

The Minutes of the **Official Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 26, 2022** at 7:47 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 Andrews and passed, the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of January 10, 2022, Conference Meeting of January 11, 2022 and Reorganization Meeting of January 2, 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

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Miller Prunty read the Mayor's Proclamations:

Honoring the Victims of the Holocaust

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was the systematic persecution and annihilation of Jews, and other ideological and political groups by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, where six million men, women and children were murdered; and

WHEREAS, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, we the people of the Township of Cranford should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, our global family regardless of race, religion or creed should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Miller Prunty, Mayor of the Township of Cranford, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980), do hereby honor the victims of the Holocaust and the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and proclaim that we, as a community, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

Autism Advocacy

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, communication and behavioral skills of those affected by it, and,

WHEREAS, more children are being diagnosed on the autism spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 44 children nationally and 1 in 35 in New Jersey, and,

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive intensive treatment early and as needed, they lead significantly improved lives, and,

WHEREAS, individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community-support services to ensure their health and safety and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism can present,

WHEREAS, Autism New Jersey is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals, and the public about autism and its effects,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty** do hereby proclaim April 2022 as NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS (ADVOCACY AND ACCEPTANCE) MONTH in the **Township of Cranford** and urge all employees and residents to participate in our municipality's National Autism Awareness Month activities, in order to become better educated about autism and create a better community for individuals with autism.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the Bill List dated April 26, 2022, totaling \$414,729.15 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

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 asked for clarification regarding the public hearing for the 2022 DMC (Downtown District Management Corporation) Budget.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLUTION – By Roll Call Vote

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

Resolution No. 2022-200

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held April 26, 2022 that Jordan Gassmann be, and hereby is, appointed as a Probationary Firefighter within the Cranford Fire Department, effective April 27, 2022.

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

ORDINANCE – Adoption and Public Hearing

Ordinance No. 2022-10:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-10 entitled, "CALENDER YEAR 2022 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 O'Connor opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Commissioner O'Connor closed the public hearing.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed, said ordinance was adopted 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

2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Commissioner O'Connor opened the public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget and the 2022 User-Friendly Budget and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Hearing no comments, Commissioner O'Connor closed the public hearing on the 2022 Municipal Budget and 2022 User-Friendly Budget.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

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

Resolution No. 2022-201A:

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township of Cranford to prepare an annual budget identifying all of the anticipated appropriations and revenues to support governmental operations for 2022; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A, 40A:4-5 provides for the adoption of the annual Municipal Budget and the annual User Friendly Budget; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on April 26, 2022; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that in accordance with the aforementioned statute:

1. The Township Committee approves the adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget and the 2022 User Friendly Budget.

(See 2022 Municipal Budget insert – Resolution No. 2022-201B)

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

2022 DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (DMC) BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2022 DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION BUDGET

Commissioner O’Connor opened the public hearing on the 2022 DMC Budget and asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – Mr. Carvalho had four (4) items of inquiry regarding the 2022 DMC Budget. He asked who is responsible for deciding how monies are spent and how the spending decisions are made. He also inquired about specific Township employees’ salaries and Financial Disclosure Statements, including the filing of the DMC Director’s Financial Disclosure statement Lastly, Mr. Carvalho asked about the DMC Director’s involvement with a local news publication.

Hearing no further comments, Commissioner O’Connor closed the public hearing on the 2022 DMC Budget.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022 DOWNTOWN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION BUDGET

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

Resolution No. 2022-202:

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

\$ 178,524.99 FOR SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

Miscellaneous Revenue	
Amount to be raised by Special Improvement District tax	
Total Revenue	\$178,524.99

Summary of Appropriations

Operating	<u>\$178,524.99</u>
Total Appropriations	\$178,524.99

Recorded vote:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

ORDINANCE – Introduction

Ordinance No. 2022-12:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-12 entitled, “BOND ORDINANCE TO

AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT, AND A NEW FIRE ENGINE (PARTIAL FUNDING) AND A NEW AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE, 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 \$5,800,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE VARIOUS GRANTS, FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS AND INSURANCE PROCEEDS, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS AND TO AMEND BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2019-05 ADOPTED MAY 28, 2019.”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner O’Connor, 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. 2022-12 to be held May 24, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on May 5, 2022.

Ordinance No. 2022-13:

The Township Clerk read by title only Ordinance No. 2022-12 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE II, SECTION 8, HOURS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICES”

Said ordinance was introduced and approved on first reading on motion of Commissioner O’Connor, 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. 2022-13 to be held May 24, 2022 and the publication will take place in the Westfield Leader on May 5, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent Agenda

On motion of Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the following resolution was adopted by consent agenda:

Resolution No. 2022-203:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held April 26, 2022, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the retirement of Stacy Thorn, a Communications Officer within the Cranford Police Department, effective May 1, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-204:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on April 26, 2022, that Maria Almeida be, and hereby is, appointed as a Communications Officer within the Cranford Police Department, effective May 1, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-205:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on April 26, 2022, that Thomas Priolo be, and hereby is, appointed as a Communications Officer within the Cranford Police Department, effective May 1, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-206:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held on April 26, 2022, that the Township Committee hereby accepts, with regrets, the retirement of Stephen Patterson, a Fire Subcode Official within the Cranford Building Department, effective April 29, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-207:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held on April 26, 2022 that Frank Genova be, and hereby is, appointed as Interim Fire Subcode Official/Fire Inspector effective March 10, 2022

Resolution No. 2022-208:

WHEREAS, an application has been filed by Christopher Quigley, 5 Normandie Place, Cranford, New Jersey, for renewal of limousine/livery service vehicle licenses for Quigley Transportation Corp., DBA Clover Coaches; and

WHEREAS, the submitted vehicle license application form is complete in all respects, and 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, retroactive to January 1, 2022, the issuance of limousine/livery service vehicle licenses to Christopher Quigley (Quigley Transportation Corp., DBA Clover Coaches) for license terms ending December 31, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-209:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby ratifies, affirms and approves execution of a Temporary Access and Use Agreement (in substantially the same form as the 2021 agreement) with the County of Union by the Mayor and Township Clerk in connection with the Fireworks Display on Saturday, July 2, 2022 at Nomahegan Park.

Resolution No. 2022-210:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that the Mayor and Township Clerk be, and hereby are, authorized to execute an agreement with Garden State Fireworks, Inc., P.O. Box 403, Carlton Road, Millington, New Jersey, 07946, for the display of fireworks in connection with the Township of Cranford's Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, July 2, 2022, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fee for said services shall not exceed \$15,000 and shall be charged to Account No. T-15-00-000-110-000.

Resolution No. 2022-211:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER FOR ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE RECREATION CENTER AT 375 CENTENNIAL AVENUE

WHEREAS, Tri-Form Construction Inc., 119 Liberty Street, Metuchen, New Jersey, 08840 was previously awarded a construction contract for the Renovation of the Cranford Recreation Center at 375 Centennial Avenue with a total project price of \$1,253,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the project is currently on-going and it is understood that the Township of Cranford would like to expedite the Renovation of the Cranford Recreation Center at 375 Centennial Avenue;

WHEREAS, DMR Architects has reviewed the requests and approved each, which outlines the estimated additional construction costs for said improvements to the Recreation Center in the amount of \$44,886.95;

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available within the current and/or previously-adopted budget for said purpose.

WHEREAS, the following summarizes the allocation of the \$44,886.95 Change Order:

- Utilize the available funding from Capital Bond Ordinance C-04-21-010-000-209

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Cranford, Union County, New Jersey that the above referenced Change Order for the Renovation of the Cranford Recreation Center at 375 Centennial Avenue is awarded to Tri-Form Construction, Inc., 119 Liberty Street, Metuchen, New Jersey, 08840 in the amount of \$44,886.95 (3.5% of the original contract amount of \$1,253,000.00).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2022-212:

WHEREAS, the Township of Cranford Parks and Recreation Department operates a summer day camp for the benefit the Cranford Township community by providing high-quality day-care services;

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford desires to expand those services to provide more summer day camp and day-care services to a greater number of Cranford and area residents but currently has limited resources to expand such services at taxpayer expense;

WHEREAS, the Westfield Area YMCA has expertise, resources, and experience operating full-time day-care and the resources to make capital improvements to the facilities needed to expand such services in Cranford;

WHEREAS, the Westfield Area YMCA's mission to focus on nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improve our community's health and well-being and give back to our neighbors, is consistent and complementary to the culture and character of the Cranford community and the programs operated by the Parks and Recreation Department;

WHEREAS, the Westfield Area YMCA and the Township have agreed to collaborate on an expanded summer day care program that will include the Westfield Area YMCA's contribution of approximately \$50,000 in capital improvements as well as the Westfield Area YMCA's staffing, operating and management of the expanded program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cranford Township Committee authorizes the preparation and execution of a one-year renewable agreement with the Westfield Area YMCA to operate and manage an 8-week/5-day a week full-day summer childcare program at the Centennial Avenue Pool & Fitness Center, which shall include the Westfield Area YMCA's contribution of approximately \$50,000 in capital improvements, to be recouped by the Westfield Area YMCA over five-years or the termination of the agreement, and with net revenue to be shared between the Township and Westfield Area YMCA.

Resolution No. 2022-213:

WHEREAS, on or about April 21, 2021, the Township of Cranford entered into a contract with Clark Concessions, LLC for operation of concessions at the Orange Avenue Pool; and

WHEREAS, said contract provided for the Contractor to operate said concessions for the 2021 season; and

WHEREAS, said contract further provided for the extension of the contract for the 2022 season at the option of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to extend said contract for the 2022 season;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford:

- I. That the aforementioned contract dated April 21, 2021 between the Township of Cranford and Clark Concessions be, and hereby is, extended to include the 2022 season; and
2. That the sum to be paid by the Contractor to the Township for the 2022 season shall be \$14,082.50 and;
3. That the Township Administrator be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to notify the Contractor of the extension granted herein.

Resolution No. 2022-214:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS NO. 1 TO NO. 9 FOR VARIOUS ITEMS OF EXTRA WORK FOR THE ELM STREET AREA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2021-217, adopted May 25, 2021, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorized and approved an award of contract to American Asphalt & Milling Services, LLC, 96 Midland Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey, 07032 with a total bid amount of \$843,171.96 for the Elm Street Area Drainage Improvements Project.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2021-380, adopted October 26, 2021, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorized and approved a negotiation and settlement of award of contract for the Elm Street Area Drainage Improvements Project to P & A Construction, Inc., P.O. Box 28, Colonia, New Jersey 07067 for the completion of the project;

WHEREAS, the project is currently under construction and the need exists to rectify some additional item quantities and additional services with the original contract quantities for the project; and

WHEREAS, certain necessary items of extra work were required to be undertaken throughout the course of the project due to unforeseen field conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed and approved the construction item quantities and items of extra work as set forth in Change Orders No. 1 to No. 9 as per memo dated April 18, 2022 from the Township Engineer to the Administrator, a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's office; and

WHEREAS, Change Orders No. 1 to No. 9 reflect an increase in the materials and work utilized in the amount of \$236,138.06 (a 28.01% increase); and

WHEREAS, available funding for these Change Orders will be utilized from Account C-04-20-006-000-202; 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 Orders No. 1 to No. 9 for the Elm Street Area Drainage Improvements Project is awarded to P & A Construction, Inc., P.O. Box 28, Colonia, New Jersey, 07067 in the amount of \$236,138.06 (28.01% of the original contract amount of \$843,171.96) for an adjusted contract amount of \$1,079,310.02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 2022-215:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, that the Township Clerk be, and hereby is, authorized to advertise for the receipt of bids for Animal Control Services.

Resolution No. 2022-216:

WHEREAS, Local Public Contract Law 40A:11-6.1; “Award of Contracts” requires that every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body;

WHEREAS, The Township of Cranford is authorized by law to purchase goods and services from approved vendors who have been awarded by and have existing contracts with the State of New Jersey and/or authorized Cooperative Purchasing Programs; and

WHEREAS, the following vendor has been awarded state contracts and/or authorized cooperative purchasing program agreements and the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford hereby authorizes the purchase of goods and/or services (including Traffic Signal Maintenance) through the following vendor listed herewith, that in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold for the calendar year 2022;

Cooperative Purchasing		
Vendor	Cooperative Purchasing Program	Contract #
Jen Electric 631 Morris Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081	Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council	37

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes purchases (including Traffic Signal Maintenance) from the aforementioned vendor that in the aggregate may exceed the bid threshold for the calendar year 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-217:

WHEREAS, St. Michael Church, located at 40 Alden Street in Cranford, is a local Roman Catholic Church that has served the Cranford community since 1872; and

WHEREAS, St. Michael’s Parish is hosting its Annual Memorial Day Parish Block Party on May 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Memorial Day Parish Block Party will require the closing of Miln Street from Alden Street to the end of the Church property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be and hereby authorizes the closure of Miln Street from Alden Street to the end of the Church property for St. Michael’s Annual Memorial Day Parish Block Party on Monday, May 30, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and approves the Annual Memorial Day Parish Block Party event including the consumption of alcohol, consistent with all applicable State laws, regulations, COVID-19 restrictions, and municipal ordinances.

Resolution No. 2022-218:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford be, and hereby authorizes the closure of a portion of Municipal Lot No.7, specifically the 1) the nine (9)-hour permit parking spaces located in the northwest section of the Lot and 2) the lower portion of Municipal Lot No. 7, on December 9th and December 16, 2022 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in conjunction with the following Downtown Management Corporation (DMC) special events:

- December 9, 2022 – Horse and Carriage rides
- December 16, 2022 – Horse and Carriage rides

Resolution No. 2022-219:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held April 26, 2022 that Deborah A. Sullivan be, and hereby is, appointed as permanent part-time Office Assistant within the Building Department, effective May 9, 2022.

Resolution No. 2022-220:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held April 26, 2022, that Charles B. Metz, be and hereby, is appointed as Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, effective May 11, 2022 at a rate of \$92,000.00 per year.

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.

Loretta Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Ms. Smith inquired about the total cost of the 375 Centennial Avenue project as well as an estimated project completion date. She asked for clarification regarding how fees would be charged and inquired as to whether it would be a “pay as you go” fee or a membership fee. Discussion ensued.

Don Smith, 21 Oneida Place – Mr. Smith spoke about a sixteen-acre plot of land located within the Hyatt Hills Golf Course and noted that General Motors had directed the RACER Trust to sell the Golf Course property. Mr. Smith inquired about the sixteen-acre property, including whether Hartz Mountain Industries Inc. would develop the sixteen acres. Mr. Smith also asked about concession operations for the Centennial Avenue Pool, Pool membership figures and Affordable Housing legislation.

Chrissa Stulpin, 356 Retford Avenue – Ms. Stulpin asked for a status update on the 750 Walnut Avenue Traffic Study.

Joan Scaramuzzi, 517 Claremont Place – Ms. Scaramuzzi inquired about the status of the FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program and the “Swift Current Initiative”. She asked about the number of homes on the submitted grant. Ms. Scaramuzzi stated that she inquired with Township Attorney Ryan Cooper about joining the Flood Advisory Committee. Ms. Scaramuzzi asked about a number of other items including the pump station, trash maintenance pumps and the Township’s attendance and participation in flood mitigation efforts. She inquired about what the Township could do to inform individuals who were considering purchasing a home in a flood zone and expressed concerns for people who reside in basement apartments. Discussion ensued.

Jim Carvalho, 9 Orange Avenue – Mr. Carvalho spoke about Township Attorney Ryan Cooper and his role in the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Plan. He also discussed the Downtown Management Corporation and their role as it pertained to an independent governmental body. Mr. Carvalho inquired who was responsible for the purchase of the Victorian light poles and commented about the role played by the Planning Board.

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

PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS

Township Clerk Patricia Donahue

- Congratulated Stacy Thorn and Stephen Patterson on their retirements;
- Congratulated Jordan Gassmann on his appointment as Probationary Firefighter.

Interim Township Administrator Lavona Patterson

- Thanked the Township Committee, Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson and Department Heads for their hard work with the 2022 Municipal Budget.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Gina Black

- Welcomed new hires within the Police Department and the Fire Department;
- Congratulated newly-retired employees;
- Announced that the Centennial Village Group would hold its annual 5k race on June 5th;
- Discussed New Jersey Senate Bill 330 pertaining to energy tax receipts;
- Spoke about a Senate Bill for flood control projects and expressed appreciation to Fire Lieutenant Matt Lubin for his assistance with data collection;
- Announced that the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Street Fair would take place on May 1st.

Mr. Brian Lopez commented that Township Attorney Ryan Cooper should not send text messages during the meeting. Mayor Miller Prunty asked the presiding Police Officer to escort Mr. Lopez out of the meeting.

Commissioner Mary O’Connor

- Welcomed new Township hires: Maria Almedia, Thomas Priolo, Jordan Gassmann, Deborah Sullivan and Charles Metz;
- Congratulated Stacy Thorn and Stephen Patterson on their retirements;
- Thanked Chief Financial Officer Lavona Patterson and her staff for their work on the 2022 Municipal Budget as well as Township Clerk Patricia Donahue and her staff and Township

Administrator Jamie Cryan;

- Announced that the Friends of the Cranford Public Library would be collecting books for their used book sale;
- Spoke about the Cranford Woman's Club "Sip & Shop" event that would take place on May 6th;
- Mentioned the Project Graduation Food Truck Festival would be held on May 7th;
- Stated that the Cranford Clergy Council would host a vigil for the people of Ukraine as well as a Holocaust Day of Remembrance.

Commissioner Brian Andrews

- Welcomed the appointment of Brandon Metz as the Department of Public Works Assistant Superintendent and commended Township Administrator Jamie Cryan, Interim Administrator Lavona Patterson and Superintendent of the Department of Public Works Erik Hastrup for their swift action in the hiring process;
- Welcomed Deborah Sullivan to the Building Department;
- Spoke about the integrity of DMC (Downtown Management Corporation) Director Caren Demyen and elaborated;
- Announced that the single use plastic bag ban would go into effect on May 4th.

Deputy Mayor Jason Gareis

- Congratulated Probationary Firefighter Jordan Gassmann on his appointment;
- Provided an update on the Cannabis Legislation Working Group;
- Spoke about the Flood Committee and stated that the group had been split into two (2) smaller committees;
- Explained that one Flood Committee Group would be focused on more regional issues and the one group would focus on local stormwater and flooding Issues.

Mayor Kathleen Miller Prunty

- Thanked Commissioner O'Connor for speaking about the Cranford Clergy Council's 1) vigil for the people of Ukraine and 2) the Holocaust Day of Remembrance;
- Welcomed Brandon Metz to the Department of Public Works;
- Expressed her gratitude for the work the Department of Public Works had conducted at the 9/11 Memorial Park;
- Congratulated Jordan Gassmann on his appointment to the Cranford Fire Department;
- Thanked CFO/Interim Township Administrator Lavona Patterson, her staff and the Department Heads for a job "well done" on the annual Municipal Budget;
- Thanked CFO/Interim Township Administrator for her financial expertise;
- Stated that she met with Congressman Donald Payne and spoke to him about issues including the Gateway Project, transportation and transit and flood control;
- Spoke about the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Street Fair and stated that the Township would have a table there with information about pool membership, the Green Team, Clean Communities and other Township boards and committees. Noted that Constituent Services Coordinator Suzanne Welsh would be in attendance to answer questions that members of the public may have.

On motion of Commissioner O'Connor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Gareis and passed, the Township Committee moved to the Workshop Meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk

Date: April 26, 2022

4/26/2022