

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 21, 2023** at 7:01 p.m. in Room 108.

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 MAY 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

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Interim Administrator Ryan Greco, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson, Construction Code Official Frank Genova, Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi, Township Consulting Attorney Sherri Orenberg-Ruggieri, Township Consulting Engineer Carl O'Brien and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

Public Comments

Mayor Andrews opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Members of the public inquired and commented about the Cranford Pool & Fitness Center:

Deborah Brooks of 1 Buchanan Street – inquired about 1) the proposed schedule and 2) construction.

William Thilly, 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – inquired about who was negotiating with the Westfield YMCA on the Township's behalf. He then inquired about the (Indoor) Pool's filtration system, the proposed agreement with the Westfield YMCA, membership fees and financing of the Cranford Pools.

Suzanne Flannery of 104 Herning Avenue – inquired about the Gators' use of the Indoor Pool and their underwriting of lifeguards' pay.

Brenda Hynes of 127 Columbia Avenue – inquired about use of the Westfield YMCA.

Karen Bennett of 38 Herning Avenue – inquired about the renovations, the renovation timeframe and what was expected to occur after May 23rd.

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

Mayor Andrews provided an overview of the proposed Pool & Fitness Center renovations and schedule. He stated that he appreciated the questions which were brought to the Township Committee.

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2022-94.5

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
- OPRA and Daniels Law
- Building Department Fees

Personnel

- Township Administrator
- Collective Bargaining Negotiations – Department of Public Works

Contractual

- Westfield YMCA and Cranford Pool & Fitness Center

Minute Review

- Closed Session Minutes of December 12th and 13, 2022

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty & Black
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 8:11 p.m.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) – Division of Water Quality - NJPDES (New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit Fees

Township Consulting Engineer Carl O’Brien provided an update about the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Division of Water Quality New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit fees, and specifically noted that the “Elimination” fees would increase in 2023. Mr. O’Brien stated that he would apprise Township professionals of the increased fee effective date.

State of New Jersey-mandated Flood Ordinance

Township Consulting Engineer Carl O’Brien spoke about the proposed Township Committee timeline of the State of New Jersey-mandated flood ordinance, i.e., introduce the ordinance in March and adopt the updated ordinance in April. He spoke about the components of the ordinance and expected ordinance work with the Township’s Consulting Engineers and the Building Department. A brief discussion ensued.

On motion of Deputy Mayor Gareis, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee moved to conduct the Official Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:10 p.m.

Budget Workshop Meeting Follow-up

Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson spoke about the 2023 Township Budget. She noted that the Township’s Budget was under “State Review.” Ms. Patterson stated that the Township Committee was expected to introduce the Budget at its March 21st Official Meeting. Discussion then ensued regarding 1) the Township’s surplus, 2) the decline in certain Township revenue figures and 3) expected strains on the Budget.

Westfield YMCA and Cranford Pool & Fitness Center

The members of the Township Committee discussed next steps in regards to the proposed relationship with the Cranford Pool & Fitness Center and the Westfield YMCA, the recent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) communication to pool members, current use at the Cranford Pool & Fitness Center during the hours between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., membership, other communities’ experience with municipal pools and the need for another FAQ document.

Cranford Recreation facility at 375 Centennial Avenue Formal Opening

Commissioner Gina Black and Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi spoke about the formal opening planned for the new Recreational Facility at 375 Centennial Avenue, noting that it would occur on the upcoming Saturday and would include Honor Guard participation, Lacrosse and Soccer program participation, refreshments and speakers. A brief discussion ensued.

Year-End Township Tax Statement

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson spoke about the Township's Year End Tax Statement and provided an overview of where the taxes are distributed (i.e., the Board of Education and the Library). She also reviewed the Township's tax levy and collection rate.

Minute Approval - Closed Session Minutes of December 12th and 13, 2022

Commissioner Miller Prunty made a motion to adopt the December 12th and 13, 2022 Closed Session Minutes. Deputy Mayor Gareis seconded the motion. Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Gareis and Commissioners Miller Prunty and Black voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of December 12th and 13, 2022. Commissioner Curran abstained from the vote.

Township Administrator Report

Interim Administrator Ryan Greco provided a Township Administrator report and spoke about the Department of Public Work's new scheduling system, expected County of Union 1) River Clean-up and 2) River trout restocking.

Public Comments

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

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2022-94.5

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:

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Minute Review

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Recorded Vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Mayor Andrews and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 10:51p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Mayor Andrews and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 21, 2023

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk