

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 25, 2017** at 8:00 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 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 MAY BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.

PRESENT: Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.
Deputy Mayor Patrick F. Giblin
Commissioner Ann Dooley
Commissioner Andis Kalnins
Commissioner Mary O'Connor

ABSENT: None

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

The invocation was led by Mayor Hannen, followed by the flag salute which was led by Girl Scout Brownie Troop No. 40772.

MINUTE APPROVAL

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Giblin and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of April 10, 2017 and Conference and Official Meetings of April 11, 2017 were approved by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner Kalnins, seconded by Commissioner Dooley and passed, the Bill Lists dated April 25, 2017 totaling \$195,894.73, 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 Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arbor Day

WHEREAS, Arbor Day was initiated in what was once a treeless plain in the State of Nebraska and in the 19th century by pioneers coming from an abundance of trees, shrubs and flowers in their home states; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day was originally proclaimed to be April 22nd, the birthday of J. Sterling Morton, a journalist, who through his newspaper spread agricultural data and his own enthusiasm for plantings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morton also encourage plantings not only by individuals but by civic organizations and volunteer groups, so that during the 1870's more and more states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day, with the tradition beginning in schools in 1882 and spreading to many countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, while other holidays memorialize past events, Arbor Day proposes for the future, living trees being far superior to cold marble as a tribute, and are essential as windbreaks to keep soil from blowing, as well as for fuel, building materials and shade from the hot sun; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is the last Friday in April annually in the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas H. Hannen, Jr., Mayor of the Township of Cranford proclaim Friday, April 28, 2017 as **ARBOR DAY** in the Township of Cranford and encourage the support of all residents to join in the greening of our community.

INFORMAL MEETING

Mayor Hannen opened the informal meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing no comments, Mayor Hannen closed the informal meeting.

ORDINANCES – Final Reading and Public Hearing**Ordinance No. 2017-03:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2017-03 entitled, “CALENDAR YEAR 2017-ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)”

Said ordinance having been advertised and posted in accordance with law, Commissioner Kalinin opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Kalnins closed the public hearing. On motion of Commissioner Kalnins seconded by Commissioner Dooley and passed, said ordinance was adopted by indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

ORDINANCES – Introduction**Ordinance No. 2017-05:**

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2017-05 entitled, “BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW COMMUNICATION AND SIGNAL SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$3,988,500 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE VARIOUS GRANTS, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS ”

Said ordinance was approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner Kalnins, seconded by Commissioner Dooley, and passed by the indicated vote of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley and O’Connor

Nay: Commissioner Kalnins

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Final Reading and Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2017-05 to be held May 23, 2017.**2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET****PUBLIC HEARING ON 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Commissioner Kalnins opened the public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Hearing no comments, Commissioner Kalnins closed the public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget.

ADOPTION OF THE 2017 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

On motion of Commissioner Kalnins, seconded by Commissioner Dooley and passed, the following resolution was adopted by roll call vote:

Resolution No. 2017-183:

(See Budget Insert)

Commissioner Comments:**Commissioner Kalnins**

Discussed the budget process and the efforts of those involved. Also discussed the overall increase and the balancing between cost and services that was considered.

Commissioner O’Connor

Explained that overall she supports the budget, but opposes the reduction in the staffing level of the Police Department.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O’Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

2017 DMC BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2017 DMC BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Giblin opened the public hearing on the 2017 DMC Budget and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Hearing no comments, Deputy Mayor Giblin closed the public hearing on the 2017 DMC Budget.

ADOPTION OF THE 2017 DMC BUDGET

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

Resolution No. 2017-184:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union that the Special Improvement District Budget herein before set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of

\$177,292.00 FOR SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES

Summary of Revenues

Miscellaneous Revenue	
Amount to be raised by Special Improvement District tax	
Total Revenue	\$177,292.00

Summary of Appropriations

Operating	<u>\$177,292.00</u>
Total Appropriations	\$177,292.00

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor O'Connor, Commissioners Mallon, Giblin and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Commissioner Kalnins and passed, the following resolutions were adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2017-185:

WHEREAS, Frank Miniscalchi, Tree Trimmer within the Department of Public Works, 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 (NJPFLLA) for the care of his newborn child.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Frank Miniscalchi is approved for a FMLA/NJFLA/NJPFLA leave of absence beginning April 5, 2017, using accumulated time as available as employee so elects;

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

Resolution No. 2017-186:

WHEREAS, the Township Clerk advertised for bids for the User-Fee Based Residential Clean-Up Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township received bids on April 11, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that the bids be rejected because the bids that were submitted were too high.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that all bids for the User-Fee Based Residential Clean-Up Program, received on April 11, 2017, be and are hereby rejected; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to notify all bidders and to return all bid bonds.

Resolution No. 2017-187:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Christopher Quigley, 5 Normandie Place, Cranford, New Jersey, for a limousine/livery service vehicle license for Quigley Transportation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, the fees have been paid, and a favorable recommendation has been provided by the Chief of Police; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has complied with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:16-13 et seq. with respect to proof of insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford does hereby approve, effective April 25, 2017, the issuance of a limousine/livery service vehicle license to Christopher Quigley (dba Quigley Transportation Inc.) for a license term ending December 31, 2017.

Resolution No. 2017-188:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 25th day of April 2017 that the following checks will be refunded by the Tax Collector to the lien holder according to statutory requirements:

Redemption of Certificate #16-00007

Block 241 Lot 20 – 181 Locust Dr.
DTW Associates, LLC
1355 Martine Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Refund: \$ 242.29
(7-01-55-000-010-029)
Premium: \$ 600.00
(T-15-00-000-106-000)

Resolution No. 2017-188A:

Moved to Roll Call Vote (see below)

Resolution No. 2017-188B:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford on the 25th day of April 2017 Ellen O'Donnell be and hereby is appointed as part-time Senior Account Clerk within the Office of Downtown Business and Economic Development at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Resolution No. 2017-188C:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE BOROUGH OF KENILWORTH FOR THE PAVING OF ORANGE AVENUE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized to enter into a shared services agreement for the paving of Orange Avenue with the Borough of Kenilworth.

Resolution No. 2017-188D:

WHEREAS, there exists a need to engage experts to provide planning services for the Township of Cranford; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) for planning 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 satisfied the criteria set forth in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held January 3, 2017, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 2017-30, designating Harbor Consultants, Inc. as an expert to be engaged to provide planning services; 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. **Harbor Consultants, Inc., 320 North Avenue East, Cranford, New Jersey 07016**, be and hereby is awarded a contract to provide planning services at a cost not to exceed \$42,000.00.
2. The Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a contract with **Harbor Consultants, Inc.**; and
3. This contract is awarded pursuant to the "fair and open" process (N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.5 et seq.)

Resolution No. 2017-188E:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PLANNING BOARD TO EVALUATE CERTAIN PROPERTIES ON NORTH AVENUE TO DETERMINE IF THEY SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS AN AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT OR AN AREA IN NEED OF REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-4(a), a municipal governing body has the power to cause a preliminary investigation to be made by the Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A-12A-5; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford desires to have a preliminary investigation made on certain lands and premises within the Township of Cranford ("Township") known as Block 195, in its entirety, and Block 193, Lots 6.01, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 on the Township Tax Map to see if the area is in need of redevelopment and/or rehabilitation; and,

WHEREAS, the Township intends to use all those powers provided by the Legislature for use in a redevelopment area, including the power of eminent domain.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union, New Jersey does hereby, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-4, request and authorize the Planning Board of the Township of Cranford to undertake a preliminary investigation as to whether the land identified as Block 195, in its entirety, and Block 193, Lots 6.01, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16 on the Township of Cranford Tax Map be classified as an area in need of redevelopment or an area of rehabilitation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Board of the Township of Cranford shall conduct the aforesaid investigation in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redevelopment area determination, if such a determination is made, shall authorize the municipality to use all those powers provided by the Legislature for use in a redevelopment area, including the power of eminent domain; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in making its preliminary investigation, the Planning Board shall make its recommendations based upon a finding that the conditions as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 are found to be present.

Resolution No. 2017-188F:

WHEREAS, since 1974, the United States Congress, through the Community Development Block Grant Program (Program), supported the future welfare of the Nation and the well-being of its citizens by maintaining viable urban communities as social, economic and political entities; and
WHEREAS, said Program has been and continues to be a critical affordable housing, community and economic revitalization tool for families and communities across the nation; and
WHEREAS, the President’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposes the total elimination of the Community Development Block Grant Program; and
WHEREAS, the broad spectrum of activities, including homeownership opportunities; elimination of slum and blight; housing rehabilitation; improvement to public facilities and infrastructure, such as roads, water and sewer systems, libraries, fire stations and community centers; and public services, such as employment training, child care, transportation services, services for senior citizens, the disabled and youth; business development and job creation will no longer be able to be undertaken; and
WHEREAS, such action will no longer enable cities, counties and states to meet their community development, affordable housing and economic development needs.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby requests your help to fight to save the Community Development Block Grant Program and maintain this vital program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at a funding no less than formula funding in Fiscal Year 2016; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the entire New Jersey Congressional Delegation, the United States Senate Committees on Appropriations and Budget and House Committees on Appropriations and Budget.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O’Connor
 Nay: None
 Abstained: None
 Absent: None

RESOLUTIONS – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2017—189:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that Robert Moran be, and hereby is, advanced to 1st Grade Firefighter in the Cranford Fire Department effective April 14, 2017.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Deputy Mayor Giblin, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O’Connor
 Nay: None
 Abstained: None
 Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner Dooley, seconded by Commissioner Kalnins and passed, the following resolution was adopted by **roll call vote**:

Resolution No. 2017—188A:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE “BIRCHWOOD AVENUE STUDY AREA,” LOCATED AT BLOCK 291, LOT 15.01 AND BLOCK 292, LOT 2, AS A NON-CONDEMNATION AREA IN NEED OF REDEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2016-393, dated January 19, 2017, and pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 12A-1 et seq. (the “Redevelopment Law”), the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford directed the Planning Board of the Township of Cranford to conduct a preliminary investigation and public hearing to determine whether all or part of the area known and designated on the Tax Map of the Township of Cranford as Block 291, Lot 15.01, and Block 292, Lot 2 (collectively the “Property”) is an Area in Need of Redevelopment in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board, following an initial review of the proposed area for redevelopment, directed that a map be prepared depicting the boundaries of the Property, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6(b)(1); and

WHEREAS, the firm of Maser Consulting submitted a report dated February 6, 2017 to the Planning Board entitled “Redevelopment/Rehabilitation Study Area Determination of Need, Birchwood Avenue Study Area” (“Preliminary Investigation”); and

WHEREAS, as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6, the Planning Board held a public hearing on April 20, 2017, to determine whether all or part of the Property is an area in need of redevelopment in accordance with the Redevelopment Law and thereupon, duly adopted a resolution recommending to the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Property be designated as an area in need of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Board finds that conditions as set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 are found to be present at the Property; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing of April 20, 2017, the Planning Board issued a Resolution dated April 20, 2017 recommending that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford adopt a resolution designating the Property a Non-Condensation Area in Need of Redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has considered the recommendation of the Planning Board and the Preliminary Investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Investigation and the recommendations of the Planning Board recommend the designation of the Property based on Criterion (c) N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 25th day of April 2017:

1. The Township Committee evaluated the Preliminary Investigation of the Property and the testimony presented by Kristin J. Russell, the Planner from Maser Consulting, who prepared the Preliminary Investigation at its Official Meeting on April 25, 2017, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6.
2. The Township Committee considered the Planning Board's recommendation that the Property be designated a Non-Condensation Area in Need of Redevelopment.
3. The Township Committee finds, consistent with the findings of the Planning Board, as follows:
 - a) The Property includes approximately 15.861 acres and consists of two (2) tax lots.
 - b) The Property is currently vacant.
 - c) Environmental studies indicate that portions of the Property contain marginally contaminated fill which would inhibit or increase the cost of redevelopment.
 - d) The Property condition meets Criterion "c" of N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-5 of the Redevelopment Law.
4. Accordingly based upon the property analysis in the Preliminary Investigation and the findings of the Planning Board, the entire Property meets the statutory criteria for redevelopment:

Block 291, Lot 15.01, and Block 292, Lot 2

5. Therefore, the Township Committee determines that the Property identified above, and highlighted on the map hereto affixed as Attachment A, should be and hereby are designated as a Non-Condensation Area in Need of Redevelopment, as provided in N.J.S.A.40A:12A-5.
6. The Township Clerk shall forthwith transmit a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs ("DCA"), in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-6.
7. Within ten (10) days of the approval of this resolution by DCA, the Township Clerk shall further serve a notice of the determination of the Township Committee to designate the Birchwood Avenue Property as Non-Condensation Area in Need of Redevelopment upon each person, if any, who filed a written objection thereto and supplied an address to which such notice can be sent.

Kristen Russell, Planner with Maser Consulting, presented information regarding the Birchwood Avenue property and the recommendation by the Planning Board that the property be designated as an area in need of redevelopment. Explained that the site is currently zoned for two-family dwellings which allows for multi-family housing and an affordable housing set aside, and discussed goals included in the Master Plan as respects residential uses. In addition, mentioned that development should be designed to minimize impacts on existing environmental features.

Ms. Russell also discussed environmental aspects of the property and explained that Maser Consulting used a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to determine the condition of the properties, in particular the soil. Discussed the 2015 study that was conducted which revealed there was fill-in debris present, which was most likely used to level the land at the original time of development. Discussed the Preliminary Assessment Report that was prepared by Maser's LSRP that qualified the site as an area in need of redevelopment. Explained that Maser's LSRP found it probable that the site was contaminated based on the prior use of fill. Discussed the site adjacent to the property that was also contaminated. In summary, Ms. Russell stated that it is her recommendation that the Township Committee qualify the Birchwood Avenue property as an area in need of redevelopment under criteria C.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Dooley asked if the main location of the contamination is on the straddle line of the two properties, and requested clarification as to the impact of the contamination to the properties as a whole.

Ms. Monahan confirmed that Commissioner Dooley is correct as to the location of the contamination and explained that contamination of the property is not required for the entire site in order for the property to be declared as an area in need of redevelopment.

Deputy Mayor Giblin discussed the benefit of the designation of the property as an area in need of redevelopment because it would allow for the authorization of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program for the developer of the property.

Ms. Monahan confirmed that the developer would qualify for a PILOT Program if the Township Committee declares the property as an area in need of redevelopment. Explained that the designation does not impose an obligation of a PILOT Program on the Township, but it provides the Township with more options.

Commissioner Kalnins discussed the importance of designating the property as an area in need of redevelopment because of the additional options it provides to the Township. Asked Ms. Monahan to explain the process moving forward if the property is designated as an area in need of redevelopment.

Ms. Monahan explained that if the resolution designating the Birchwood Avenue property as an area in need of redevelopment is adopted tonight, it would be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in Trenton for review and approval. Once submitted to DCA, there is a thirty (30) day waiting period, and if there is no response after thirty (30) days, the designation is deemed to be acceptable. Also explained that there is a forty-five (45) day period for anyone objecting to the designation to submit a written objection. If no objections are received, the designation of the property would be non-appealable, and then the Planning Board would retain a planner to prepare a redevelopment plan, and a public hearing would be held. Also explained that redevelopment plans can be amended.

Ms. Monahan also discussed the Request for Proposals (RFP) the Township issued for a qualified developer to purchase and redevelop the property.

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Hannen, Commissioners Dooley, Kalnins and O'Connor

Nay: None

Abstained: Deputy Mayor Giblin

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

John Pritchard, 42-44 West Holly Street, feels the Township needs to maintain its Police Department and Fire Department staffing levels. Also feels residents should always remember those who served our country and those who were lost during war. Sang a song in support of the military. Urged the Township Committee to request that legislators reactivate Muhlenberg Hospital and other hospitals in the area due to their proximity to Ground Zero.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Hannen closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Administrator Terence Wall

- Discussed the 2017 Municipal Budget and thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson and all Department Managers for their efforts. Also expressed his appreciation for the Township Committee's support and assured residents that the budget would be tracked throughout the year to ensure that all funds are used wisely.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Mary O'Connor

- Thanked Brownie Troop No. 40772 for leading the flag salute;
- Thanked the Tree Advisory Board and the Environmental Commission for planning Arbor Day activities. Announced that the schedule was posted on her Facebook page and provided contact information for those interested volunteering;
- Announced that registration is open for the Velocity 5K race and provided information for those interested in registering. Also discussed events that would take place after the race, and that funds raised would be donated to community initiatives;
- Discussed the upcoming Cranford Family Weekend and the events to be held;
- Discussed her vote on the 2017 Municipal Budget. Feels redevelopment, a drug epidemic and pedestrian safety needs justify the maintenance of Police Department staffing levels. Discussed the Cranford Police Department's ranking of forty-nine (49) in public safety out of over five hundred and fifty (550) police departments in the State of New Jersey. Also stated that the Cranford Police Department was ranked in the top percent of New Jersey departments after last year's reaccreditation process. Also discussed the selection of Cranford as the best town in Union County to raise a family, and stated that public safety

was an important criterion in that selection. Stated that these rankings did not happen overnight or by accident, but are attributed to hard work by many people over the past three (3) years. Thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson, Township Administrator Wall and all departments for their efforts with the budget, but urged the Township Committee to reconsider and provide funding for vacant positions within the Police Department. Discussed her appointment as Public Safety Commissioner from 2014 to 2016, and feels public safety personnel deserve all of the support that can be given to them;

- Discussed the Holocaust Day Remembrance service and provided information for those interested in attending. Stated that this event is sponsored by the Cranford Clergy Council, Cranford public schools, St. Michaels School and the Cranford Interfaith Relations Committee, and encouraged everyone to attend;
- Announced that she would be holding evening office hours on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 and welcomed the public to meet with her and to express any concerns they might have.

Commissioner Andis Kalnins

- Thanked Brownie Troop No. 40772 for leading the flag salute;
- Provided clarification of an article in the newspaper regarding tax refunds and explained that these refunds pertain to tax liens;
- Discussed the 2017 Municipal Budget and thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson, Township Administrator Wall and all departments for their efforts. Extended a special thanks to Chief Financial Officer Patterson for her efforts in receiving State approval of the budget, and especially for the fact that no changes to the budget were required;
- Discussed the DMC's Strategic Plan which will be presented to the Township Committee during the May 8, 2017 Workshop Meeting. Suggested that residents attend the Workshop Meeting, but feels a presentation should also be scheduled for an Official Meeting.

Commissioner Ann Dooley

- Thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson and Township Administrator Wall for their efforts with the 2017 Municipal Budget;
- Discussed the DMC Strategic Planning Subcommittee and explained that it is comprised of citizen professionals who have provided their expertise to the Township. Feels the strategic plan will benefit Cranford's downtown and contains excellent proposals that seem "eminently doable". Encouraged residents to attend the presentation scheduled for the May 8, 2017 Workshop Meeting;
- Discussed the User-Fee Based Residential Cleanup Program (bulky waste) and explained why it was necessary to reject the bid that was received. Informed residents that the Superintendent of Public Works is working with other municipalities in an effort to identify a potential shared services solution and the Township Committee would keep residents informed of any decisions that are made.

Deputy Mayor Patrick Giblin

- Discussed the Rahway River cleanup and thanked all volunteers. Also thanked the Chairman of the committee, Michael Scotti, and various captains for their efforts. Feels the event was a success;
- Thanked Chief Financial Officer Patterson for her efforts with the 2017 Municipal Budget;
- Thanked Tina Helmstetter for her efforts with the sapling planting program that was organized in conjunction with Arbor Day;
- Discussed the Street Smart Program, which focuses on pedestrian safety, and announced that it would begin on Monday, May 1, 2017. Also thanked Police Lieutenant Davenport for his efforts with this program;
- Announced that the Cranford Athletic Field is now operational, and stated that he had an opportunity to see his children play on the field. Feels it is commendable that half of the funds were raised through donations and thanked the Cranford Soccer Club, members of the Board of Education, and everyone else involved with the project. Feels it will be a tremendous asset to the community.

Mayor Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

- Congratulated the Township Committee on the adoption of the 2017 Municipal Budget. Explained that the budget fell under the CAP which allows money to be reserved for future emergencies. Also discussed the issue of public safety and assured residents that all Township Committee members are concerned with public safety. Explained that no Police Department command units have been compromised in connection with the Township Committee's decision regarding staffing levels, and while it is unfortunate that a School Resource Officer was reassigned before the end of the school year, feels the overall staffing level provides the level of public safety necessary for the Township;
- Discussed Holocaust Remembrance Day and explained that the service is sponsored by the Cranford Clergy Council, Cranford Public Schools, Cranford Interfaith Human Relations Committee and St. Michaels School. Encouraged residents to attend the service;
- Announced that the Relay for Life event is scheduled for May 19, 2017 in conjunction with the American Cancer Society. Announced that a tribute would be made to individuals lost to cancer and encouraged residents to support the cause;

- Announced that May 1, 2017 is Melanoma Monday and encouraged residents to take proper precautions when exposed to the sun.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioners Dooley and passed, the Township Committee adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 25, 2017

Tara Rowley, RMC
Township Clerk