

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **October 11, 2022** at **6:31 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 Kathleen Prunty  
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis  
Commissioner Brian Andrews  
Commissioner Gina Black  
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Administrator Jamie Cryan, Police Chief Ryan Greco, Police Lieutenant Matt Nazzaro, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson and Township Clerk Patricia Donahue were present.

### **Public Comments**

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

Mr. William Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue - inquired about a RVSA (Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority) leak associated with the sewer system, specifically when the leak was discovered. Mayor Miller Prunty responded that RVSA fee increases to the Township were not due to the referenced leak. Commissioner Black responded that the RVSA fee increases were due to increased repairs. Mr. Thilly inquired about Cranford's overcharged amount. Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Patterson stated that the RVSA charges were \$350,000 higher than the previous year and briefly elaborated.

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

### **Proposed Dedication of Father Charles Watters Plaza**

Police Lieutenant Matt Nazzaro introduced three (3) Troop No. 40222 Girl Scouts: Gracy Lyubarsky, Aashritha Jinaga and Alexi Pryor. Scouts Lyubarsky, Jinaga and Pryor described their Silver Award Project which pertained to the renaming of the street in front of St. Michael Church to Father Charles Watters Plaza. The Girl Scouts spoke about the life and service of Father Charles Watters. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the Scouts gave a great presentation.

Committee consensus was reached to rename the street in front of St. Michael Church to Father Charles Watters Plaza. Township Clerk Patricia Donahue inquired if a resolution authorizing the renaming of the street should be placed on the October 25<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Official Meeting Agenda. The Mayor replied that a resolution pertaining to this matter should be placed on the October 25<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Official Meeting Agenda.

### **Stormwater Infrastructure Planning Working Group Update**

Stormwater Infrastructure Planning Working Group (Subcommittee) Chair Ann Dooley and member Dave Coughlin were present.

Ms. Dooley stated that the presented report pertained to de-snagging. She stated that the next Committee report would pertain to desilting.

Ms. Dooley spoke about the Rahway River (River), specifically:

- the County had a machine on back-order that was expected to de-snag the River;
- large trees and debris in the River should be removed;
- both the Nomahegan and Mohawk sides of the River needed to be de-snagged;
- the County's responsibility pertaining to the River;
- the status of the River in Winfield;
- the Subcommittee's interest in meeting with Union County representatives;
- working with the Department of Public Works on executing a River flood mitigation and maintenance plan.

Commissioner Black inquired if there should be a delineation of tasks pertaining to River maintenance between the Department of the Public Works and the County. Ms. Dooley spoke about developing a stormwater basin plan with aggressive maintenance, stating that such maintenance should occur three (3) times a year. Mr. Coughlin stated that de-snagging assists the silt problem in the River. Ms. Dooley spoke about the layered problems associated with the River. Commissioner Black inquired about the barriers to problem solving and a root cause analysis of the River situation. Ms. Dooley stated that the Township should communicate to the Department of Public Works that River maintenance was their priority.

Deputy Mayor Gareis spoke about the (recent) Flood Committee split into two (2) groups and the ensuing positive results with that separation. Commissioner Andrews complimented the Subcommittee report. He stated that the DPW was short-staffed and the Administrator was looking into options.

Ms. Dooley then spoke about the issue of grants. She recommended setting up a process so that grant opportunities would not be missed and elaborated. Mr. Coughlin and Ms. Dooley spoke about areas in Cranford which would qualify for grant work.

Ms. Dooley stated that the Subcommittee's next report would focus on desilting and dredging. She elaborated about the cost to benefits perspectives on desilting and stated that the preliminary consensus was that the Township should look into desilting. Ms. Dooley then spoke about the Subcommittee's view that an engineer should analyze this situation. Ms. Dooley stated that she

had reviewed Dutch (Holland) work pertaining to dredging and desilting. Mr. Coughlin stated that dredging and desilting were a tool “in the toolbox”. Ms. Dooley noted that engineers had different perspectives about desilting. She rhetorically asked what could the Township do now if the Township couldn’t get a shovel in the ground for ten (10) more years.

Ms. Dooley stated that the further reporting would focus on desilting and stormwater utility.

Ms. Dooley acknowledged the presence of Subcommittee member Mr. Jay Stevens. She thanked the Subcommittee for their work and elaborated.

### **Cranford Recreation Facility at 375 Centennial Avenue Renovation and Programming Update**

Administrator Jamie Cryan stated that a meeting was scheduled for the upcoming Thursday with Tri-Form Construction Inc. and DMR Architects. He noted that a schedule and the Facility’s wall would be discussed at the meeting. Mr. Cryan stated that Ms. Patterson and Recreation Director Steve Robertazzi were working on a fee ordinance for the use of the Recreation Facility at 375 Centennial Avenue.

### **Engineering Update on Paving Projects**

Township Consulting Engineer Jacqueline Dirmann provided an overview of the first six (6) streets completed this year. She spoke about the issues faced which included managing the contractors. Referencing the 2022 Capital Roads project, Ms. Dirmann provided a status update on Edgebrook Place and North Lehigh. She stated that eleven (11) road projects would begin on the upcoming Friday. Ms. Dirmann then provided an update on the I & I (Inflow and Infiltration) project and noted that the Township professionals met with residents regarding the project.

Ms. Dirmann stated that there were three (3) new projects that had just gone out to bid, whose bid openings would take place on October 25<sup>th</sup>. She suggested that the Township’s Department of Public Works pave over Cranford Avenue before the winter season began. Ms. Dirmann spoke about 2023 road paving expected (including these roads: Spruce, Hory, Tulip and Ramsgate). Ms. Dirmann provided an update on County projects on South Avenue and North Avenue. Ms. Dirmann stated that over fifty (50) roads were being paved between 2022 and 2023. Commissioner O’Connor inquired about 1) the area near Johnson and Elise, 2) the curbing situation at Glenwood, and 3) and the area at Thomas and Cummings. A brief discussion ensued about French drains. Ms. Dirmann spoke about requests for the area at Belmont and Cummings. Commissioner Andrews inquired about road work at Pawnee. He then inquired about the Township’s road map. Ms. Dirmann responded that her colleague, Ty Apgar, was working on an interactive map and briefly elaborated.

### **Market to Affordable Housing Units**

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper stated that members of the Township Committee would meet later in Closed Session with Mr. Tom Toronto of the Bergen County United Way and Township Consulting Affordable Housing Attorney Michael Edwards to discuss “Market to Affordable Housing” units.

## **Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) Request to Amend the 2021 Member Municipalities Agreement**

Mr. Cryan spoke about the request from Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) to amend the 2021 Member Municipalities Agreement (Agreement). He stated that a one (1) page summary about the request was included in the Commissioners' Meeting packets. Mr. Cryan spoke briefly about the edits to the Agreement which included edits pertaining to the Township of Springfield's flow rights.

## **Review Official Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner Black inquired about the resolution pertaining to leaf raking (Resolution No. 2022-366), specifically about the collection zones specified in the resolution. Mr Jay Stevens responded that the specified areas were aligned with the Department of Public Works leaf pickup schedule.

## **Closed Session Minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup> and September 27, 2022**

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue stated that minor Meeting Minutes edits had been received from Administrator Cryan, Mayor Miller Prunty and Commissioner Andrews. She spoke about the Meeting Minutes edit email she had sent the Commissioners shortly before the Meeting start. Consensus was reached to incorporate all of the suggested edits in the Meeting Minutes for consideration.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to adopt the September 12, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion. Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Gareis and Commissioners Andrews, Black and O'Connor voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of September 12, 2022.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to adopt the September 27, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion. Mayor Miller Prunty and Commissioners Andrews, Black and O'Connor voted to approve the Closed Session minutes of September 27, 2022. Deputy Mayor Gareis abstained from the vote.

## **Public Comments**

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

Mr. William Thilly of 22 Bloomingdale Avenue - inquired about the location of a RVSA (Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority) leak associated with the sewer system. Mayor Miller Prunty stated that the Township Consulting Engineer had already left the Workshop Meeting who would have been able to speak to this matter. A brief discussion ensued.

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

**Closed Session**

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

**Resolution No. 2022-98.20**

**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**

- Collective Bargaining Negotiations Update
- Department of Public Works
- Police Department

**Contractual**

- Westfield YMCA and Cranford Pool & Fitness Center
- Finance Department

**Minute Review**

- Closed Session Minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup> and September 27, 2022

**Recorded Vote:**

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to the Workshop Meeting at 8:11 p.m.

The Township Committee moved to Council Chambers at 8:11 p.m. to conduct the Official Meeting.

(After the Official Meeting, the Township Committee moved to Closed Session).

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 10:03 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue  
Township Clerk

Dated: October 11, 2022