

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **November 9, 2021** at 7:36 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 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 Brian Andrews
Commissioner Jason Gareis
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.
Commissioner Mary O’Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Deputy Mayor Andrews, followed by the flag salute.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner Gareis, seconded by Deputy Mayor Andrews and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of October 12, 2021, and the Official Meeting of October 12, 2021 were approved by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O’Connor
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the Bill List dated November 9, 2021, totaling \$5,093,771.54 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 Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O’Connor
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

MAYORAL REMARKS

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty spoke about an incident that occurred in the Municipal Building on November 1st which involved a Township resident collapsing in the hallway and then being resuscitated through the help of Township employees. The Mayor read a commendation written by Police Chief Ryan Greco which praised Construction Code Official Frank Genova for his heroism and quick response. She thanked Lieutenant Christopher Polito and Officer Corey LoForte as well as all other members of the Police Department, Fire Department, EMS and Township staff.

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty said that a series of public forums on the Township’s Redevelopment projects would continue with a virtual forum being held on the upcoming Thursday to discuss the 750 Walnut Avenue Redevelopment Plan. She said there would also be a presentation for the draft Redevelopment Plan for South Avenue and Chestnut Street. The Mayor stated that an interactive presentation for the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Plan would be held in December. The Mayor congratulated Gina Black on her election to the Cranford Township Committee and thanked Kate Rappa for stepping forward to serve the community. The Mayor thanked the voters in Cranford. She noted that in January 2022, women would be the majority on the Township Committee.

INFORMAL MEETING

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

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – Mr. Carvalho spoke about the August 11, 2020 Township Committee Workshop Minutes. He then inquired about sluice gates and whether or not the Township controlled them. He said he submitted an OPRA request for records relating to Suez Water. Mr. Carvalho inquired about the relationship between Suez Water and the Township. Discussion ensued.

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

ORDINANCE – Amended Introduction

Ordinance No. 2021-17:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-17 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 255 LAND DEVELOPMENT, PERTAINING TO ELEVATION OF BUILDINGS IN THE FLOODPLAIN OVERLAY DISTRICT” Commissioner Hannen motioned to amend the Ordinance to incorporate changes recommended by the Township Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Gareis, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Miller Prunty, Deputy Mayor Andrews, Commissioners Gareis, Hannen and O’Connor
Nay: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2021-17 (was remanded) to be held on November 23, 2021 and the publication of the amended Ordinance would take place in the Westfield Leader on November 11, 2021.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Deputy Mayor Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Hannen and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2021-381:

WHEREAS, Matthew Seissel, 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 Committee of the Township of Cranford that Matthew Seissel is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning November 23, 2021, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

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

Resolution No. 2021-382:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held November 9, 2021, that Patricia Kosty be, and hereby is, appointed as a part-time Records Clerk within the Cranford Police Department, effective November 15, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-383:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held November 9, 2021, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the retirement of Thomas Feeney, a Sergeant within the Cranford Police Department, effective November 1, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-384:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held November 9, 2021 that Karen Bruns be, and hereby is, appointed as an Office Assistant within the Building Department, effective November 10, 2021.

Resolution No. 2021-385:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford required an expert to provide Affordable Housing legal services to the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for the Provision of Various 2021 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held January 4, 2021, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 2021-14, authorizing an award of contract to Jeffrey Surenian, Esq. for the aforementioned service at a fee not to exceed \$50,000.00; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend said contract for an additional amount not to exceed \$12,000.00; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, be and hereby amends the contract awarded to, **Jeffery Surenian, Esq., of Surenian, Edwards & Nolan LLC, 707 Union Avenue, Suite 301, Brielle, New Jersey, 08730** for Affordable Housing legal services

via issuance of purchase orders in an amount not to exceed \$62,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 1-01-20-155-100-214.

Resolution No. 2021-386:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford required an expert to provide Labor Attorney services to the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for Provision of Various 2021 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held January 4, 2021, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 2021-02, authorizing an award of contract to Vaughan Baio & Partners for the aforementioned service at a fee not to exceed \$50,000.00; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend said contract for an additional amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, be and hereby amends the contract awarded to **Vaughan Baio & Partners, 317 George Street, Suite 320, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901** for Labor Attorney legal services via issuance of purchase orders in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said contract amount shall be charged to Account No. 1-01-20-155-100-214.

Resolution No. 2021-387:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 9th day November, 2021 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate# 20-00024

Block 609 Lot 1, 2 Hayes Street
ATCF II NJ LLC, TAXSERV AS CUST
PO Box 69239
Baltimore, MD 21264

Refund: \$30,249.75
(1-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$49,600.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2021-388:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 46:18-6 and 54:5-55 grant the cancellation of a municipal tax sale certificate for a lien held by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the owners of record, Frederick Bara and Mary Ann Bara, redeemed Tax Lien Certificate No. 16-0030 in full for Block 640 Lot 9 (property location is Jackson Drive Rear); and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to cancel the same of record.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector.

Resolution No. 2021-389:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes the closure of a portion of North Union Avenue (from Alden Street to Springfield Avenue) and the upper portion of Municipal Lot No. 1 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, November 26, 2021, for the Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa’s arrival.

Resolution No. 2021-390:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes the closure of the upper portion of Municipal Lot No. 1 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 18, 2021, for the Chamber of Commerce Trolley Rides

Resolution No. 2021-391:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-58 provides for appropriation transfers during the last two (2) months of the year, when it has been determined it is necessary to expand for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the sum appropriated therefore and where it has been further determined that there is an excess in any appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose of such appropriation, the Governing Body may, by Resolution setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than two-thirds vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

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 make transfers among the 2021 budget appropriations in accordance with the following schedule of transfers:

Account	From	To
Salary Adjustment Account	121,000.00	
1-01-36-477-100-101		
Engineering S&W	20,000.00	
1-01-20-165-100-101		
Pool S&W	10,000.00	
1-26-00-100-105-104		
Administration S&W	20,000.00	
1-01-20-100-100-103		
Finance S&W	19,999.50	
1-01-20-130-100-103		
Finance O/E	20,000.00	
1-01-20-130-100-214		
Bond Interest	77,750.50	
1-01-45-930-100-280		
Note Principle	75,310.00	
1-01-45-925-100-280		
SID O/E	500.00	
1-21-00-200-100-211		
Administration O/E		20,000.00
1-01-20-100-100-216		
Legal O/E		20,000.00
1-01-20-155-100-214		
Engineering O/E		43,000.00
1-01-20-166-100-214		
Insurance		10,000.00
1-01-23-220-000-216		
DCRP		1,000.00
1-01-36-473-100-285		
DPW O/E		5,000.00
1-01-26-290-100-214		
Health O/E		20,000.00
1-01-27-330-100-214		
Utilities		35,000.00
1-01-31-435-000-237		
EMS O/E		10,000.00
1-01-25-265-140-271		
Pool O/E		10,000.00
1-26-00-200-105-221		
Channel TV 35 S&W		5,000.00
1-01-20-100-130-103		
Planning Bd S&W		1,000.00
1-01-21-180-000-103		
Zoning Bd S&W		1,000.00
1-01-21-185-000-103		
Fire Dept. S&W F/T		15,000.00
1-01-25-265-100-101		
Fire Dept. S&W O/T		15,000.00

1-01-25-265-100-107		
SID S&W		500.00
1-21-00-100-100-101		
Bond Principle		3,000.00
1-01-45-920-100-280		
Note Interest		150,060.00
1-01-45-935-100-280		
	364,560.00	364,560.00

Resolution No. 2021-392:**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT WITH SERVPRO OF CENTRAL UNION COUNTY TO REPAIR THE ROOF OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING.**

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2021, Tropical Storm Ida began impacting New Jersey, bringing severe weather conditions including strong winds and heavy and sustained rainfall; and

WHEREAS, this tropical storm constitutes an imminent hazard that threatens and endangers the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy declared a State of Emergency for the State of New Jersey with Executive Order No. 259 on September 1, 2021 in response to Tropical Storm Ida; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has certified that emergency conditions exist and has recommended that the Township authorize and ratify the execution of an emergency contract for the repair of the roof of the Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code 5:23-2.32 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-132, the Township Administrator has declared the existence of a significant and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of people in the immediate vicinity as well as to the surrounding environment, necessitating immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 allows a municipality to award a contract on an emergency basis without public advertising for bids and bidding; and

WHEREAS, Servpro of Central Union County with an address located at 1094 Globe Avenue, Mountainside, New Jersey, 07092, has agreed to supply and install the roofing on the Municipal Building; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, does here by recognize the declaration of local emergency as authorized by the Township Construction Official.

Resolution No. 2021-393:**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY CONTRACT WITH BENJAMIN FLOORS LLC TO REPLACE COURTROOM FLOORING.**

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2021, Tropical Storm Ida began impacting New Jersey, bringing severe weather conditions including strong winds and heavy and sustained rainfall; and

WHEREAS, this tropical storm constitutes an imminent hazard that threatens and endangers the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy declared a State of Emergency for the State of New Jersey with Executive Order No. 259 on September 1, 2021 in response to Tropical Storm Ida; and

WHEREAS, the Township Administrator has certified that emergency conditions exist and has recommended that the Township authorize and ratify the execution of an emergency contract for the replacement of the flooring in the Municipal Building's Courtroom; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code 5:23-2.32 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-132, the Township Administrator has declared the existence of a significant and immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of people in the immediate vicinity as well as to the surrounding environment, necessitating immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 allows a municipality to award a contract on an emergency basis without public advertising for bids and bidding; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Floors LLC with an address located at P.O. Box 737, Dover, New Jersey, 07802, has agreed to supply and install the Courtroom Flooring; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, does hereby recognize the declaration of a local emergency as authorized by the Township Construction Official.

Resolution No. 2021-394:

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the Township of Cranford to engage an expert to provide Professional Engineering Services related to Rahway River Flood Risk Management within the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised for a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for the Provision of Various 2021 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2021-19, the Township of Cranford deemed that the background, experience, and qualifications of Mott MacDonald satisfied the criteria set forth in the RFQ/P, and designated Mott MacDonald as a firm for providing the Township engineering services; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified 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. Mott MacDonald, 412 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Suite G22, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, be and hereby is awarded a contract to provide professional engineering services related to Rahway River Flood Risk Management, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000; and
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with Mott MacDonald; 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-04-19-005-000-204.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Resolution No. 2021-395:

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2021-396:

WHEREAS, Patrick Dolan, a Firefighter within the Cranford Fire 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 Committee of the Township of Cranford that Patrick Dolan is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning on or about November 20, 2021, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

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

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: Commissioner Hannen

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road – Ms. LaBrutto asked why the virtual meeting date for a recent Redevelopment discussion was announced only two (2) days in advance. She expressed concerns over the short notice. Ms. LaBrutto inquired whether Redevelopment matters were being rushed so that action could occur by the end of the year. Ms. LaBrutto inquired as to whether or not PILOT authorization required three (3) votes or four (4) votes. Discussion ensued.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – Mr. Carvalho spoke about his dissatisfaction with the Planning Board's meeting structure. He stated that he feels there should be a Public Comment portion at the Planning Board meetings. He also said that members of the Planning Board should recuse themselves from Redevelopment discussions and elaborated.

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

meeting.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Thanked the Union County Clerk's Office and the Union County Board of Elections;
- Thanked fellow Department Heads as well as Township Administrator Jamie Cryan and Mayor Miller Prunty;
- Thanked Poll Workers;
- Thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) and DPW Superintendent Erik Hastrup;
- Thanked the Cranford Poll Directors;
- Thanked the Republican and Democratic Chairs;
- Thanked the Board of Education partners;
- Thanked Township Employees who assisted on Election Day;
- Thanked Suzanne Welsh for her hard work and organization on Election Day.

Township Administrator Jamie Cryan

- Thanked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue for her leadership and hard work on Election Day;
- Thanked Township employees who assisted the Clerk's Office on Election Day;
- Thanked Commissioner-elect Gina Black on her appointment to the Township Committee;
- Congratulated Kate Rappa on running a good election;
- Said FEMA will be closing their Disaster Relief Center on November 12, 2021;
- Congratulated Sergeant Feeney for his 31 years of service to the Township;
- Thanked Construction Code Official Frank Genova, Police Officer Corey LoForte and Police Lieutenant Christopher Polito for their quick action and dedication to Cranford residents;
- Thanked all veterans for their service and dedication to the country.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Congratulated Gina Black on her election to the Township Committee;
- Thanked Kate Rappa for her service to the Township;
- Commended Construction Official Frank Genova, Police Officer Corey LoForte, and Lieutenant Christopher Polito;
- Thanked Township Clerk Patricia Donahue for her leadership on Election Day;
- Spoke about the upcoming League of Municipalities conference;
- Thanked retiring Sergeant Feeney for his service to the Township.

Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Spoke about the heroism displayed by Township Employees Frank Genova, Corey LoForte and Christopher Polito;
- Congratulated Sergeant Feeney on his retirement and thanked him for his service over the years;
- Thanked Kate Rappa for her involvement in the election and her desire to volunteer in the community;
- Noted the importance of consideration of these matters for the Township: flooding and overdevelopment
- Congratulated Gina Black on her election to the Township Committee;
- Spoke about Fire Prevention month that occurred in October.

Commissioner Jason Gareis

- Thanked Township employees Frank Genova, Corey LoForte, and Lieutenant Christopher Polito for their actions;
- Congratulated Gina Black on her appointment to the Township Committee;
- Thanked Kate Rappa for her dedication to the Township and her desire to volunteer for the community;

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- Spoke about the Cranford Police Department's participation in "No Shave November" as well as cancer awareness;
- Spoke about the Cranford Police Department and Cranford PBA's connection to the Valerie Center at Morristown Memorial Hospital and how residents can make donations to pediatric patients;
- Spoke about the upcoming Veterans Day Holiday and thanked all veterans as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews

- Thanked Construction Official Frank Genova, Police Officer Corey LoForte, and Lieutenant Christopher Polito for their heroic actions;
- Congratulated Commissioner-elect Gina Black;
- Recognized Kate Rappa for running a positive campaign;
- Spoke about the Halloween Parade and the Pumpkin Drop and recognized the Cranford Jaycees, the Recreation and Parks Department and the Police and Fire Departments for their participation in these events;
- Spoke about the positive impact that these events had on Downtown businesses;
- Spoke about the Recreation and Parks Department's children's basketball league;
- Spoke about the partnership between the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) and Pastosa's for the upcoming Hanukkah celebration.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Congratulated Sergeant Feeney on his retirement and wished him well in the future;
- Spoke about the VFW breakfast that was held for Veterans Day and the contributions veterans make to their communities. Thanked all veterans;
- Spoke about Election Day and the importance of voting.

On motion of Commissioner Hannen, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee moved to the Closed Session Meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 9, 2021

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk