

The Minutes of the **Conference Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **March 8, 2016** 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 Mary O’Connor
Commissioner John Mallon
Commissioner Patrick F. Giblin
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.

Barbara Krause, 20 Pittsfield Street, discussed Union County’s proposed budget and its potential tax increase. Provided the Township Committee with a copy of a newspaper article concerning this matter.

Mrs. Krause also discussed a request that the Township Committee include funding in the municipal budget for an arborist. Discussed trees lost during Hurricane Sandy and the need to replace them. Also discussed the need to monitor the removal of trees from private property.

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

Review Official Meeting Agenda

All items approved for action.

2016 Municipal Budget

Mayor Kalnins discussed various budget requests. If the Township Committee is agreeable to the requests, funding totaling approximately \$73,567 would need to be added to the budget. Also discussed proposed funding in the amount of \$200,000 for a down payment for capital projects. Explained that this would allow for a \$4 million capital budget.

Commissioner Hannen discussed funding for soccer field improvements that was not included in the capital budget requests.

Discussion was held regarding the funding process for soccer field improvements since a significant amount of funding for this project would be provided by outside sources.

The Township Committee was agreeable to budgeting \$215,000 as the down payment amount for capital projects, which includes a \$15,000 down payment for soccer field improvements.

Township Administrator Wall discussed a capital budget request by the Cranford Library to expand its children’s room.

Mayor Kalnins discussed various budget scenarios that require consideration by the Township Committee.

Discussion was held.

Mayor Kalnins also discussed a request for funding for an arborist.

The Township Committee agreeable to a budget total which would allow for a 1.48% tax increase.

Commissioner Giblin discussed Union County’s proposed budget and the reduction in state aid which he feels has contributed to Union County’s budget increase.

South Avenue parking

Discussion was held regarding the addition of parking spaces on South Avenue.

Mayor Kalnins discussed projected revenue and feels there would be little revenue generated from those spaces between 8:00 AM and noon since they would primarily be used for restaurants.

Township Administrator Wall discussed the account that would be charged for the funding of the additional paystation.

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.

Late Starter – Concession Stand

Commissioner Hannen informed the Township Committee of a gas line that is needed in connection with the construction of the concession stand at Memorial Field. Explained that there would be no cost to the Township for the gas line, but there is a cost for electrical service, and the Police Athletic League (PAL) is requesting that the Township pay half the cost for the installation of electrical poles, which would be approximately \$3,000.

On motion of Deputy Mayor O'Connor, seconded by Commissioner Mallon and passed, the Township Committee returned to open session at 8:00 PM.

The Township Committee moved to Council Chambers at 8:00 PM to conduct the Official Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Dated: March 8, 2016