cranford Public Library; and

**WHEREAS**, the Purchasing Agent has determined and certified in writing that the value of the contract will exceed \$17,500; and



**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds upon adoption of the 2023 Municipal Budget, which will be on file in the office of the Township Clerk, and that said contract amount shall be charged to Account Number 3-01-29-390-100-271; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et.seq., Baker & Taylor, LLC has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Baker & Taylor, LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Cranford in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Baker & Taylor, LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a non-fair and open contract with Baker & Taylor, LLC as described herein; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

**Resolution No. 2023-118:**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford requires an Administrator search process in the Township of Cranford; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford requested quotes for executive search and recruitment firms through a non-fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Strategy Group of 450 Shrewsbury Plaza, No. 330, Shrewsbury, New Jersey, 07702 has submitted a proposal dated January 13, 2023 indicating they will perform the administrator search and recruitment process for \$14,900; and

**WHEREAS**, Government Strategy Group has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Government Strategy Group. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Cranford in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Government Strategy Group from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk and said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 3-01-20-100-100-214.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with Government Strategy Group as described herein; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification, the Business Entity Contribution Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value to be placed on file with this resolution.

**Resolution No. 2023-119:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cranford Chamber of Commerce be, and hereby is, permitted to hold “Cranford Street Fairs”, with music, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., rain or shine, on the following dates:

- Sunday, April 30, 2023
- Sunday, August 27, 2023
- Sunday, October 8, 2023

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that “Cranford Street Fairs” will require the designation of approximately one hundred and fifty (150) parking spaces as “No Parking” and closing of various streets and locations as follows:

- Parking Restriction and the closure of North Union Avenue from Springfield Avenue to North Avenue
- Alden Street from North Avenue to Parking Lot No. 11
- Municipal Lot No. 1

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cranford Chamber of Commerce is permitted to post approximately fifteen (15) signs on municipal property in connection with the aforementioned events, and that said signs shall be posted not more than ten (10) days prior to each event, and shall be removed the day following each event.

**Resolution No. 2023-120:**

**WHEREAS**, land-use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and **WHEREAS**, poor land-use decisions can lead to, and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and the degradation of natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, well planned land-use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space and allow for continued use of vital natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land-use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making Cranford a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in the next master plan revision and to update our zoning accordingly:

- I. ***Facilities Siting*** – to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bikability, access to transit and proximity to other uses when siting new or relocated municipal facilities. The actions of a municipality when locating their own facilities can set a positive precedent and encourage other public and private sector entities to consider sustainable land-use considerations into account when locating their own facilities.
- II. ***Housing Variety*** – through the use of our zoning and revenue generation powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types to meet the needs of people from all ages and walks of life. A variety of housing options, from single family homes to one-bedroom apartments, including housing affordable to people with low, moderate and middle incomes, is vital to allow residents to live and work in a municipality through various stages of their lives.
- III. ***Natural Resource Preservation*** - to preserve open space and create recreational opportunities within our municipality. As the most densely populated state in the nation, open space in New Jersey is at a premium. Preserving what is left of our open space, for its ecological and recreational value, is critical for a sustainable future, further, if feasible, we pledge to complete a Natural Resources Inventory to identify and assess the extent of our natural resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis and land use planning and zoning.
- IV. ***Transportation Choices*** - to create transportation choices within our municipality by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and automobiles, when planning transportation projects. Given that emissions from transportation, mainly passenger cars, make up the largest share of the State's carbon footprint, creating transportation alternatives at the local level is critical to reducing the state's overall carbon footprint.
- V. ***Mix of Uses*** - to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of uses in areas that make the most sense of our municipality and the region. Development is not needed in every municipality. But where development makes sense, land-use patterns that segregate uses such as commercial and residential create an environment where the only feasible mode of transportation is the automobile. Allowing for a mix of compatible land uses, residential units above retail stores for example, can help reduce the necessity of driving by allowing people to walk to various destinations.
- VI. ***Green Design*** - to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements. Green design strategies not only improve the environmental performance of buildings but lessen the impact of those buildings on the surrounding environment. Such strategies include energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, use of recycled renewable materials, construction waste reduction, reduced auto use, tree preservation, native planting, and avoidance of environmentally sensitive features.
- VII. ***Regional Cooperation*** - to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions, and to take into consideration their concerns when making regional level land-use decisions. Local land-use decisions can often have regional impacts, even though they are decided exclusively by one municipality. For example, a

large mall build in one municipality can affect traffic and retail opportunities in neighboring towns.

- VIII. ***Parking Regulations*** – to re-evaluate our parking requirements with the goal of promoting shared parking. Promote transportation alternatives to individual automobile use. Evaluate areas to install safe and secure bicycle parking. Evaluate parking revenues, where fee for parking may be implemented or needs to be implemented.

**Resolution No. 2023-121:**

**Removed from Agenda**

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Gina Black**

- Thanked the community members for attending the Meeting and stated it was helpful to hear “right from the source.”

**Commissioner Terrence Curran**

- Stated that he wanted to echo Commissioner Black’s comments; stated that they were all on the same “page” and they wanted to continue to provide excellent services to the residents; stated that they would look for ways to minimize the impact;
- Announced that February was Heart Health Month; spoke about heart disease and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle;
- Stated that February was National Black History Month; spoke about the important contributions that Black Americans had made to American history as well as the challenges encountered by Black Americans.

**Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty**

- Announced that February was Women’s Heart Health Month; stated that heart disease was the number one (1) killer of women and elaborated; provided a website address about heart disease: <https://www.goredforwomen.org/>.

**Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis**

- Congratulated the Department of Recreation and Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi on a “job well done” with the 375 Centennial Avenue Recreation Facility and elaborated;

**Mayor Brian Andrews**

- Thanked outgoing Library Director Michael Maziekien for his exceptional service to the Township; highlighted a number of initiatives that were completed by Mr. Maziekien and his staff;
- Thanked Judy Klimowicz for serving as Interim Library Director.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC  
Township Clerk

Date: February 7, 2023

02/07/2023