

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **June 14, 2022** at 7:38 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 Kathleen Miller Prunty
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis
Commissioner Brian Andrews
Commissioner Gina Black
Commissioner Mary O’Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

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

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of May 24, 2022 and the Official Meeting of February 22, 2022, were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Andrews, Black and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Bill List dated June 14, 2022, totaling \$5,766,406.33 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 Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Gareis, Commissioners Andrews, Black and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Miller Prunty spoke about Resolution No. 2022-268 which pertained to the opposition of New Jersey Senate Bill 2103 (regarding the opposition of preempting local zoning regulations). Mayor Miller Prunty stated that a cover letter and Resolution No. 2022-268 would be sent to certain members of the New Jersey Legislature.

Mayor Miller Prunty then read aloud an excerpt from a press release regarding Cranford’s litigation with other municipalities pertaining to reconstituting the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH).

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miller Prunty invited Eagle Scout Logan Gard up to podium and read the Mayor’s Proclamation:

Eagle Scout Awards

WHEREAS, Harrison Brown, Thomas Cutro, Jack Gard, Logan Gard, Max Kapetanakis and Joshua Schwartz of Cranford Boy Scout Troop 75 has completed all requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout rank is the highest earned rank in scouting. Past history indicates only two percent of all boys who joins scouting persevere to attain this distinctive accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, we are honoring the young men who completed their Eagle Scout rank during those trying times as a group. These scouts adapted to the challenging environment of completing their Eagle Scout projects during a pandemic. A few Scouts changed their projects to accommodate the restrictions put in place, due to the pandemic. They all rose to the challenge in a very trying time to complete very different projects; and

WHEREAS, Harrison Brown, handled the Cranford Dramatic Club renovations; Thomas Cutro, built the Little Free Library at Hampton Park; Jack Gard completed the Hanson Park Community Garden

Revitalization; Logan Gard finalized the Groundwork Elizabeth Microform Project; Max Kapetanakis, renovated St. Michael's Playroom; Joshua Schwartz built the Little Free Food Pantry at the Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, with completion of these projects, adults and children of all ages can take part in new and exciting activities to enjoy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford commend and congratulate Harrison, Thomas, Jack, Logan, Max and Joshua for their outstanding achievement and wish them success in all their future endeavors.

Mayor Miller Prunty read the second Mayor's Proclamation:

Juneteenth – Emancipation of Enslaved African-Americans in the Confederacy-Sunday, June 19, 2022

WHEREAS, Cranford strives to be a diverse and inclusive community, in which our residents take pride in our diversity and believe in safety, prosperity, equality and hope for all who live, visit or work in our town; and

WHEREAS, the people of Cranford recognize the human rights of Black citizens and support an end to all forms of prejudice and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, June 19, known as Juneteenth, commemorates and marks the official end of slavery in the United States and is a time to rejoice; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth acknowledges the continued fight for equal rights and freedom from oppression, stereotypes, racial inequality, financial inequality and injustice; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an opportunity to celebrate Black culture and contribution, it is also a time to bring awareness to what it means to be Black in America through open dialogue on race, ethnicity and injustice, and to come to an understanding of who people are; and

WHEREAS, Black history, culture and contributions have made America a great country; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been an overlooked and uncelebrated American holiday in which slavery was officially abolished, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an opportunity for reflection, self-improvement, understanding and planning for a better future; and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, I, Kathleen Miller Prunty, Mayor of Cranford, NJ on behalf of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford do hereby proclaim Juneteenth, June 19th 2022, a day for reflection, self-improvement, understanding and planning for a better future and encourage all Cranford residents to join in celebration of Black culture and contributions.

INFORMAL MEETING

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the informal portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Terrence Curran, 514 Lexington Avenue - Mr. Curran stated that was representing the Environmental Commission (with Jay Stevens). He stated that the Environmental Commission had met the previous night with representative from the Board of Education and the School Board representatives agreed to conduct an energy audit. Mr. Curran also spoke about a recent planning meeting he attended in which there were discussions on ways to combat the issue of flooding in and around school properties. He suggested the Township Committee and the Board of Education work together to form a solution on this matter.

William Thilly, 22 Bloomingdale Avenue - Mr. Thilly spoke about the importance of friendship. He also spoke about COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) and Fair Share Housing and their roles in negotiating with municipalities to build Affordable Housing units. He expressed concerns about the Township "making a deal" without a guarantee. Mr. Thilly then spoke about the Resolution No. 2022-268 which pertained to New Jersey Senate Bill 2103.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the informal portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCE – Introduction

Ordinance No. 2022-16:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-16 entitled, "AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 255, SECTION 5 TO UPDATE THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ESCROW AND FEES SCHEDULE"

Commissioner Andrews

Provided a brief explanation of Ordinance No. 2022-16 which pertained to an update of the Township's escrow and fees schedule.

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-16 to be held July 7, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on June 23, 2022.

ORDINANCE – Final Reading and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2022-14:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-14 entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO REPEAL CHAPTER 232 IN ITS ENTIRETY” (Repeal of Cranford’s Single Use Plastics Ordinance)

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Commissioner O'Connor opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Commissioner O'Connor closed the public hearing.

Commissioner O'Connor

Explained that the State had recently instituted statutes pertaining to single use plastics that superseded the Township’s Ordinance.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2022-247:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on June 14, 2022, that Adam Jackson, be, and hereby is appointed to the position of Laborer/Driver within the Department of Public Works, effective June 26, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-248:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on June 14, 2022, that Regan Holmes, be, and hereby is appointed to the position of part-time Administrative Assistant, within the Health Department, effective June 13, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-249:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on June 14, 2022, that Frank Genova be, and hereby is, appointed as Fire Sub-Code Official effective June 15, 2022, for a four (4) year term, ending June 14, 2026.

Resolution No. 2022-250:

WHEREAS, Mackenzie Dow, Firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department, is qualified for a leave of absence pursuant to the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), New Jersey Family Leave Act (NJFLA) and the New Jersey Paid Family Leave Act (NJPFLA) for the care of a newborn.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Mackenzie Dow is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning on or about June 6, 2022, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mackenzie Dow shall comply with all provisions of law during the FMLA/NJFLA/NJPLA leave of absence, including providing all required medical proofs.

Resolution No. 2022-251:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held on June 14, 2022 that the following individuals be, and hereby are, appointed as Call Department Members within the Cranford Fire Department, effective June 15, 2022:

Thomas Scanio
Nicholas Pingor
Patrick Kalnins
Sean Daly
Michael basso
Michael DiFabio

Resolution No. 2022-252:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held June 14, 2022 that the following individuals be, and hereby are, appointed as a Full- time Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) within the Cranford Fire Department, effective July 1, 2022:

Karolyn Buckridee
Eric Taylor
Paul Richardson

Resolution No. 2022-253:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held June 14, 2022, that the following alcoholic beverage licenses be and hereby are renewed for the term 2022-2023:

RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES

2003-33-001-005	Remarkable Foods Hospitality LLC 112 South Avenue, East
2003-33-007-006	Spirits Cafe, Inc. T/A Ye Olde Rathskeller 523 Centennial Avenue
2003-33-009-004	Victuals & Libations LLC T/A Garlic Rose 28 North Avenue, West
2003-32-010-010	PRR Hospitality Group LLC T/A River & Rail Cantina 210-230 South Avenue East
2003-33-011-005	P & J Jacobs, Inc. T/A Riverside Inn 56 North Avenue, East
2003-33-006-005	FDCH LLC T/A Cranford Hotel, Inc. 1 South Union Avenue
2003-33-008-011	Cranford Restaurants, LLC 16 Ridge Street Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 T/A The Thirsty Turtle 3 South Avenue, West
2003-33-004-009	IOP Cranford Spirits, LLC 100 and 104 South Avenue, East

RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES

2003-44-003-005	VNR, LLC 227 Throwbridge Drive Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 T/A Breen's Liquors 21 North Union Avenue
2003-44-002-009	WSBFB, LLC 26 Chalfonte Drive Lebanon, NJ 08833 T/A NJ Wine Seller 6-20 South Avenue

2003-44-012-006 The Butcher Block Market & Deli, Inc.
T/A The Butcher Block
209 Centennial Avenue

HOTEL/MOTEL

2003-36-016-003 Apple Seven Hospitality Management Inc.
769 Highway 494
Natchitoches, LA 71457
T/A Homewood Suites by Hilton Newark Cranford
2 Jackson Drive

CLUB LICENSES

2003-31-013-001 Cranford Lodge #2006, B.P.O. Elks
951 Lincoln Avenue, East

2003-31-015-001 Capt. Newel Rodney Fiske Post No. 335,
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
T/A Cranford VFW
479 South Avenue, East

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Alcoholic Beverage License 2003-33-009-004 issued to Victuals & Libations LLC (T/A Garlic Rose), and Alcoholic Beverage License 2003-33-004-009 issued to IOP Cranford Spirits, LLC, be renewed subject to the following condition, in accordance with the Code of the Township of Cranford: "Restaurant - Conditional License"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Resolution No. 2022-254:

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2021, Tropical Storm Ida caused devastating flood damage in New Jersey, and a Presidential declaration was approved. Many homes in the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey sustained considerable damages, including complete destruction. In response, New Jersey has implemented the Floodplain Easement Program for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP-FPE); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the EWPP-FPE is to purchase floodplain easements on eligible lands and to restore the floodplain functions and values to natural conditions to the greatest extent practical. Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural vales including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, floodwater retention, ground water recharge, and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion; and

WHEREAS, the floodplain easement program provides an opportunity for Cranford Township landowners to recover from a catastrophic flood event. Easements provide long-term economic, social, and environmental benefits to the landowners and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee agrees to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a working relationship between the Township of Cranford and the New Jersey Natural Resource Conservation Service through the Floodplain Easement Program for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP-FPE). The process will include the official announcement of the program, the request for applications, and eligibility review of applications; and

WHEREAS, the MOU shall not obligate the Township of Cranford to encumber or transfer any funds and is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the Township of Cranford and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) New Jersey to participate in the Floodplain Easement Program for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP-FPE); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee agrees to the following responsibilities under the MOU:

- A. Assist in the public dissemination of program availability to those affected residents in the community.
- B. Conduct application signups and accept applications for EWPP-FPE.
- C. Conduct public meetings and a public information campaign concerning availability of the program, as applicable.
- D. Identify all properties needed to ensure the restoration of the entire floodplain reach and

- identify strategy that will be implemented to secure all needed properties.
- E. Purchase the land in fee-title and ultimately manage all parcels on which a floodplain easement is imposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk be and hereby are authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Resolution No. 2022-255:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR THE 2021 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2021-358, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorized and approved an award of contract to P & A Construction Inc., 650 Leesville Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey, 07065 a total project price of \$690,499.32 and Resolution No. 2022-116 in the amount \$25,000.00 for and adjusted contract amount of \$715,499.32; and

WHEREAS, certain necessary items of extra work were required to be undertaken throughout the course of the project due to unforeseen field conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed and approved the installation of ADA handicap ramps and crosswalk at the intersection of Grove Street and Lincoln Avenue as set forth in Change Order No. 2, a copy of which is attached to the original hereof; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 2 reflects an increase in the materials and work utilized in the amount not to exceed \$14,000.00 with a total change order amount of \$39,000.00 (5.6% increase); and

WHEREAS, available funding for this Change Order will be utilized from Account C-04-21-010-000-201; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available within the current and/or previously adopted budget for said purpose.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced Change Order No. 2 for the 2021 Capital Road Improvements Project is awarded to P & A Construction Inc. with an amended contract amount of \$729,499.32.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Patricia Donahue, Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the forgoing is true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting of said Committee held on June 14, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-256:

RESOLUTION AWARDED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER BOLLARD INSTALLATION

WHEREAS, there is a need to install bollards along the rear property boundary located at the Cranford Community Center at 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, there were three (3) quotes received for the work being proposed with the low bidder for the project being Statewide Fence Contractors, LLC, 651 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey, 07027 with a quote amount of \$36,128.00; and

WHEREAS, this Project is funded by way of a capital improvements bond ordinance stated herein as provided by Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, this project is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public in the Township of Cranford.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced construction project is awarded to Statewide Fence Contractors, LLC for a total bid amount of \$36,128.00 and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available and appropriated for this purchase, specifically that the Statewide Fence Contractors, LLC contract will be charged to Account No. 2-01-26-310-110-280.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, Patricia Donahue, Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting of said Committee held on June 14, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union and State of New Jersey this 14th day of June 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-257:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford will be hosting a public display and discharge of fireworks on July 2, 2022 in Nomahegan Park at approximately 9:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford has approved an agreement with Garden State Fireworks (the Vendor) to operate the display; and

WHEREAS, the storage, use, and discharge of fireworks is regulated by the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code and applicable referenced standards; and

WHEREAS, the Vendor will be subject to permitting and inspection activity pursuant to the Uniform Fire Code requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford is in favor of allowing the discharge of fireworks at Nomahegan Park on the aforesaid date;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, be and hereby, approves the public display and discharge of fireworks at Nomahegan Park on July 2, 2022 at approximately 9:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorizes the Township Fire Official to issue a Uniform Fire Code Permit for the discharge of fireworks upon satisfaction of all permit conditions.

Resolution No. 2022-258:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 14th day of June, 2022, that the Mayor and Township Clerk be, and hereby are, authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding and an Indemnification Agreement with the County of Union, Public Works Division, for participation in leaf disposal at the Union County Conservation Center.

Resolution No. 2022-259:

Moved to Roll Call Vote

Resolution No. 2022-260:

REQUESTING THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE TAKE ACTION TO STOP REPETITIVE CATASTROPHIC FLOODING IN CRANFORD AND PASS BILLS A253 AND S2431

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2006, then-Assemblymen Jon Bramnick and Eric Munoz introduced in the New Jersey General Assembly A3564 which would provide Cranford Township with a grant of \$5,000,000 to finance the Cranford Northeast Quadrant Flood Control Project, to replace \$3.25 million previously appropriated to Cranford in 2000 but never utilized;

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2006, then Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., introduced S2325 as an identical bill in the New Jersey Senate; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the New Jersey Legislature did not advance either A3564 or S2325; and

WHEREAS, in every legislative session since 2006, Cranford's Assemblypersons and Senators have re-introduced A3564 and S2325, which the New Jersey Legislature has failed to advance despite Cranford being repeatedly devastated by catastrophic flooding, including in 2007 (the Tax Day Storm), in 2010 (Hurricane Irene), and in 2021 (Hurricane Ida); and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2022, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz and Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis re-introduced the legislation as A253, and on May 9, 2022, Senator Jon M. Bramnick re-introduced the legislation as S2431; and

WHEREAS, the Cranford Northeast Quadrant Flood Control Project would significantly help to mitigate flood damage by constructing a pumping station to convey storm water into the main channel of the Rahway River, elevate existing earthen dikes along the river, improve express and local sewer systems, and develop wetland delineation data to assist with our Township's further flood mitigation efforts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cranford Township Committee, comprised of Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis, Commissioner Brian Andrews, Commissioner Gina Black, and Commissioner Mary O'Connor, hereby unanimously supports Assembly Bill No. 253 and recognizes the substantial benefits that this bill would provide for the residents of Cranford Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cranford Township Committee hereby encourages the New Jersey Legislature, including Assemblypersons Munoz and Matsikoudis, Senator Bramnick, Chairman James Kennedy and the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee to finally advance A253 through committee and into law and to deliver actual relief to the residents of Cranford; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is directed to transmit this Resolution to Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Assemblypersons Munoz and Matsikoudis, and Senator Bramnick.

Resolution No. 2022-261:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR TO PREPARE AND MAIL ESTIMATED TAX BILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 1994. C.72

WHEREAS, in order for the Township of Cranford to meet our financial obligations, maintain the tax collection rate, provide uniformity for tax payments and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing it would be in our best interest to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer have completed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3, and have signed a certification showing the tax levies for the previous year, the tax rates and the range of permitted estimated tax levies; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and the State of New Jersey on this 14th day of June 2022 as follows:

1. The Municipal Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and issue estimated tax bills for the municipality for the third installment of 2022 taxes. The Tax Collector shall proceed and take such actions as permitted and required by P.L. 1994, c.72 (N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.2 and 54:4-66.3).
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2022 is hereby set at: **\$110,569,817.84** and Special District is **\$178,524.99**
3. The estimated third quarter tax bill is due August 1, 2022. Interest will be charged after August 10, 2022

Resolution No. 2022-262:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION

– N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 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, the Director may also approve the insertion of an appropriation for the equal amount; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union, New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$7,000.00 which is now available as a revenue from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “2022 Distracted Driving Crackdown - U Drive. U Text. U Pay.” program pursuant to the provision of the statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$7,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption “2022 Distracted Driving Crackdown - U Drive. U Text. U Pay.”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a grant of \$7,000.00 from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s “2022 Distracted Driving Crackdown - U Drive. U Text. U Pay.” program.

Resolution No. 2022-263:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION

– N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 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, the Director may also approve the insertion of an appropriation for the equal amount; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union, New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2022 in the sum of \$45,883.86 which is now available from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) “Clean Communities” Program, pursuant to the provision of the statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$45,883.86 is hereby appropriated under the caption “Clean Communities Grant;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a State grant of \$45,883.86 from the NJDEP “Clean Communities” Program.

Resolution No. 2022-264:

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation (“NJDOT”) has announced that it is now accepting grant applications for the 2023 Transit Village Program that must be submitted through the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) on or before July 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator is hereby authorized to submit an electronic application identified as Eastman Street Sidewalk Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford is requesting funding that will include upgrades to the pedestrian sidewalk and accessibility improvements to the western side of Eastman Street extending northward from the New Jersey Transit rail line approximately 120 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford agrees to assume responsibility for maintenance and repair of the completed pedestrian safety improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, formally approve the grant application for the above stated project;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Administrator is hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as Eastman Street Sidewalk Improvements to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Cranford; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Administrator is hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Cranford and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Resolution No. 2022-265:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 14th day of June, 2022, that the Tax Collector has been authorized to refund tax overpayments for the reason noted:

Tax Court Judgements

Block 635 Lot 1, 6 Commerce Dr
6 Commerce LLC
c/o Daniel P. Zazzali, Esq.
McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center, 100 Mulberry St.
Newark, NJ 07101-0652

2020 Refund \$ 17,894.57

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

2021 Refund \$17,550.28

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

Block 636 Lot 2, 14 Commerce Dr
SIG 14 Commerce, LLC
c/o Daniel P. Zazzali, Esq.
McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center, 100 Mulberry St.
Newark, NJ 07101-0652

2020 Refund \$ 27,960.68

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

2021 Refund \$27,582.77

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

Block 639 Lot 3, 11 Commerce Dr
SIG 11 Commerce, LLC
c/o Daniel P. Zazzali, Esq.
McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center, 100 Mulberry St.
Newark, NJ 07101-0652

2020 Refund \$ 35,592.29

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

2021 Refund \$35,067.65

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

Block 639 Lot 5.01, 65 Jackson Dr
65 Jackson, LLC
c/o Daniel P. Zazzali, Esq.
McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center, 100 Mulberry St.
Newark, NJ 07101-0652

2020 Refund \$ 39,575.42

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

2021 Refund \$39,135.93

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

Block 641 Lot 1, 25 Commerce Dr
SIG 25 Commerce, LLC
c/o Daniel P. Zazzali, Esq.
McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center, 100 Mulberry St.
Newark, NJ 07101-0652

2020 Refund \$ 27,435.72

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

2021 Refund \$27,049.55

(2-01-55-000-010-028)

Resolution No. 2022-266:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to advertise for the solicitation of bids effective retroactively beginning on June 2, 2022 and closing on August 9, 2022 for 2022 Bulk Waste Collection Services.

Resolution No. 2022-267:

APPROVING A WAIVER FOR PROJECT GRADUATION ACTIVITIES OCCURING WITHIN THE ORANGE AVENUE POOL

WHEREAS, the Cranford High School (“CHS”) Class of 2022 Project Graduation Committee, in conjunction with the CHS Parent-Teacher Association (“PTA”), plans annually a Project Graduation event as a fun and safe post-graduation event for graduating seniors that is an alcohol and drug-free event; and

WHEREAS, the Project Graduation Committee has requested to host this year’s event at the Orange Avenue Pool on June 22, 2022 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., with a rain date of June 23, 2022 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Project Graduation event will include food, a deejay, carnival games, a hypnotist, tattoo artists, a photo walk, and inflatables and related entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the Project Graduation event will be staffed by adult volunteers and Cranford Police Department officers, and the Project Graduation Committee has established Rules/Guidelines that all participants must acknowledge and adhere to.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford approves the Project Graduation Committee's use of the Orange Avenue Pool for the Project Graduation event on June 22, 2022 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., with a rain date of June 23, 2022 from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee approves a waiver of local noise, hours of operation and related ordinances, for all Project Graduation activities occurring **within** the Orange Avenue Pool facility and to the extent such activities are consistent with and conform to the Project Graduation proposal and Rules/Guidelines.

Resolution No. 2022-268:

OPPOSING NEW JERSEY SENATE BILL 2103 PREEMPTING LOCAL ZONING REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, municipal elected officials and land use boards are in the best position to make determinations as to the orderly growth and development of their local communities; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the New Jersey State Senate (S-2103) to "temporarily preempt local use restrictions" to convert certain office parks and retail centers to mixed-use development, which is not based upon the extensive public process to establish municipal master plans and local zoning plans and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the S-2103 as reported by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee would require mixed-use developments to be deemed a permitted use and side-step Municipal Land Use Law (hereafter "MLUL")'s well established smart growth principles; and

WHEREAS, municipalities currently can and have addressed the challenges of a struggling economy with empty office parks and retail centers post-Covid along with a need for housing stock by relying upon the existing statutory framework: rezoning, approving overlay zones, or designating properties for redevelopment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Township of Cranford in Union County urges the Legislature not to move forward with this legislation (S-2103), which would preempt the sound land use principles of the MLUL and negatively impact the Cranford Township community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution is forwarded to Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, Senator Jon M. Bramnick, Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz, Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, the League of Municipalities and New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2022-259:

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WITH 750 WALNUT AVENUE LOGISTICS, LLC AND 750 WALNUT RESIDENTIAL URBAN RENEWAL, LLC FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 541, LOT 2, QUALIFIERS C01, C02, C03, C04, C05, C06 & C07

WHEREAS, by Resolution Number 2020-159 adopted on February 25, 2020, the Cranford Township Committee directed the Planning Board to conduct a preliminary investigation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6 to determine whether the properties designated on the Township tax map as Block 541, Lot 2, Qualifiers C01, C02, C03, C04, C05, C06 & C07 (the "**Properties**") qualifies as a condemnation area in need of redevelopment according to the criteria set forth in Section 5 of the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq; and

WHEREAS, Hartz Mountain Industries, Inc. ("Hartz"), by and through certain subsidiaries, is the fee owner of the Properties, comprised of roughly thirty and half (30.5) total acres; and

WHEREAS, Planning Board directed Topology NJ, LLC (Topology) to undertake an investigation of the Properties and prepare a preliminary investigation report as required by the statute, and Topology prepared a Preliminary Investigation Report dated August 18, 2020 ("Preliminary Investigation"); and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board provided the required legal notices and conducted a public meeting in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6 on September 2, 2020 and September 16, 2020;

and

WHEREAS, during the aforesaid hearings, the Planning Board reviewed the Preliminary Investigation Report prepared by Topology dated August 18, 2020, and heard testimony from Leigh Anne Hindenlang, AICP/PP, a planning expert employed by Topology, and co-author of said report; and

WHEREAS, upon review and consideration of the aforementioned report, the exhibits entered into evidence, and the testimony presented during the hearings, the Planning Board determined that the Properties satisfy the criteria for designation as a Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment pursuant to the aforementioned statute; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the Planning Board voted to recommend to the Township Committee that the Properties be designated a Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2020, the Planning Board adopted a resolution 2020-013 memorializing its September 16, 2020 vote accepting and adopting the conclusions contained in the Study and recommending designation of the Properties as a Condemnation Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2020-356, ("Redevelopment Resolution"), dated November 10, 2020, the Township Committee designated the Property as a Condemnation Area in Need of Redevelopment, as provided in N.J.S.A.40A:12A-5; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Resolution was transmitted to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA") via overnight delivery on November 16, 2020, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have reached an agreement that Hartz will develop the Property to include, among other things, an inclusionary project consisting of units which will be set-aside for very low-, low- and moderate-income households ("Inclusionary Development"), which Inclusionary Development is part of the Township's Compliance Plan that is subject of a settlement agreement between the Township and Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC Settlement Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which sets forth the terms, conditions, responsibilities and obligations of the Parties relative to creating a realistic opportunity to develop the Inclusionary Development consisting of a total of 250 residential units (the "Residential Project") and 250,000 square feet of commercial use (the "Commercial Project") (the Residential Project and the Commercial Project together referred to as the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, a redevelopment project located in an Area in Need of Redevelopment must be undertaken in accordance with a Redevelopment Plan, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee authorized Topology, LLC to prepare a Redevelopment Plan for the Property in accordance with the requirements of the Redevelopment Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee adopted the Redevelopment Plan on December 14, 2021 by Ordinance 2021-18; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Plan incorporates the design requirements and conditions for the redevelopment of the Property for the Hartz Project; and

WHEREAS, in contemplation of the redevelopment of the Property pursuant to the Redevelopment Plan and this Agreement, Hartz has terminated the existing condominium form of ownership of the existing structures located on the Property and has commenced demolition of these structures; and

WHEREAS, the Residential Project shall be approved and constructed pursuant to a Redevelopment Agreement with 750 Walnut Avenue Residential Urban Renewal, LLC, an affiliate of Hartz; and

WHEREAS, the Commercial Project shall be approved and constructed pursuant to a Redevelopment Agreement with 750 Walnut Avenue Logistics, LLC; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2022-243 the Township designated **750 WALNUT AVENUE LOGISTICS, LLC** (the "Commercial Redeveloper") as the redeveloper of the Commercial Project and to undertake the Commercial Project and approved an escrow agreement to defray the actual costs and expenses of the Township related to the Project; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2022-243 the Township designated **750 WALNUT RESIDENTIAL URBAN RENEWAL, LLC** (the "Residential Redeveloper") as the redeveloper of the Residential Project and to undertake the Residential Project and approved an escrow agreement to defray the actual costs and expenses of the Township related to the Project (the "Commercial Redeveloper" and the "Residential Redeveloper" together as the "Redevelopers"); and

WHEREAS, the Township and the Redevelopers have agreed to the terms and conditions with respect to the redevelopment of the Commercial Project and the Residential Project and the construction of the onsite and offsite improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Township believes that the redevelopment of the Property in the manner proposed by the Redevelopers is in the best interests of the community and promotes the health, safety, morals and welfare of the Township's residents and is accord with the public purpose and provisions of the Redevelopment Law and all other Applicable Laws; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that it is in the best interest of the community for it to enter into redevelopment agreements with the Redevelopers for the purpose of facilitating the redevelopment of the Property and to specify each parties' respective rights and obligations for the effectuation of the goals and objectives of the redevelopment of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the Redevelopers desire to fully and thoroughly address the rights and obligations of the Parties hereto in connection with the redevelopment of the Property by way of redevelopment agreements for the Residential Project and the Commercial Project, respectively, in the forms substantially consistent with the agreements attached and annexed hereto, and the Township and the Redevelopers acknowledge that the mutual promises contained in the redevelopment agreements shall be good and valuable consideration for the binding execution of the redevelopment agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey as follows:

1. **Generally.** The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. **Execution of Redevelopment Agreement.** The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents, including the redevelopment agreements substantially consistent with the form of agreement attached hereto, to effectuate the completion and implementation of the Residential Project and the Commercial Project, subject to final review by counsel as to legal form and content.
3. **Severability.** If any part of this resolution shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be served and the invalidity thereby shall not affect the remaining parts of this resolution.
4. **Resolution on File.** A copy of this resolution shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Township Clerk.
5. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Commissioner Black

Stated that the proposed resolution pertaining to Redevelopment Agreements for 750 Walnut Avenue had originally been proposed as a single resolution for the property's commercial portion and had then been revised to include the residential portion as well. Commissioner Black spoke about residents' concerns which were raised at a recent Traffic Study meeting and stated that she was not confident that these concerns were appropriately addressed. She also discussed a financial agreement that had been attached as an exhibit to the agreements. Commissioner Black explained that she would be voting "no" on Resolution No. 2022-259 for the aforementioned reasons.

Commissioner Andrews

Expressed that no one is particularly pleased with the Agreement and spoke about the intense negotiations surrounding the traffic issues. Commissioner Andrews stated that Hartz Mountain would agree to all the traffic provisions that the Township has put forward and felt comfortable voting "yes" on Resolution No. 2022-259.

Deputy Mayor Gareis

Said that a Certificate of Completion would not be issued until all the traffic concerns were met.

Mayor Miller Prunty

Discussed the recent Traffic Study meeting that was held for the 750 Walnut Avenue Redevelopment project. She stated that Traffic Engineer Maurice Rached of Colliers Engineering paid special attention to residents' concerns and would take those concerns into consideration when refining traffic recommendations. Mayor Miller Prunty echoed Commissioner Andrews' comments and stated that Hartz Mountain would agree to all the traffic provisions that the Township had proposed.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: Commissioner Black

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Christine Esposito, 11 Behnert Place – Ms. Esposito stated that she attended the recent Traffic Study meeting regarding the 750 Walnut Avenue Redevelopment Project and inquired about the site plan approval. She also asked about the location of the driveway for 750 Walnut Avenue and asked if that was included in the consideration of resident concerns. Additional discussion ensued between Mayor Miller Prunty, Ms. Esposito, Township Consulting Redevelopment Attorney

Michael Ash and Township Attorney Ryan Cooper regarding the specifics of the redevelopment agreement.

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Mr. Smith spoke about Resolution No. 2022-268 pertaining to the opposition of New Jersey Senate Bill 2103. He stated that he was pleased that the Resolution had been approved. He then spoke about a moratorium on affordable housing. A discussion ensued between Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and Mr. Smith regarding the Council on Affordable Housing as well as Affordable Housing obligations in New Jersey. Mr. Smith stated that he attended a meeting in which Senator Jon Bramnick spoke about affordable housing, COAH and what is to come in 2025.

Loretta Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Ms. Smith asked for a status update on the 375 Centennial Avenue facility and inquired about flooding in the area. She also spoke about the Centennial Avenue Pool and stated that she was upset about its delayed opening. Mayor Miller Prunty and Township Administrator Jamie Cryan provided clarification on the Pools' opening date and the issues the Township faced acquiring the pool pump.

Michele Charney Hulse, 41 Keith Jeffries Avenue – Ms. Charney Hulse inquired about Township Committee Meeting Minutes and asked when they would be available to the public. She then asked about a timeline for the Pools' permits and an anticipated opening date for the Pools. Ms. Charney Hulse also expressed concerns over the negative impact the delayed opening could potentially have on her daughter's swimming career.

Terrence Curran, 514 Lexington Avenue – Mr. Curran stated that he lives near the 750 Walnut Avenue redevelopment project and expressed concerns about the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Chester Lang Place. Mr. Curran also referenced an earlier public comment made by Don Smith regarding Affordable Housing and spoke about the importance of working together to combat overdevelopment.

Chrissa Stulpin, 356 Retford Avenue - Ms. Stulpin spoke about the recent 750 Walnut Avenue Traffic Study meeting. She stated that she does not think the public was fully aware that traffic mitigation efforts discussed at the Traffic Study meeting would be implemented in a piecemeal fashion. She spoke about multiple phases of traffic mitigation and asked how much time would pass in between each phase. Ms. Stulpin also stated that she wanted to provide clarification for the residents. Discussion ensued.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Thanked Board of Education colleagues, the Cranford Fire Department and the Cranford Police Department, Municipal Party Chairs, the voters of Cranford, Poll workers, Poll leaders, colleagues at the County, the Finance Department, the Department of Public Works, and colleagues in the Clerk's Office for their hard work and assistance with the Primary Election.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Thanked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue for executing a well-run Primary Election;
- Congratulated Deputy Clerk Ashley Kurbanoglu on passing her Registered Municipal Clerk exam;
- Congratulated Ed Davenport of TV 35 on receiving an Union County Human Relations Commission Unity Achievement award;
- Announced the new Municipal Building office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;
- Stated that the Municipal Building would be closed on the upcoming Monday in recognition of Juneteenth;
- Wished a happy Father's Day to all of the fathers and father figures.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Gina Black

- Thanked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue as well as all other individuals who worked to make the Primary Election a success;
- Congratulated Troop Seventy-Five (75) Eagle Scouts on their accomplishments;
- Discussed the Township Pools and stated that the Municipal staff had been working very hard to get the Pools opened; Thanked Township Administrator Jamie Cryan, the Township

Consulting Engineers and the entire Building Department for coming together to solve the issues with the Pools; stated that everyone is heartbroken and doing all they can to get the Pools open as quickly as possible;

- Welcomed and congratulated the new Municipal employees;
- Thanked the Commissioners for adopting Resolution No 2022-260 which pertained to support of Assembly Bill No. 253; stated that such Bill would appropriate State funds for flood mitigation projects within the Township.
- Thanked Assemblywoman Matsikoudis and members of her staff, Kean Maclelland and Josh Kutner for their work to move Assembly Bill No. 253 forward;
- Congratulated the soon-to-be graduates and wished them the best of luck in their future endeavors;
- Wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Spoke about the evolution of the Hartz Mountain Industries project, stating that the project had been reduced from approximately 900 residential units to approximately 225 residential units; she stated that the project had also changed from a residential project to a commercial and residential project;
- Spoke about the Traffic Study meeting and noted that she was underwhelmed by the professionals and their ability to incorporate residents' concerns;
- Stated that the 750 Walnut Avenue Redevelopment Plan and Traffic Study would be reviewed by the Planning Board and discussed the importance of resident input;
- Apologized to residents regarding the delayed opening of the Township Pools; stated that she is a resident who wants Centennial Avenue Pool to be opened; acknowledged that "things fell through the cracks" and assured that "things would get done";
- Congratulated the Troop Seventy-Five (75) Eagle Scouts;
- Welcomed and congratulated new municipal employees; complimented the Cranford Fire Department, calling them "the best in the state";
- Wished everyone a Happy Father's Day;
- Referencing that she graduated from Cranford High School in 1973, congratulated Cranford High School's Class of 2022.

Commissioner Brian Andrews

- Recognized and thanked the Memorial Day Committee for a wonderful Memorial Day Parade;
- Discussed the Township Pools and stated that the delayed opening was a failure by the Township; Expressed his frustration over the delayed opening of the pools; Stated that the Township's priority was to get the Centennial Avenue Pool and the Orange Avenue Splashpad opened safely and as quickly as possible;
- Announced that the Township was looking at any and all flood mitigation strategies; spoke about the drainage projects taking place on Edgar Avenue and Kensington Place as well as flood relief efforts for High Street;
- Spoke about Resolution No 2022-254 which authorized a Memorandum of Understanding (regarding the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Department of Agriculture to participate in the Floodplain Easement Program for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program pertaining to Orchard Brook);
- Announced that the Township's Bulk Waste provider was no longer providing Bulk Waste services and informed members of the public that the Township Administrator was looking into alternatives;
- Thanked the residents of Mansion Terrace, Elm Street, Stratford Terrace and Lawn Terrace for raising concerns about curbing and street paving;
- Spoke about the importance of investing in infrastructure;
- Recognized Girl Scout Troop 40967 for their work on pedestrian and bike safety within the Township; noted that people can effect change as evidenced by a new crosswalk in the Township;
- Announced that the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) would be hosting a "School's Out for Summer" event on June 23rd;
- Suggested that residents purchase Downtown Management Corporation gift cards for year-end teachers' gifts;

Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis

- Spoke about bipartisan support regarding gun control on the national level;
- Read aloud excerpts from a memo written by Police Chief Greco about a ghost gun incident which had occurred on May 28, 2022;
- Thanked Officer Gamba, Sergeant D'Ambola, and Officer Cook for their heroism and bravery;
- Expressed his disappointment with the issues at the Township Pools; explained that at the previous evening's Workshop meeting the Township Committee had identified causes of the issues; Stated that he understood the level of frustration the residents felt about the pools and that those feelings were warranted and justified;
- Thanked members of the Department of Public Works, including Superintendent of Erik Hastrup, and the Township Consulting Engineer team, including Jacqueline Dirmann, for working to find an alternate solution to the Pools' problems;
- Welcomed new members of the Fire Department, specifically Call Members: Thomas Scanio, Nicholas Pingor, Patrick Kalnins, Sean Daly, Michael Basso, and Michael DiFabio;
- Welcomed fulltime Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) Karolyn Buckridee, Eric Taylor and Paul Richardson;
- Announced that bids for the Home Elevation Project would take place on Thursday, June 16.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Stated that she was "frustrated and infuriated" regarding the Pools' delayed opening; spoke about the frank discussions which had taken place at the previous evening's Workshop and Closed session meetings;
- Thanked the Swim Pool Utility Advisory Board; spoke about their work during the previous six (6) to eight (8) months; apologized to the residents for the delayed Pools' opening;
- Welcomed the newly-hired employees in the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department, the Health Department and the new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's);
- Congratulated Edward Davenport of TV35;
- Congratulated all of the students who would be graduating in the upcoming weeks.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk

Date: June 14, 2022