

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **January 25, 2022** at 7:41 p.m. remotely and by electronic means.

Due to the ongoing public health emergency, and the Governor's Executive Orders related to the same, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford will conduct the January 25, 2022 Township Committee Official Meeting remotely and by electronic means.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 (the "Open Public Meetings Act") and consistent with the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services guidelines, the Township Committee Meeting will be open to the public by electronic means. Residents can view the meetings on TV-35, YouTube CranfordTV35 and via livestream on [TV-35's Facebook Page](#).

Members of the public who wish to participate in the virtual meeting for purposes of making a public comment or to participate in any scheduled public hearing can access the videoconference at [meet.google.com/efu-rqry-qoy](https://meet.google.com/efu-rqry-qoy) or by telephone at 1-904-580-6156, with the access code (PIN): 921677998#

Members of the public may submit written comments in advance of a meeting, which will be read during the public portion of the meeting. Written public comments submitted prior to the meeting must identify the name and address of the commenter. No anonymous comments will be accepted. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail with the subject line "Public Comment-Township of Cranford Township Committee- Meeting Date of \_\_\_\_\_" to the Clerk of the Township Committee, Patricia Donahue at [clerk@cranfordnj.org](mailto:clerk@cranfordnj.org) or by mail addressed to: Patricia Donahue, Municipal Clerk, Township of Cranford, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. E-mailed comments must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Mailed comments must be received by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

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 Town Hall 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 Jason Gareis, followed by the flag salute.

#### **MINUTE APPROVAL**

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the minutes of the Conference Meeting of November 23, 2021 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Black

Absent: None

#### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black and passed, the Bill List dated January 25, 2022, totaling \$6,316,979.64 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 informed members of the public that a vigil would be held on the upcoming Sunday

at the Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim to recognize and honor hostages who were recently held at a synagogue in Texas. She stated that details regarding the vigil would appear in the Township newsletter as well as on the Township Facebook page.

### **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Miller Prunty stated that at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Official Meeting, two individuals were erroneously appointed to the Library Board for three (3)-year terms instead of five (5)-year terms.

### **Superseding the January 11, 2022 Mayoral Appointments to the Library Board - Mayoral Appointments to the Library Board**

Patricia Pavlak as member for a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2026

Susan Burke as member for a five (5) year term ending December 31, 2026

### **INFORMAL MEETING**

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

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Mr. Smith did not comment (possible technical difficulties)

Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue if the Clerk’s Office received any comments for the public portion of the meeting. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that the Clerk’s Office did not receive any public comments via U.S. Post or email. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the informal meeting portion of the meeting.

### **ORDINANCE – Introduction**

#### **Ordinance No. 2022-01:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-01 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 77 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE TO RENAME THE COMMITTEE FROM “MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE” TO THE “CRANFORD PREVENTION AND WELLNESS ALLIANCE”

Commissioner O’Connor explained that the Municipal Alliance was seeking to take a more holistic approach to prevention and wellness and would like to expand their mission.

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner Black, 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. 2022-01 to be held February 22, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on February 3, 2022.**

#### **Ordinance No. 2022-02:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-02 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR A CONDEMNATION AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 750 WALNUT AVENUE (BLOCK 541, LOT 2, QUALIFIERS C01, C02, C03, C04, C05, C06 AND C07) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ.”

#### **Commissioner Andrews**

Read the proposed amendment to Ordinance 2021-18 pertaining to the 750 Walnut Avenue Redevelopment Plan. He explained that this amendment would help to provide the Township with some protection from developers.

#### **Commissioner O’Connor**

Stated that she had been fighting for this amendment since the beginning and was glad to finally see it come “into play”. She stated that the language in the amendment shows developers how serious the Township of Cranford is about combating overdevelopment.

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor, 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. 2022-02 to be held March 8, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on February 3, 2022.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-03:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-03 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR AN AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION CONSISTING OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 100-126 SOUTH AVENUE (BLOCK 478, LOTS 1.01, 1.02, 2, 3, 4 AND 5), 32 HIGH STREET (BLOCK 478, LOT 6), 2 CHESTNUT STREET (BLOCK 483, LOT 18) AND 201 WALNUT AVENUE (BLOCK 484, LOT 19.01) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ."

Commissioner O'Connor

Explained that flooding was a major concern and would like to see developers come to Township meetings to discuss flood mitigation efforts with residents.

Commissioner Black

Stated that she would abstain from the vote and deferred to the rest of the Governing Body. She also commented on traffic concerns in and around the area of large developments.

Commissioner Andrews

Talked about his concerns with flooding issues and the importance of developers staying engaged with residents and business owners.

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

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Black

Absent: None

**Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-03 to be held February 22, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on February 3, 2022.**

**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. 2022-109:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the resignation of Maryanne Del Negro-Mason as the Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance (formerly known as the Municipal Alliance) Program Coordinator, effective June 30, 2021.

**Resolution No. 2022-110:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on January 25, 2022, that Eva Piassek be, and hereby is, appointed to the position of the Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance Program Coordinator, effective January 21, 2022.

**Resolution No. 2022-111:**

**WHEREAS**, James Knight, a Detective within the Cranford Police 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 his wife and child.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Committee of the Township of Cranford that James Knight is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning February 14, 2022, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

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

**Resolution No. 2022-112:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 that the Tax Collector be and hereby is authorized to expunge the following 2021 real estate taxes for the reason noted:

**100% Disabled Veteran-As of Oct 27, 2021**

Block 163 Lot 11  
Acinapura, Joseph & Cheryl L  
604 Willow Street\*  
Cranford, N.J. 07016

**Expunged: \$3,412.73**

**\*7/7/22 - Minutes updated by Township Clerk: "Willow Ave" to "Willow Street"**

**Resolution No. 2022-113:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 that the Tax Collector has been authorized to refund tax overpayments for the reason noted:

**100% Disabled Veteran-Resident Tax Overpayment**

Block 163 Lot 11  
Acinapura, Joseph  
604 Willow Street  
Cranford, N.J. 07016

**Refund \$3,412.73**  
(2-01-55-000-010-025)

**Resolution No. 2022-114:**

**RESOLUTION EXTENDING GRACE PERIOD FOR 2021 SEWER BILLS  
AND WAIVING ALL INTEREST THEREON FOR PAYMENTS MADE  
DURING THE EXTENDED GRACE PERIOD**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford has issued the 2021 annual sewer bills with the due date of May 1, 2021 and associated grace period through May 30, 2021; and  
**WHEREAS**, New Jersey Senate Bill 4081 instituted a grace period extension until March 15, 2022 for the unpaid balance of any residential sewer charges as of January 1, 2022;  
**WHEREAS**, delinquent sewer charges that were sold at tax sale by January 1, 2022 are not affected;  
**WHEREAS**, interest and penalties, including 2021 year-end penalties cannot be enforced on the unpaid balance for residential customers of a local government sewer authority;  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the grace period for unpaid 2021 residential sewer payments is hereby extended up to and including March 15, 2022, and the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to waive interest on any payments made before that date.

**Resolution No. 2022-115:**

**AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT  
OFFICE, 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND  
ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress authorized the Defense Logistic Agency (DLA) Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program to make use of excess Department of Defense personal property by making that personal property available to municipal, county and State Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's); and  
**WHEREAS**, DLA rules mandate that all equipment acquired through the 1033 Program remain under the control of the requesting LEA; and  
**WHEREAS**, participation in the 1033 Program allows municipal and County LEA's to obtain property they might not otherwise be able to afford in order to enhance community preparedness, response, and resiliency; and  
**WHEREAS**, although property is provided through the 1033 Program at no cost to municipal and county LEA's, these entities are responsible for the costs associated with delivery, maintenance, fueling, and upkeep of the property, and for specialized training on the operation of any acquired property; and  
**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-30.2 requires that the Governing Body of the municipality or county approve, by a majority of the full membership, both enrollment in, and the acquisition of any property through, the 1033 Program.  
**NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Cranford Police Department is hereby authorized to enroll in the 1033 Program for no more than a one (1)-year period, with authorization to participate terminating in December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year.  
**NOW THEREFOR BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cranford Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire items of non-controlled property designated "DEMIL A", which may include office

supplies, office furniture, computers, electronic equipment, generators, field packs, non-military vehicles, clothing, traffic and transit signal systems, exercise equipment, farming and moving equipment, storage devices and containers, tools, medical and first aid equipment and supplies, beds and sleeping mats, wet and cold weather equipment and supplies, respirators, binoculars and any other supplies or equipment of non-military nature identified by the LEA, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes, based on the needs of the Cranford Police Department without restriction.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cranford Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire the following “DEMIL B through Q” property, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the “DEMIL B through Q” controlled 3-page property list, redacted is hereby approved and hereto attached to this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cranford Police Department shall develop and implement a full training plan and policy for the maintenance and use of the acquired property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cranford Police Department shall provide a quarterly accounting of all property obtained through the 1033 Program which shall be available to the public upon request.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be valid to authorize requests to acquire “DEMIL A” property and “DEMIL B through Q” property that may be made available through the 1033 Program during the period of time which this resolution authorizes; with Program participation and all property request authorization terminating on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year.

**Resolution No. 2022-116:**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE 2021 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

**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

**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 construction item quantities and items of extra work as set forth in Change Order No. 1, a copy of which is attached to the original hereof; and

**WHEREAS**, Change Order No. 1 reflects an increase in the materials and work utilized in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 (a 3.62% increase); 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. 1 for the 2021 Capital Road Improvements Project is awarded to P & A Construction, Inc. with an amended contract amount of \$715,499.32.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. C-04-21-010-000-201.

**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 January 25, 2022.

**Resolution No. 2022-117:**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford requires an expert to provide additional engineering survey and design services in connection with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Various Roads Improvements – Burnside Avenue project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford deemed that the background, experience and qualifications of the respondent herein satisfy the criteria set forth in the RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, Colliers Engineering & Design Inc., dba Maser Consulting, is familiar with the procedures that are necessary for said improvements and shall perform the tasks as delineated in the January 14, 2022 correspondence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds, which is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

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

1. **Colliers Engineering & Design Inc., dba Maser Consulting, 400 Valley Road, Suite 304, Mount Arlington, New Jersey 07856**, be and hereby are awarded a contract to perform engineering services in connection with the aforementioned project at a fee not to exceed **\$27,500.00**; and

2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Colliers Engineering and Design Inc., dba Maser Consulting; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the “fair and open” process (N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 et seq.).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No C-04-21-010-000-S21.

**Resolution No. 2022-118:**  
**Moved to Roll Call Vote – See below**

**Resolution No. 2022-119:**

**WHEREAS**, State of New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6.1, “Award of Contracts” requires that every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford is authorized by law to purchase goods and services from approved vendors who have been awarded by and have existing contracts with the State of New Jersey and/or authorized Cooperative Purchasing Programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the following vendor has been awarded a state contract and/or authorized cooperative purchasing program agreement and the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes the purchase of goods and/or services through the following vendor listed herewith, that in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold for the calendar year 2022;

<b>State Contracts</b>	
<b>Vendor</b>	<b>State Contract Numbers</b>
Limbach Company LLC 44 West Ferris Street Suite D East Brunswick, NJ 08816	Index #: T-1372 Solicitation #: 15-x-23288 Contract #: 88689

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes purchases from the aforementioned vendor that in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold for the calendar year 2022.

**Resolution No. 2022-120:**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford Department of Engineering is in receipt of an application package from Kontos Construction who is proposing to install a water service connection at 34 Grove Street; and

**WHEREAS**, Kontos Construction has acknowledged the need to restore the roadway for the sections under moratorium and agrees to the assessment charges outlined in §367-44(E)2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford recognizes that Grove Street was recently paved as part of the 2021 ETG Pavement Restoration Program which was completed in August 2021;

**WHEREAS**, this section of roadway is currently under moratorium until the end of August 2026;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Township of Cranford Municipal Code Chapter 367 Streets and Sidewalks, Article VIII Excavations and Openings, §367-44(D) Limitations on permit; opening streets less than five years old, “the Township Engineer, or his designee, shall be required to secure approval therefor from the governing body by resolution before any permit can be approved hereunder”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee acknowledges the need to install the water service connection at the proposed home under construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee hereby grants the Township Engineer, or his designee, authority to approve the necessary permit(s) for the Applicant to effectuate this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee hereby approves lifting the moratorium placed on these sections of roadway to enable the installation of proposed improvements.

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

1. Grants the Township Engineer, or his designee, authority to approve the necessary permit(s) for the Applicant stated herein at the location described above.
2. Approves lifting the moratorium placed on the roadway discussed above to allow the street openings on the applications listed herein.

**Resolution No. 2022-121:**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford Department of Engineering is in receipt of an application package from APF Group LLC, the owners of record for the parcel located at Block 405, Lot 21, who are proposing to install a sanitary sewer line and new driveway apron at 126 Besler Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, APF Group LLC has acknowledged the need to restore the roadway for the sections under moratorium and agrees to the assessment charges outlined in §367-44(E)2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford recognizes that Besler Avenue was recently paved as part of the 2021 ETG Pavement Restoration Program which was completed in August 2021;

**WHEREAS**, this section of roadway is currently under moratorium until the end August 2026;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Township of Cranford Municipal Code Chapter 367 Streets and Sidewalks, Article VIII Excavations and Openings, §367-44(D) Limitations on permit; opening streets less than five years old, “the Township Engineer, or his designee, shall be required to secure approval therefor from the governing body by resolution before any permit can be approved hereunder”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee acknowledges the need for the Applicant to install critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee hereby grants the Township Engineer, or his designee, authority to approve the necessary permit(s) for the Applicant to effectuate this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee hereby approves lifting the moratorium placed on these sections of roadway to enable the installation of proposed improvements.

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

1. Grants the Township Engineer, or his designee, authority to approve the necessary permit(s) for the Applicant stated herein at the location described above.
2. Approves lifting the moratorium placed on the roadway discussed above to allow the street openings on the applications listed herein.

**Resolution No. 2022-122:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held January 25, 2022, that the resignation of Farhan Ahmed as a member of the Environmental Commission, be and hereby is accepted, effective December 31, 2021.

**Resolution No. 2022-123:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held January 25, 2022, that the resignation of Drew Burns as a member of the Memorial Day Committee, be and hereby is accepted, effective December 31, 2021.

**Resolution No. 2022-124:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held January 25, 2022, that Max Schwartz and Jay Boxwell, be, and hereby are, appointed to the Memorial Day Committee for the year 2022, effective January 1, 2022.

**Resolution No. 2022-125:**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held January 25, 2022, that Chrissa Stulpin, be, and hereby is, appointed to the Centennial Village Committee for the year 2022, effective January 1, 2022.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**RESOLUTION - By Roll Call Vote**

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

**Resolution No. 2022-118:**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayors Council for Rahway River Watershed Flood Control was established to address conditions of serious and repeated flood damage within municipalities along the Rahway River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the participating municipalities of the Council act in a cooperative manner to engage in planning, engineering, legal and environmental assessment activities to commence a process to determine the most feasible and effective program for alleviation of these flooding events; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Cranford, as a participating member of the Council, has agreed to participate in a cost sharing agreement with other member municipalities of the Council to pay for the cost of the aforementioned activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee will make payment to the Township of Millburn (Joint Municipal Escrow Fund), who is the lead agency for the cost sharing agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the availability of funds which is on file in the office of the Township Clerk per adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the Municipal Cost Sharing Agreement-Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 for the funding of activities conducted in connection with the Mayors Council for Rahway River Watershed Flood Control; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford agrees to pay \$20,000.00 to the Millburn Township-Joint Municipal Escrow Fund for the performance of services enumerated in Municipal Cost Sharing Agreement-Fiscal Year 2022. Said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 2-01-20-100-100-214.

Commissioner Andrews

Stated that he believed more needs to be done on the local, state, and federal level to combat the flooding issues that the Township faces.

Deputy Mayor Gareis

Expressed his support for Resolution No. 2022-118 pertaining to the Rahway River Mayors Council.

Commissioner Black

Stated that she is in favor of flood control and understands the importance of the Rahway River Mayors Council. Expressed concerns over the terms of the agreement and noted that there was not enough discussion about the agreement.

Commissioner O'Connor

Stated that she believed the structure of the cost sharing agreement should be revisited. Noted that the agreement should have been discussed more within the Township Committee.

Commissioner Andrews

Spoke about his support for the Mayors Council. Stated that the cost sharing should be discussed.

Deputy Mayor Gareis

Stated that he believes the Rahway River Mayors Council plays an important role in the flooding issues that the Township faces and elaborated.

Mayor Miller Prunty

Spoke about Cranford's participation in the Rahway River Mayors Council and discussed what can be done to mitigate flooding within the Township. Agreed that the cost sharing should be evaluated. Noted that the Mayors Council funds should be used differently.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Gareis and Commissioner Andrews

Nay: Commissioners Black and O'Connor

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. Mayor Miller Prunty asked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue if the Clerk's Office received any comments for the public portion of the meeting. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that the Clerk's Office did not receive any public comments correspondence.

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road – Ms. LaBrutto asked about unfinished discussions pertaining to certain items on the Workshop Meeting Agenda. She inquired about the Memorandum of Understanding associated with the South Avenue Redevelopment Plan and asked if a five (5)-year abatement had been discussed. Ms. LaBrutto also asked when the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-03 would take place and if there would be any other public meetings to talk about items such as renderings and parking. Discussion ensued.

Dawn Beresford, 706 Lexington Avenue – Ms. Beresford asked about the upcoming public meeting being held at the Community Center regarding the South and Chestnut Redevelopment Plan.

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

**PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS**

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Discussed the recent Budget Workshop Meeting and thanked the Township Committee for considering all of the Department Head's requests;



- Thanked members of the public for their willingness to participate in the Budget discussions;
- Thanked CFO Lavona Patterson, Ashley Osieja, Township Clerk Patricia Donahue, Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and the Department Heads for their work with the Budget process.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS**

### **Commissioner Gina Black**

- Discussed the busy first month of 2022 which included five (5) Township Committee Meetings;
- Commended all Department Heads for their hard work and preparedness;
- Spoke about the consequences of not dedicating time to discussions;
- Discussed the Rahway River Mayors Council resolution and noted that her vote against the resolution was not a vote against the Mayors Council but was a vote against the decision process (leading up to the resolution consideration);
- Spoke about the Township Committee working together for the residents of the Township;
- Congratulated the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) on the success of the Souperhero Stroll;
- Stated she was hopeful that in-person meetings would resume in the near future.

### **Commissioner Mary O'Connor**

- Thanked the Finance Department, Administrator's Department, Clerk's Department and all other Department Heads for their work on the budget;
- Spoke about the Rahway River Mayors Council and the need for additional discussion to take place regarding its direction;
- Spoke about the Township Committees fiduciary responsibility to the residents of the Township;
- Invited and encouraged residents to be engaged with upcoming matters such as development, flooding and budgets;
- Spoke about the Township pools and the need to increase their membership.

### **Commissioner Brian Andrews**

- Recognized CFO Lavona Patterson and her team as well as Township Administrator Jamie Cryan on their work during the Township Budget process;
- Spoke about Department Heads and their ability to explain complex issues regarding the Budget process to the Township Committee;
- Recognized the Downtown District Management (DMC) for their work on the Souperhero Stroll and thanked the restaurants and members of the community for their support;
- Spoke about upcoming events such as Restaurant Week, Galentine's Day and Fire and Ice;
- Discussed the upcoming snow storm and the work of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM);
- Spoke about upcoming work to be conducted by the Gas company on North and South Avenues.

### **Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis**

- Spoke about the unexpected departure of Firefighter Rob Hurewitz and provided the "GoFundMe" link for anyone wishing to donate to him;
- Spoke about the Police Blotter which included news on four (4) DWI's (Driving While Intoxicated) and encouraged the use of ride sharing apps like Uber and Lyft;
- Discussed the increase in staff for the Cranford Police Department Traffic Division from four (4) employees to five (5) employees;
- Reminded residents to download the Cranford Police Department App and explained that it is the quickest way to get information to the Police Department;

### **Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty**

- Thanked Township employees for their work on the Township Budget;
- Thanked CFO Lavona Patterson and Administrator Jamie Cryan;
- Echoed Commissioner Andrew's comments regarding the Downtown District Management Corporation's (DMC) Souperhero Stroll;

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- Spoke about various members of the community who have passed away in the recent weeks and extended condolences to their families and friends;
- Spoke about Edith Coogan and her activism throughout the course of her life.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC  
Township Clerk

Date: January 25, 2022

**\*7/7/22 - Minutes updated by Township Clerk: "Willow Ave" to "Willow Street", See Resolution No. 2022-112**