

The Minutes of the **Workshop Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **October 24, 2022** at 7:04 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 Miller Prunty
Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis
Commissioner Brian Andrews
Commissioner Gina Black
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

Absent: None

Township Attorney Ryan Cooper, Administrator Jamie Cryan, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Lavona Patterson and Deputy Township Clerk Ashley Kurbanoglu were present.

Public Comments

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

Closed Session

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

Resolution No. 2022-98.21

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

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works

Contractual

- TM Foods
- Westfield YMCA and Cranford Pool & Fitness Center

Recorded Vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Black, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

Impact of Proposed Increase to the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program (SHBP)

Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson discussed the proposed increases to the State Health Benefits Program. She stated that the percentages that had been circulated were correct but did not include employee contributions. Ms. Patterson cited the COVID-19 pandemic as a main

contributing factor for the increase. Commissioner Andrews inquired about structural changes. Mayor Miller Prunty inquired about the percentage drop off from 2019. A brief discussion ensued including when to revisit the topic.

2022 Best Practices Inventory

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan and Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson discussed the Best Practices Inventory. Mr. Cryan announced that the Township had scored a 35 ½ out of a total of 36 ½. He provided a breakdown of what was listed in the 2021 State Fiscal Year Audit findings and what was subsequently addressed in the Corrective Action Plan. Mr. Cryan then spoke about a new mandate that required the Township to keep a log of lead remediation tests for single family units after 1978 and elaborated. CFO Lavona Patterson said that the lead remediation category would be unscored for one year (potentially two years) so that the Township could have adequate time to find resources and develop a policy.

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Committee consensus was reached to remove Ordinance No. 2022-20 pertaining to improper home composting from the following evening's Official Meeting Agenda.

Late Starter – Stormwater Infrastructure Subcommittee request

Commissioner Gareis stated that the Stormwater Infrastructure Subcommittee had requested that Topology write a proposal for a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection stormwater utility feasibility study grant. He said that it was his understanding that the Township had topped out their allotment with Topology for the year but was asked by the Chair of the Stormwater Infrastructure Subcommittee, Ann Dooley, to follow up with the Township Committee. Deputy Mayor Gareis explained that the Subcommittee had recommended this grant as an absolute necessity that would provide up to \$125,000 towards conducting feasibility studies for forming stormwater utilities. Mayor Miller Prunty asked if Topology would have the time to write the grant proposal. Administrator Jamie Cryan said that they have “jumped through hoops” for Cranford in the past and would most likely have to do that again to get this proposal done. A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of working with neighboring municipalities to set up a stormwater utility. Mayor Miller Prunty noted that she had a very casual conversation with Mayor Brindle of Westfield regarding this matter. Commissioner Black asked what the feasibility study would entail and if it would differ between municipalities. Further discussion ensued including discussion as to whether or not to ask Topology to write the grant proposal. Committee consensus was reached to not involve Topology in the grant proposal writing but to reach out to the Department of Environmental Protection for guidance and continue to have robust discussions about stormwater utilities for the Township.

Minute Approval – Closed Session Minutes of February 7th and April 26, 2022

Commissioner O'Connor requested clarification on the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of April 26th and stated that they appeared to be a combination of both closed and open session. She also inquired about the Workshop Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2021. Township Attorney Ryan Cooper explained that there was a Special Meeting held on August 23, 2021 to discuss the survey results of the 750 Walnut Avenue Redevelopment Plan. Committee consensus was reached to table the adoption of Meeting minutes due to a need for clarification.

Public Comments

Mayor Miller Prunty opened the public comments portion of the meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Miller Prunty closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 24, 2022

Ashley Kurbanoglu
Deputy Township Clerk