

The Minutes of the **Conference Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **February 24, 2015** at 7:30 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 FAXING THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS TO THE CRANFORD CHRONICLE, UNION COUNTY LOCAL SOURCE, AND THE STAR LEDGER, 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 Andis Kalnins
Deputy Mayor Lisa M. Adubato
Commissioner Robert D'Ambola
Commissioner Mary O'Connor
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Review Official Meeting Agenda

Resolution No. 2015-133:

Discussion was held regarding the proposed appointments to the Fire Department.

Commissioner O'Connor informed the Township Committee that the appointment of one of the firefighters needed to be removed from the agenda and has been carried to the meeting of March 9, 2015.

Payment of Bills:

Discussion held regarding payments to Government Strategies Group.

Township Administrator Wall informed the Township Committee that finalization of the bills list was delayed due to the short week last week and down time with computers.

All items were approved for action.

2015 Municipal Budget

Department of Public Works

Superintendent of Public Works Steven Wardell discussed the proposed 2015 budget for the Department of Public Works.

Discussion held regarding staffing levels and maintenance costs.

Discussion held regarding the maintenance of the Municipal Building and the Special Improvement District.

Discussion held regarding snow removal costs, salt and chemical supplies.

Discussion held regarding the Conservation Center's budget for 2015.

Discussion held regarding the Recycling Budget for 2015 and the need to authorize bids for service because the contract expires later in 2015.

Discussion held regarding the proposed Building and Grounds budget and the proposed gasoline budget for 2015.

Discussion held regarding terminal pay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Rita LaBrutto, 104 Arlington Road, asked if there has been any progress in obtaining deed restrictions for properties with group homes.

Township Attorney Dabulas explained that the issue is not yet resolved, but feels the Township is moving in the right direction. Discussed the fact that the Township would be beginning the process of preparing its Annual Housing Monitoring Report as required by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH).

Ms. LaBrutto expressed concern with the appointment of an affordable housing attorney. Feels the Township Committee should not appoint the same attorney that was appointed in previous years, as she feels this attorney did not address issues that needed to be addressed.

Mayor Kalnins explained that the Township Committee advertised for additional Requests for Proposals (RFP), but only one firm submitted a proposal.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

Resolution No. 2015-105.7:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee will go into closed session to discuss a real estate matter involving the potential sale of Township owned property, the minutes of which will be released at some time in the future at the discretion of the Township Committee:

Recorded vote:

Aye: Mayor Kalnins, Deputy Mayor Adubato, Commissioners D'Ambola, O'Connor and Hannen

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

On motion of Commissioner D'Ambola, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 8:05 PM.

The Township Committee moved to Council Chambers at 8:05 PM to conduct the Official Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Dated: February 24, 2015