

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **October 11, 2022** at 8:16 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 Jason Gareis, followed by the flag salute.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of September 12, 2022 and the Official Meeting of May 24, 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

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of September 27, 2022 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Deputy Mayor Gareis

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed, the Bill List dated October 11, 2022, totaling \$5,992,576.90 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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miller Prunty read the Mayor’s Proclamation:

Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness

WHEREAS, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, let it be known that the township of Cranford is pleased to recognize and observe October 13, 2022 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day and hereby recognizes METAvivors of NJ as the first state chapter of METAvivor Research and Support, Inc; and WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the United States, and second leading cause of cancer death, more than one in eight women and one in 833 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes. In 2022, an estimated 271,270 Americans will be diagnosed with breast cancer including over 8,340 women in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Metastatic breast cancer occurs when breast cancer spreads to other parts of the body - including the bones, lungs, liver and brain - and has an average life expectancy of 26 months. Regardless of early detection, approximately 30% of stage 0 to III breast cancers will return as stage IV.

Approximately 42,260 Americans will die from breast cancer in 2022, with 98% being from metastatic breast cancer. This is equivalent to 115 deaths per day; and

WHEREAS, METAvivor educates the public about metastatic breast cancer research, they prioritize converting the disease from terminal to chronic by hiking the current 5 percent of U.S. metastatic breast cancer research dollars for stage IV treatment to 30 percent. This mission is captured in the #DontIgnoreStageIV national social media campaign. Extensive research efforts are underway to save lives, including the ClinicalTrials.gov database and Storm Riders Network which both provide critical information about ongoing clinical research studies and metastatic breast cancer-specific trials; and WHEREAS, the METAvivors of NJ Facebook group was founded by Tami Bowling and Lauren O'Brien of Scotch Plains in April 2019 as an active response to stage IV metastatic breast cancer patients and their communities in and around New Jersey. It is a central network to access current metastatic breast cancer information, calls to action, and opportunities for community engagement. It also serves as a source of hope for patients, family and friends impacted by the disease; and WHEREAS, the pink ribbon is well-known for representing the fight against breast cancer, the **metastatic breast cancer awareness ribbon colors** only include pink as a thin overlay to signify that the cancer originates in the breast. The addition of green and teal represents the triumph of spring over winter, life over death, renewal, hope, immortality, healing and spirituality. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby joins the nation to recognize October 13, 2022 as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day and encourages citizens to join the effort towards awareness of metastatic breast cancer in October. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented as a sincere token of this Board's best wishes to our METAvivors of NJ representatives.

Mayor Miller Prunty thanked the Fire Department and the FMBA (Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association) for their breast cancer awareness efforts and elaborated.

INFORMAL MEETING

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

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – Mr. Carvalho spoke about an article in the July 21st edition of the Westfield Leader pertaining to Swan Cleaners. He stated that he had previously asked questions about this property (at the previous Official Meeting) to both Chair Miller Prunty and Township Committee liaison to the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) Brian Andrews and both individuals did not answer his questions and elaborated. Mr. Carvalho then spoke about Township Attorney Ryan Cooper's response regarding this matter and stated his dissatisfaction with the Township Attorney.

Jason Stevens, 9 Richmond Avenue – Mr. Stevens stated that he was chair of the Environmental Commission. He provided comments about Resolution No. 2022-366 pertaining to foregoing the use of powered leaf blowers on the Rake for the Planet Day (Day) event. He spoke about the significance of the designated Day and details of the Day.

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

ORDINANCES – Introduction

Ordinance No. 2022-24:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-24 entitled, "ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 REVISED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES OF THE RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY"

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, 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. 2022-24 to be held November 14, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on October 20, 2022.

Ordinance No. 2022-25:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-25 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 410, SECTION 61, SCHEDULE VIII TO DESIGNATE BELMONT AVENUE AND CAROLINA STREET AS STOP INTERSECTIONS"

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Deputy Mayor Gareis, 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. 2022-25 to be held November 14, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on October 20, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2022-353:

APPROVE RELEASE OF CONTRACT RETAINAGE AND PERFORMANCE BOND FOR THE 2021 CAPITAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Contractor, P & A Construction, Inc., 650 Leesville Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey, 07065 has submitted a Maintenance Bond Number No. 3964627 in the amount of \$727,159.28 to the Township in connection with aforementioned project; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department has indicated that P & A Construction, Inc. has completed the project and has met all requirements for final payment and is recommending the return of the Performance Bond No. 3964627 in the amount of \$690,499.32 currently on file with the Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township's Engineering Department recommends the release of contract retainage and final payment in the amount of **\$14,543.18** to P & A Construction, Inc., for the 2021 Capital Road Improvements Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes the release of the Performance Bond and release of contract retainage to P & A Construction, Inc., in connection with the 2021 Capital Road Improvements Project.

Resolution No. 2022-354:

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER TO CCM CONTRACTING INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NJDOT (NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) FY2021 BURNSIDE AVENUE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2022-187 adopted April 12, 2022, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorized and approved an award of contract to CCM Contracting Inc, 336 Route 22, Green Brook, New Jersey, 08812 with a total bid amount of \$1,345,680.96 for the NJDOT (New Jersey Department of Transportation) FY2021 Burnside Avenue Drainage Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, the project is currently under construction and the need exists to install some additional curbing along Johnson Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed and approved the need for additional curbing as set forth in Change Order No. 1 as per memo dated October 4, 2022 from the Township Engineer to the Administrator, a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's office; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 reflects an increase in the materials and work utilized in the amount of \$14,000.00 (an 1.04% increase); and

WHEREAS, available funding for these Change Order will be utilized from Capital Bond Ordinance No. 2021-10, 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. 1 for the NJDOT FY2021 Burnside Avenue Drainage Improvements Project is awarded to CCM Contracting Inc, 336 Route 22, Green Brook, New Jersey, 08812 in the amount of \$14,000.00 (1.04% of the original contract amount of \$\$1,345,680.96) for an adjusted contract amount of \$1,359,680.96.

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 October 11, 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 11th day of October 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-355:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, on this 11th day of October 2022, that the Mayor be, and hereby is, authorized to execute a renewal Employment Agreement between the Township of Cranford and Police Chief Ryan Greco.

Resolution No. 2022-356:

WHEREAS, by adoption of Resolution No. 2019-302, Karyn Kinane was appointed as Tax Collector for the Township of Cranford, effective September 10, 2019 for three (3) years ending September 10, 2022, partially filling an unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:9-142 states that every Municipal Tax Collector shall hold her/his office for a term of four (4) years from the first day of January next following her appointment, and vacancies other than due to expiration of term shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford concur that Karyn Kinane is qualified and has determined to appoint Ms. Kinane to complete the unexpired term, in accordance with all applicable ordinances and statutes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey that Karyn Kinane be appointed as Tax Collector for the Township of Cranford, effective September 11, 2022, to complete the unexpired term ending December 31, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-357:

WHEREAS, Russell Luedecker, a Detective Sergeant 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).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Committee of the Township of Cranford that Russell Luedecker is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence, effective September 20, 2022, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

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

Resolution No. 2022-358:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on October 11, 2022, that Christian J. Francisco, be, and hereby is appointed to the position of Program Specialist, within the Recreation Department, retroactive to September 6, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-359:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED INCREASES TO THE STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), governed by N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25 et seq., offers medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage to qualified State and participating local government public employees, retirees, and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, all SHBP plans are self-funded meaning that the money paid out for benefits comes directly from a SHBP fund supplied by the State, participating local employers, and member premiums; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Pensions and Benefits is responsible for the daily administrative activities of the SHPB, the State Health Benefits Commission is the executive organization responsible for overseeing the SHBP; and

WHEREAS, the State Health Benefits Commission, comprised of state officials and union representatives, annually consider the calendar year premium levels for the Local Government Employer Group of the SHBP based on recommendations found in the Rate Setting Recommendation Analysis of the Local Government Employee Group; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary rate increase for the 2023 Local Government Employer Group is 22.8%, which includes a 21.6% increase for Active, a 13% increase in Early Retiree, and a 0.7% increase for Medicare Retiree; and

WHEREAS, subsequent news accounts report the Department of Treasury noting “rates for active members and early retirees would likely be increased between 12 to 20 % across the various plans for the upcoming year”; and

WHEREAS, such proposed exorbitant rate increases will fall upon the local property taxpayer along with the local public employees at a time where there is record inflation, and

WHEREAS, the proposed premium increase for most active employees will take thousands more out of their paychecks annually and lead to huge costs for local governments that will translate into higher property tax bills for struggling families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union that it does contact the State Health Benefit Commission to reconsider the rate increase and strike a rate increase that is appropriate in the current economic conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the governing body of the Township of Cranford in the County of Union does hereby urge the legislature to adopt legislation expanding the composition of the State Health Benefits Commission to include representatives from both municipal and county government management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Murphy, State Treasurer Muoio, Senate President Scutari, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Bramnick, Assembly Representative Matsikoudis and Assembly Representative Munoz and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

Resolution No. 2022-360:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is authorized to post advertisements to the Township’s website and local newspaper for the solicitation of proposals for various 2023 professional services including legal, engineering, auditing and consulting, planning, appraisal and risk management consulting services

Resolution No. 2022-361:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION
– N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87**

(PERTAINING TO THE 2022 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-87 provides that the Director of the New Jersey 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 New Jersey 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 \$4,039.92 which is now available from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the 2022 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant, pursuant to the provision of the statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$4,039.92 is hereby appropriated under the caption “Federal Bulletproof Vest Grant;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is a result of a Federal grant of \$4,039.92 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Resolution No. 2022-362:

WHEREAS, a Grant Receivable balance exists on the records of the Township of Cranford that will not be reimbursed by the County of Union and needs to be canceled; and

WHEREAS, the balance is as follows:

Municipal Alliance (Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance):
2021-2022 \$4,863.15

TOTAL GRANT RECEIVABLE TO CANCEL \$4,863.15

WHEREAS, a Grant Appropriation Reserve balance exists on the records of the Township of Cranford that will not be expended and needs to be canceled; and

WHEREAS, the balance is as follows:

Municipal Alliance (Cranford Prevention and Wellness Alliance):
2021-2022 \$4,863.15

TOTAL GRANT APPROPRIATION TO CANCEL \$4,863.15

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, that the Chief Financial Officer be and the same is hereby authorized to cancel the balances from the records of the Township.

Resolution No. 2022-363:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 11th day of October, 2022 that the Tax Collector has been authorized to refund a tax overpayment for the reason noted:

Tax Duplicate Payment

Block 262 Lot 5 Qual C0D5
Danielle Mancini
30D Springfield Ave.
Cranford, N.J. 07016

Refund \$3,083.82
(2-01-55-000-010-025)

Resolution No. 2022-364:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 11th day of October, 2022 that the following check(s) will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate No. 18-00009

Block 473 Lot 10: 25 South Ave. W.
BB316 Investments, LLC

Refund: \$119,271.85
(2-01-55-000-010-029)

PO Box 953
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Premium: \$ 45,000.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2022-365:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held October 11, 2022 that the Cranford Police Department be and hereby is authorized to hold a “Cranford Police Department 125th Anniversary Dedication” in Municipal Lot No. 5 on October 23, 2022;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee hereby authorizes the closure of the Municipal Lot No.5 on October 23, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in connection with “Cranford Police Department 125th Anniversary Dedication”.

Resolution No. 2022-366:

RAKE FOR THE PLANET RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, most gasoline-powered leaf blower engines have only primitive noise abatement features that may create noise levels in excess of one hundred (100) decibels; and

WHEREAS, pollutants from such engines include hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, pollutants contribute to health problems, to the creation of ground level ozone, to the formation of acid rain, and to increased levels of greenhouse gas; and

WHEREAS, blower driven materials may include toxic or hazardous materials, which may place walkers, cyclists, children, and people with respiratory ailments at special risk; and

WHEREAS, using human powered rakes to remove leaves from yards is seen to have no negative impact on the environment and helps to promote a peaceful and quiet environment; and

WHEREAS, the exercise provided by such activity generally contributes to improved health; and

WHEREAS, sharing leaf raking responsibilities within families is intended to demonstrate the positive characteristics of working around the home and the benefits of families spending time together; and

WHEREAS, neighborhoods will appreciate the tranquility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that November 4th through November 6, 2022 be designated as Rake Days in collection zones two (2) and three (3); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that November 11th through November 13, 2022 be designated as Rake Days in collection zones one (1) and four (4); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that residents are encouraged to voluntarily forgo the use of powered leaf blowers and rake leaves during the designated days.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

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.

Jason Stevens, 9 Richmond Avenue – Mr. Stevens discussed the public hearings that had occurred during the past eight (8) months regarding development at Williams Nursery in Westfield. He thanked Mayor Miller Prunty for her effort on this matter. Mr. Stevens stated that no one had more to lose regarding the proposed development than the residents in the Northeast quadrant in Cranford (as it pertained to flooding). Mr. Stevens encouraged members of the public to attend the Union County Planning Board Zoom meeting regarding this development which was scheduled for the following evening. He provided the Union County Department of Land Use phone number (908-527-4268) to gain Zoom meeting access. Mayor Miller Prunty requested that the letter she had written to the Union County Planning Board regarding this matter be posted to the website if it had not been already posted. Mr. Stevens stated that their outreach had already positively affected the development plans.

William Thilly, 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – Mr. Thilly stated that he was an independent candidate for the Township Committee. He inquired 1) if anyone had been in contact with the owners of the Williams Nursery, 2) asked about whether progress had been made regarding interested developers paying for their own taxes, and 3) if the Township could require developers to pay for their own flood mitigation efforts.

Mayor Miller Prunty responded. Mr. Thilly stated that he had lost confidence in developers to “do” proper flood mitigation and elaborated.

Mr. Thilly spoke about the Birchwood Park units, specifically regarding the number of Birchwood Park students that entered the Cranford school system. Mr. Thilly spoke about the 750 Walnut Avenue and Chestnut Street developments and his desire that the developers pay a lot of money. Mayor Miller Prunty provided information about the number of school children at the Birchwood Park development, specifically that there were thirty-three (33) children in the school system as opposed to the projected ninety (90) students.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – Mr. Carvalho spoke about a “machine matinee”. He stated that the “machine matinee” consisted of two (2) partisan campaign events on taxpayer property at taxpayer expense: 1) a Community Center April 26th event with Congressman Donald Payne Jr. and 2) a June 30th (State) Budget signing at Cranford High School Library with Governor Phil Murphy. Mr. Carvahlo named and described individuals who attended both events.

William Thilly, 22 Bloomingdale Avenue – Mr. Thilly asked the Township Committee to remind members of the public about the Anchor Program tax rebate.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Reminded members of the public that the General Election would be held on Tuesday, November 8th and urged residents to contact the Clerk’s Office at 908-709-7210 or visit <https://unioncountyvotes.com/> if they had any questions regarding the voting process;
- Stated that the County was seeking poll workers and the pay rate was three hundred dollars (\$300) for the day.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Congratulated Police Chief Ryan Greco on his contract renewal and thanked the Township Committee for approving the contract; elaborated about Chief Greco’s contribution to the Police Department and the Township.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Gina Black

- Expressed her condolences to Building Department Head Frank Genova on the passing of his father;
- Spoke about a number of events that occurred during the previous weekend including Porchfest, the Chamber of Commerce Street Fair and the annual Rubber Ducky Race; thanked the various sponsoring community organizations such as the Cranford Community Connection, Cranford Chamber of Commerce and the Hanson Park Conservancy;
- Discussed upcoming Township activities such as the annual Scarecrow Stroll;
- Spoke about pedestrian and bicycle safety;
- Announced that registration for the Recreation Department’s Annual Halloween House Decorating Contest had been extended to October 24th.

Commissioner Mary O’Connor

- Offered her condolences to the Genova family and elaborated;
- Discussed a presentation which had occurred earlier in the Workshop meeting, specifically presented by members of Girl Scout Troop No. 40222: Gracy Lyubarsky, Aashritha Jinaga and Alexi Pryor;
- Stated how impressed she was with the youth of Cranford and elaborated;
- Spoke about her experience at the Rubber Ducky Race; stated that the previous weekend was a great weekend in Cranford;
- Stated that she was looking forward to the Police Department’s 150th anniversary parade on October 23rd; urged members of the public to come out and support the men and women who help protect Cranford
- Congratulated retired Police Chief Harry Wilde on being selected Grand Marshal; stated that the first part of the Police Parade would be sensory-friendly.

Commissioner Brian Andrews

- Expressed his condolences to the family of Frank Genova;
- Thanked the Stormwater Infrastructure Planning Working Group for their second (2nd) report which focused on Desnagging and which was discussed earlier during the evening (at the Workshop Meeting);
- Announced that the Township had gone out to bid for two (2) projects in the Northeast Quadrant and identified them as the 1) Kensington Avenue and Edgar Avenue Drainage Improvements (infrastructure upgrade) and the 2) Rehabilitation of Dike Riverside Drive (dike rebuilding and restoration);
- Spoke about an update provided by Township Consulting Engineer Jacque Dirmann regarding various paving projects; urged residents to reach out to the Township with any issues which needed to be addressed;
- Discussed Cranford Community Connection's recent Porchfest and thanked the volunteers, bands and homeowners for their generosity and hard work;
- Thanked the Hanson Park Conservancy for hosting the recent Rubber Ducky Race;
- Noted that Cranford was the "Halloween Capital of the World" and spoke about the recent Haunted Cranford History Tour (historic ghost walk); directed residents to <https://www.cranfordnj.org/halloween> for information on Halloween events scheduled for the month of October and spoke about specific Halloween events;
- Announced that the "Light Up Ride" event, organized by the Cranford Police Department and Hilltop Bicycles, would take place on October 26th at 7 p.m. at Eastman Plaza.

Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis

- Expressed his condolences to the Genova family;
- Referencing the Uvalde, Texas school incident, Commissioner Gareis spoke about a Police Department initiative pertaining to the review and assessment of school safety for every school in Cranford; spoke about the work of Detective Ryan Gerrity, Detective Daniel Donnerstag and Detective John Rattigan, specifically conducting such review and the drafting of a detailed report; noted that the Township's Police Patrol vehicles would soon be equipped with tools which were expected to help keep residents and children safer;
- Thanked the Stormwater Infrastructure Planning Working Group; spoke about the Group's second report which focused on desnagging the River; stated that Chair Ann Dooley presented information at the earlier Workshop Meeting; discussed residents' concerns pertaining to the Rahway River and flooding;
- Stated that the Cannabis Legislative Working Group (Group) held a meeting in late September and provided a brief Group update;
- Stated that there would be a school safety presentation on October 12th (the following night) which would be attended by members of the Office of Emergency Management, the Cranford Police Department and the Cranford Fire Department and encouraged parents with questions to attend;
- Noted that Cranford Police Department's was hiring new officers and encouraged interested individuals to apply;
- Discussed a recent incident in which a handgun was found during a motor vehicle stop; thanked the Cranford Police Department for a job "well done";
- Asked members of the public to come out and support the Cranford Police Department parade as they celebrate their 150th anniversary on October 23rd;
- Spoke about the Downtown Candy Stroll;
- Wished his wife Lauerin a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Noted that Construction Code Official Frank Genova was a valuable and treasured employee; extended her condolences to Mr. Genova and his family;
- Announced that October was National Pedestrian Safety Month and elaborated;
- Reminded residents to report all speeding and traffic concerns to the Police Department; reminded drivers and pedestrians that they share the road; reminded drivers to slow down on Cranford streets;
- Stated that she was very excited for the 15th annual Scarecrow Stroll and elaborated.

10/11/2022

On motion of Commissioner Black seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee moved to closed session at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 11, 2022

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk