

The Minutes of the **Conference Meeting** of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey on **April 12, 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 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 Andis Kalnins
Commissioner John Mallon
Commissioner Patrick F. Giblin
Commissioner Thomas H. Hannen, Jr.

Absent: Deputy Mayor Mary O'Connor

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

Proposed resolutions authorizing the purchase of electricity and natural gas supply services for public use through an online auction:

Michael Stoller of Emex (Energy Marketing Exchange) was present. Mr. Stoller discussed the results of the auction and informed the Township Committee of savings that could be realized based upon the rates quoted.

Township Administrator Wall discussed the Union County's cooperative pricing system for utility service and informed the Township Committee that it no longer exists.

Commissioner Giblin discussed the difference between the rates dependent upon the length of the contract. Also questioned the rationale for different rates for street lights versus regular electric rates.

Mr. Stoller discussed the benefits of a longer term agreement. Also explained that street lighting rates are different because street lights are usually on for a fixed time, which makes the cost more predictable.

Discussion was held regarding the natural gas rates that were quoted.

Commissioner Hannen requested clarification of the energy suppliers and their backgrounds.

Mr. Stoller explained that all suppliers are approved by the Board of Public Utilities and all have been vetted by Emex. Also discussed various scenarios if a supplier were to go out of business and the impact to the Township.

Discussion was held as to the process for contract renewal.

Discussion was held regarding the timeframe for entering into a contract at the rates quoted through the auction.

The Township Committee was agreeable to moving forward with the energy suppliers as recommended. Resolutions to be adopted at the Official Meeting.

Bills List B and Resolution No. 2016-167:

Mayor Kalnins mentioned that Bills List B would be removed from the agenda due to the lack of votes for approval.

Resolution No. 2016-167, authorizing the Mayor to execute an operating agreement for the restaurant located at the Hyatt Hills Golf Course was also removed from the agenda.

All remaining items were approved for official action.

FY 2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FEMA) Grant Program – cost estimate

Township Administrator Wall discussed the cost estimate for the preparation of the application to FEMA in connection with home elevations. Explained that the base cost to prepare the application is \$5,000, with an additional cost of \$1,500 per home if the home does not have a home elevation certificate.

Commissioner Hannen feels the \$1,500 cost per home is high.

Discussion was held.

The Township Committee was agreeable to participating in the grant program and authorized Township Administrator Wall to obtain another cost estimate for preparation of the grant application at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

2016 Capital Budget

Discussion was held regarding proposed capital projects for 2016.

Further discussion to be held April 25, 2016.

Recommendation re: dumpster in Municipal Lot No. 7

Discussion was carried to April 25, 2016.

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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Rowley, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Dated: April 12, 2016