

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **June 20 2023** at 7:02 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  
Commissioner Terrence Curran  
Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty  
Commissioner Gina Black

Absent: None

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Township Consulting Attorney Sherry Orenberg-Ruggieri, Interim Administrator Lavona Patterson 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.

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – inquired about the format of the Meeting and whether he could inquire about Discussion items on the Workshop Meeting Agenda. Mr. Smith inquired about the proposed short-term rental ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding how the ordinance related to Airbnb use.

Loretta Smith, 21 Oneida Place – spoke about a specific short-term rental practice in her neighborhood. A brief discussion ensued regarding the proposed short-term rental ordinance and how it related to rental practices in residential areas.

Michael Petrucci, 437 Brookside Place – inquired about the proposed rental practices in a residential area section. He stated his opposition to the four (4) times a year in a twelve (12) month period wording in (Section 1) of the short-term rental ordinance.

Barry Mazza, 205 Walnut Avenue – inquired about the proposed short-term rental ordinance and self -policing.

Will Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Road - inquired about Birchwood’s payments to the Township. Discussion ensued between Mr. Thilly and Interim Administrator Patterson. Mr. Thilly inquired about concessions at the Pools. He inquired about land tax credit. Discussion ensued between Mr. Thilly, Interim Administrator Patterson, and Commissioner Black. Mr. Thilly inquired about a School Board referendum. Mayor Andrews referred Mr. Thilly to the Board of Education. Mr. Thilly inquired whether the Township had initiated a redevelopment bond process.

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place– inquired about the proposed short-term rental ordinance and the four (4) times a year in a twelve (12) month period wording in (Section 1) of the short-term rental ordinance.

Michael Petrucci, 437 Brookside Place – spoke about his opposition to the short-term rental ordinance. He inquired why the Township was acting in a reactionary manner and why the Township would allow this in a residential area.

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

### **Closed Session**

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

**Resolution No. 2023-94.16**

**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
- Township Committee

**Personnel**

- Township Administrator
- Health Department
- TV 35
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- 2023 appointments to committees, boards and commissions

**Minute Review**

- Closed Session Minutes of December 22, 2022

**Recorded Vote:**

Aye: Mayor Brian Andrews, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Curran, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 7:51 p.m.

**Selection of candidate to temporarily fill vacancy on the Township Committee**

In light of Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis' June 19<sup>th</sup> resignation, Mayor Andrews discussed the temporary vacancy on the Township Committee. Mayor Andrews spoke about Paul Gallo's credentials, background and community work and stated that he would like to nominate Paul Gallo for the vacant Commissioner position. Mayor Andrews stated that the Cranford Democratic Committee nominated two other candidates to serve as the successor to fill the vacancy on the Township Committee, specifically Patricia MacLean and Shaun Rees. Commissioner Miller Prunty stated that the Township was fortunate to have three (3) residents interested in serving on the Township Committee. She stated that she supported the choice of Paul Gallo. Commissioner Black stated that she did not know any of the three (3) candidates. Commissioner Curran stated that he had spoken to each of the three (3) candidates and thought that each of them were great candidates. Commissioner Curran spoke about his support of Paul Gallo to fill the vacant Commissioner position. A straw (voice) vote was held regarding Paul Gallo for the vacancy on the Township Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor of Paul Gallo for the vacant position on the Township Committee.

**Review Official Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner Black inquired about Resolution No. 2023-213 which pertained to the Giordano Company award for Garbage Removal Services for the Municipal Building and Grounds. A brief discussion ensued.

**Union County Application with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Local Transportation Projects Fund 2023**

Mayor Andrews spoke about the proposed resolution (Resolution No. 2023-217) on the Official Meeting pertaining to the Township's support of a Union County grant application for a Bikeway project.

**Review Official Meeting Agenda (continued)**

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue spoke about the proposed resolution (Resolution No. 2023-210) on the Official Meeting pertaining to the authorization of the 2023-2024 Liquor License Renewals. She spoke about the administrative work and communication with the State of New Jersey regarding the license renewals.

### **Short-term Rental Ordinance**

Commissioner Black spoke about concerns she had regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2023-08 pertaining to short-term rentals including her concern that short-term rentals would be allowed in the ORC District. Discussion ensued.

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Miller Prunty and passed, the Township Committee moved to conduct the Official Meeting at 8:02 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to the Workshop Meeting at approximately 9:47 p.m.

### **Summer Pools Update**

Commissioner Curran and Interim Administrator Patterson provided a brief overview of the summer -to-date membership figures and revenue. They stated that the lifeguard staffing situation was good and elaborated. Mayor Andrews requested an analysis of the Indoor Pool membership figures and revenues.

### **Shade Tree Commission**

Commissioner Curran read through sections of the proposed Shade Tree Management Commission ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the financial aspects associated with a Shade Tree Commission. Commissioner Black recommended that both proposed tree ordinances utilize consistent tree measurement. Commissioner Curran spoke about a tree replacement program. He noted that trees keep a place “suburban.”

Mayor Andrews inquired if the tree ordinances had been reviewed “interagency.” Mr. Cooper stated that the ordinance would be “tightened up” (including adding the tree replacement language) and then distributed to the appropriate departments.

### **Tree Replacement Ordinance`**

Referring to the draft “Tree Replacement” distributed information, Commissioner Curran stated that ordinance language had been received from the State of New Jersey. Discussion ensued including discussion as to whether the ordinance would apply to development.

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that his office would refine both ordinances and send the ordinance updates to the stakeholders.

### **Township Administrator Report**

Interim Administrator Lavona Patterson stated that she was pleased with the proposed appointment of employee new hires.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Miller Prunty suggested that the Township erect two (2) more flagpoles on the front lawn of the Municipal Building and noted that Commissioner Curran had recommended this initiative. Commissioner Black stated that the Recreation Facility at 375 Centennial Avenue also had flagpole needs. Commissioner Curran noted that the Veterans of Foreign Wars had raised the matter as well as the question of which flag should fly on which pole.. Discussion ensued. Consensus was reached to move forward with flag pole purchases for the 375 Centennial Avenue Facility and the Municipal Building.

### **Late Starter - Selection of candidate to fill Deputy Mayor Vacancy on the Township Committee**

In light of Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis' June 19<sup>th</sup> resignation, the members of the Township Committee discussed the unexpired Deputy Mayor term. Commissioner Miller Prunty nominated Commissioner Terrence Curran for the Deputy Mayor position. Commissioner Black seconded the nomination. A straw (voice) vote was held regarding Commissioner Curran for the position of Deputy Mayor. The vote was unanimous in favor of Commissioner Curran for the position of Deputy Mayor.

### **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 Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

### **Resolution No. 2023-94.16**

**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**

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#### **Personnel**

- Township Administrator
- Health Department
- TV 35
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- 2023 appointments to committees, boards and commissions

#### **Minute Review**

- Closed Session Minutes of December 22, 2022

#### **Recorded Vote:**

Aye: Mayor Brian Andrews, Commissioners Curran, Miller Prunty and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 10:47 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Miller Prunty, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue  
Township Clerk

Dated: June 20, 2023