

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **July 10, 2023** at 7:03 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 Terrence Curran
Commissioner Paul Gallo
Commissioner Gina Black

Absent: Commissioner Kathleen Miller Prunty

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Business Administrator/CFO 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.

Ms. Rita LaBrutto of 104 Arlington Road – inquired about the short-term rental ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023-08), specifically who would review conditional use, i.e. the Zoning Officer or the Zoning Board. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper responded. Ms. LaBrutto inquired about the parking lot reference in the ordinance. Mr. Cooper spoke about parking requirements. Ms. LaBrutto stated that there should be a public hearing pertaining to the short-term rental ordinance so that members of the public could comment about the proposed ordinance. She inquired how the public would be protected. Mr. Cooper responded. Commissioner Black stated that the matters raised by Ms. LaBrutto were valid. Discussion ensued about enforcement, protection and conditions.

Mr. Will Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – inquired about a land tax credit and how it pertained to 750 Walnut Avenue. Mayor Andrews responded that due to Mr. Thilly's legal action against the Township, he would not be able to respond. Mr. Thilly inquired about the 2022 Outdoor Pool concessions company. A brief discussion ensued. He then inquired about PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments from the Birchwood developer to the Township. Discussion ensued. Mr. Thilly inquired about the Township's Business Administrator's report and who was the Business Administrator. Mayor Andrews responded.

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

Swim Pool Utility

Deputy Mayor Curran stated that two thousand (2,000) outdoor pool memberships had been purchased for the 2023 summer season. He noted that this membership level had resulted in approximately \$800,000 in revenue. Business Administrator/CFO Patterson stated that with the review of current pool figures, the Township had generated approximately one million (\$1,000,000) in revenue. She noted that the Township needed approximately one million seven hundred thousand (\$1,700,000) in revenue.

Commissioner Black inquired how the closing of the Indoor Pool would affect the Township's financials. Ms. Patterson stated that this year's figures would be assisted with COVID funding. She suggested that the Township review the Pool's figures in September and evaluate the matter. Discussion ensued regarding a neighboring municipality's swim pool partnership with other towns and an expected meeting with the Westfield YMCA to discuss Indoor Pool offerings. A brief discussion ensued.

Jersey Access Group (JAG)--American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023 (H.R. 3557)

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and Business Administrator/CFO Lavona Patterson spoke about Congressional legislation pertaining to telecommunications infrastructure (H. R. 3557 - the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023). Commissioner Curran stated that the proposed legislation would take funding away from the TV35 Station. Ms. Patterson spoke about the legislation's damaging financial effects for municipalities. Mr. Cooper stated that a resolution had been prepared opposing H.R. 3557 and could be considered for adoption at the Township Committee's August 8th Official Meeting. Discussion ensued.

2023 Appointments to Committees, Boards and Commissions

Mayor Andrews stated that the 2023 Appointments matter would be discussed in Closed Session.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Mayor Andrews stated that there were a number of resolutions pertaining to Engineering matters on the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda. Commissioner Curran inquired about Resolution No. 2023-233 pertaining to the purchase of Police Department duty weapons. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that a liquor license (Alcoholic Beverage Control) transfer resolution (Resolution No. 2023-231) would be considered at the following evening's Official Meeting and briefly elaborated.

Closed Session Minutes – February 21st, March 6th and June 20, 2023

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue inquired if members of the Township Committee had enough time to review the Closed Session Minutes of February 21st, March 6th and June 20, 2023. Consensus was reached to move this matter to the following evening's Conference Meeting.

Business Administrator Report

Ms. Patterson provided an update on the "Elevation of Private Structures" projects. She stated that the Township had scheduled a bid opening for a Home Elevation Project. Ms. Patterson then stated that the Borough of Roselle Park was interested in a "Pool Night", i.e., use of a Cranford outdoor pool. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Report

Commissioner Black stated that the overgrown lawn and weed situation was now being handled at the Cranford Recreation Center at 375 Centennial Avenue. She briefly elaborated.

Public Comments

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

Mr. Will Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – inquired about the cost to run two (2) pools. Business Administrator/CFO Lavona Patterson responded. He then asked why the 2023 Appointments to Committees, Boards and Commissions Agenda matter would not be held in open session. Mayor Andrews responded. Mr. Thilly inquired if the Committee positions were unpaid. Further discussion ensued.

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

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2023-94.17

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

Personnel

- TV 35
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Conservation Center
- 2023 Appointments to Committees, Boards and Commissions

Public Safety

- Municipal Building Security

Minute Review

- Closed Session Meeting Minutes – February 21st, March 6th, March 7th and June 20, 2023

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Mayor Andrews, Deputy Mayor Curran, Commissioners Gallo and Black

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Miller Prunty

On motion of Deputy Mayor Curran, seconded by Commissioner Gallo and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 9:09 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Curran and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue
Township Clerk

Dated: July 10, 2023